

LSI Journal

July-Sept.,
2015



**Witnessing in a World Where
Evolution Claims 'There is No God'**

The Flood and How It Relates to Science

Bowerbird and Darter

LUTHERAN SCIENCE INSTITUTE, INC.

13390 W. Edgewood Ave/
New Berlin, Wisconsin 53151

www.lutheranscience.org

lsiblog.blogspot.com

www.facebook.com/LutheranScience

The mission of the Lutheran Science Institute is to learn, share, and promote the glory of God as revealed in His holy Word and demonstrated in His created world, beginning with the pastors, teachers, and laity of the WELS (Wis. Ev. Lutheran Synod) and the ELS (Ev. Lutheran Synod).

OFFICERS: () denotes remaining years in office.

PRESIDENT: MARK BERGEMANN (1) B.S. Eng

E-mail: mbergemann@LutheranScience.org

VICE PRES.: PATRICK WINKLER (2) , B.A.,

M.Div., M.S.Eng., P.E.

E-mail: pwinkler@LutheranScience.org

SECRETARY: JEFFREY STUEBER (1) A.D.

E-mail: jstueber@charter.net

TREASURER: PATRICK WINKLER (2) , B.A.,

M.Div., M.S.Eng., P.E

E-mail: pwinkler@LutheranScience.org

BOARD of DIRECTORS:

REV. DAVID PETERS B.A., M.Div., S.T.M., A.B.D.
(1)

E-mail: johnbrenz@yahoo.com

WARREN KRUG (2) B.S.Ed., M.S.Ed.

E-mail: wkrug@LutheranScience.org

DR. DAVID GORSUCH (2) B.S., D.Chiro.

E-mail: CGorsuch@wi.rr.com

JAMES A. SEHLOFF (2) B.S., M.S.

E-mail: jsehloff@ameritech.net

Fritz Horn (1) B.S., B.S.Ed.

E-mail: fritzjhorn@gracedowntown.org

EXEC. DIRECTOR: BRUCE HOLMAN, B.S., M.S.,
Ph.D.

E-mail: bholman@LutheranScience.org

EDITOR: WARREN KRUG, B.S.Ed., M.S.Ed.

E-mail: wkrug@LutheranScience.org

TECHNICAL ADVISORS:

PAUL FINKE, Ph.D.

Milltown, NJ

DWIGHT JOHNSON, Ph.D.,

Colorado Springs, CO

REV. CHARLES RAASCH, B.A., M.Div., S.T.M.,
A.B.D.

Jackson, WI

PROF ALAN SIGGLEKOW, B.A., M.Div., S.T.M.,
M.S.

Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, Mequon, WI

PROF. STEVEN THIESFELDT, B.S.Ed., M.S.Ed.

Martin Luther College, New Ulm, MN

The LSI Journal is published quarterly by the Lutheran Science Institute. Views expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Institute. All **Bible references** are from the New International Version (**NIV**) unless otherwise noted.

— IN THIS ISSUE —

Vol. 29, No. 3 July-September, 2015

3—Witnessing in a World Where Evolution Claims 'There Is No God'

by Mark Bergemann

4—Part 3: Evolution / Creation —Two Starting Points

7—Part 4: Evolution is Incompatible with the Christian Faith

10—Weird and Wonderful: Bowerbird and Darter

12—The Flood and How It Relates to Science—Part 1

by Ted Nommensen

Back Cover—National Geographic Attacks Young-Earth Creationists

19—Nuggets

23—Kids' Page: Rain

27—My View: One 'Prediction' Nobody Can Afford to Ignore

Send your comments and manuscripts to:

LSI JOURNAL

4130 HARVEST LANE

RACINE, WI 53402-9562

or e-mail: admin@lutheranscience.org

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.

Witnessing in a World Where Evolution Claims ‘There Is No God’

by Mark Bergemann



World famous atheist Richard Dawkins said, “Darwin made it possible to be an intellectually fulfilled atheist.”¹

We know from Scripture that thousands of years ago God created every kind of plant and animal. Yet evolution claims that all living things descended from other living things over millions of years. Evolution has shipwrecked the faith of many with its temptation that a creator god is unnecessary. Evolution is a strong temptation to many, yet it can become extremely weak when one learns of evolution’s logical problems – particularly about the faulty assumptions on which

evolution is based.

This article series discusses the use of reason in apologetics (i.e., defending the faith) when ministering to Christians and when witnessing to unbelievers, particularly regarding creation/evolution.

-
1. Richard Dawkins, *The Blind Watchmaker: Why Evolution Reveals a Universe Without Design*, revised ed. (New York and London: W. W. Norton & Company, 2006), 10.

Mark Bergemann serves as president of the (WELS) Lutheran Science Institute (www.LutheranScience.org), and as Evangelism Board chairman at Good Shepherd’s Ev. Lutheran Church in West Allis, Wisconsin. He holds a B.S. in Electrical Engineering.

Part 1: Why Confront Evolution in Your Witness?
Part 2: Handling Evolution in Your Witness.
Part 3: Evolution/Creation – Two Starting Points.
Part 4: Evolution is Incompatible with the Christian Faith

Part 3: Evolution / Creation — Two Starting Points

Evolution and creation are two competing explanations of origins. Both share the same observable evidence: the same fossils and rocks, the same plants and animals, and the same stars. Since creation and evolution share the same observable evidence, why do they have completely different explanations of origins?

Let's begin by reviewing evolution. There are many evolutionary views, but the following evolution story is held by most evolutionists. Much of evolution goes against Scripture. Therefore, we can be certain that those parts of evolution are false, because as Christians, we know that the Bible is true. Sometimes the evolution story can seem compelling, but it is not what it seems. It is a lie. The physical and spiritual world God reveals to us in Scripture is true reality. The imaginary world described by evolution is a fairy tale.

Evolution Story (A Claim to Truth)

At the beginning of time, 13.7 billion years ago, a very small point rapidly expanded producing time, space, and energy. This is called "The Big Bang." Over thousands of years the resulting energy cooled, becoming the lightest element of matter, hydrogen. Some of that hydrogen gas was pulled into balls, under its own gravity, to form stars.



Some of these first generation stars were large enough to produce heavier elements like iron, which they scattered across the universe when they imploded in supernovae. The matter these imploding stars expelled pulled together to form new stars, and planets formed around them from the remaining matter. Our planet, earth, was formed 4.5

billion years ago. Living things came about naturally from non-living chemicals. The first one-celled life forms gradually changed into all the various plants and animals. Through a process of death and suffering, driven by mutations, animals evolved into new kinds of animals. Ape-like creatures evolved into humans through this same process of death and suffering. Famous evolutionist Carl Sagan said in the Cosmos TV series, we are all “star stuff.” He said this because evolutionists claim that matter from imploding stars changed into people, over billions of years, all by itself.

In the Bible we learn the truth of our origins from the one who was there: from God.

Creation Account (Truth Revealed by God in Scripture)

At the beginning of time, thousands of years ago, God created time, space, and everything in the entire universe. He did this in six days of ordinary length. During those six days God created every “kind” of plant and animal. [The Biblical “kind” is not the same as the scientific word “species.” There are many species in most Biblical

“kinds.”] God made the first two people, Adam and Eve, on day six of creation week. Adam and Eve are the ancestors of every human being, including every one of us. God created a perfect world. There was no suffering or death. People and animals lived in perfect harmony with each other. All animals and all people were vegetarians. Originally Adam and Eve were very happy and content, but this changed when they turned against God. Their rebellion corrupted their entire thinking. We, as their descendants, have inherited this corruption. When Adam and Eve rebelled, everything changed. They now had evil thoughts and desires, and they did evil things. They no longer loved and trusted God as they had before. Their corrupt thinking (their sin) separated them from God, just as our sin separates us from God. Because of Adam’s rebellion, God cursed the earth, causing weeds to grow. The animals were also affected, and they eventually began to kill each other. Suffering and death entered the world because of the rebellion of Adam and Eve. Adam and Eve’s children married each other and populated the world. After many generations the earth became populated with people who did not care about God. Only Noah’s family still worshipped God. After warn-

ing the people for 120 years, God flooded the entire earth with water. God saved Noah's family and two of every land animal, using a large ship called an ark. All the people and land animals alive today descended from the people and animals aboard Noah's Ark.

Evolutionists use science to write a story about how they think things might have come into existence without a creator god.

Different Starting Points

Creation and evolution are so very different, because creationists and evolutionists hold different beliefs, or different worldviews.

Creation is the view that there is a Creator God as described in the Bible. Creationists interpret observable evidence in light of this.

Evolution is the view that all things came into existence naturally, with no miracles. If there is a god, he had nothing to do with origins. This view is called "naturalism." Evolutionists interpret observable evidence in light of this. Since evolutionists reject the possibility of a creator god, they

use science to write a story about how they think things might have come into existence without a creator god. [There are some Christian scientists who think God used evolution to create everything, but they also write the evolution story as if there were no creator god.]

Scientists who accept Biblical creation do so through faith. When these scientists use their human reason (i.e., use science) to evaluate the evidence, they conclude that this world exists just as one would expect based on what the Bible teaches about creation. They reject any interpretation of evidence which is contrary to Scripture.

Scientists who accept evolution do so through human reason. When these scientists use their human reason (i.e., use science) to evaluate the same evidence, they conclude that evolution is true. They reject any interpretation of evidence inferring creation, such as a young earth or a world-wide flood.

Different Conclusions

The creationist and evolutionist reach completely different conclusions about origins, because they begin at different starting points. The creationist starts with the

conviction that there is a Creator God. The evolutionist starts with the conviction that there are only natural causes (that there is no creator god). The creationist and the evolutionist examine the same evidence and use science to reach conclusions. The conclusions of the creationist conform to

Scripture, because the creationist rejects any interpretations which do not conform to Scripture. The conclusions of the evolutionist conform to natural (physical) causes, because the evolutionist rejects any interpretations which do not use natural causes.

Part 4: Evolution is Incompatible with the Christian Faith

Christians who accept evolution place their Christian faith in jeopardy. All false doctrine, including denying creation, leads away from Jesus and is damaging to faith. Evolution is especially dangerous, since it attacks the gospel message. Let's look at some of the reasons why evolution is incompatible with the Christian faith.

Creation Throughout Scripture

The evolution story is contrary to the historical accounts God reveals in Genesis 1-11. Evolution is also contrary to the rest of Scripture. The prophets, 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.

Death a Result of Sin

The evolution story claims animals and people were produced through millions of years of death and suffering.

If evolution were true, then death and suffering would be part of God's design.



But on the last day of creation, God declared everything he created "very good" (Gen 1:31). Death is not "very good." Death and suffering are not the means God used

to create animals and people.

Death and suffering entered into the world as a result of sin. Throughout Scriptures, God repeatedly reveals that death resulted from the disobedience of Adam, and that death will be destroyed by Christ Jesus. Romans 5:12-21 and 1 Corinthians 15:20-49 explain this in great detail. Here are a few select quotes.

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

For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. 1 Corinthians 15:21-22

For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many! Romans 5:15

Just as through the disobedience of the one

man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous. Romans 5:19

The last enemy to be destroyed is death. 1 Corinthians 15:26

Did God really say?

In the Garden Of Eden, Satan tempted our mother Eve by asking, "Did God really say?"

Today Satan tempts us through evolution by asking,
— *Did God really say, that He created everything in six days?*

— *Did God really say, that there was a flood that covered the whole earth?*

— *Did God really say, that death and suffering are a consequence of sin?*

— *Did God really say, that Jesus came to destroy death and return creation to its original state?*

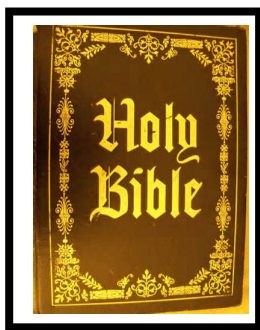
Other Issues

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. For an excellent resource, see Lyle W. Lange's

God So Loved the World – A Study of Christian Doctrine (Milwaukee: Northwestern Publishing House, 2005), 158-161.

Suppressing the Truth of Creation

Why do some people, even some Christians, believe in millions of years? The simple answer is because of sin. The Old Adam in each of us does not want a creator, because then we would be subject to the creator's authority. Peer pressure also tempts us to reject God's revealed truth, and instead believe the lie of evolution. Everywhere we are told that creationists are unscientific. How can thinking people believe in a Creator God who made everything in six days? This is why evolution can be so seductive to us.



It may be understandable that an atheist would try to construct a story about how the world came to be without a creator god. It may be

harder to understand why a Christian would replace God's revealed truth about creation with a man-made story constructed for the purpose of eliminating the need for a creator.

Roman 1:18-32 describes the sinful human nature which we all possess. God reveals himself as Creator to all people through nature, yet we suppress that truth. Christians who accept evolution place their Christian faith in jeopardy.

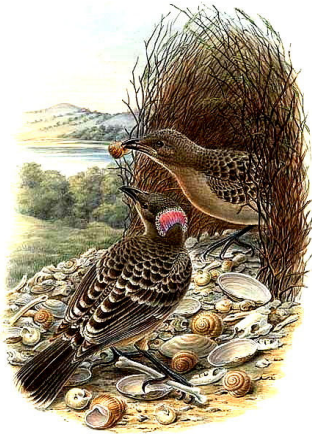
Blunting The Temptation Of Evolution

Evolution truly is a deception of Satan, which he uses to pull God's children (you and me) away from trust in Jesus. It is through faith that we believe in creation. Even so, the temptation of evolution is blunted when we learn of evolution's logical problems and especially of the biased assumptions on which evolution is based.

The Lutheran Science Institute (LSI) website has many resources showing logical problems with evolution. Take some time to look through the collection of 200 LSI Journal articles, 900 LSI Blog entries, and dozens of articles by other Confessional Lutherans. *LSI*

www.LutheranScience.org

WEIRD AND WONDERFUL



BOWERBIRD

MANY birds go to a lot of trouble to attract a mate, but few can match the efforts of the male bowerbird. He will sometimes spend weeks collecting thousands of twigs and sticks to build a “bower” to impress the female bowerbird. The bower may be 1-1.2 metres (3-4 feet) tall. It is made from thin sticks which are usually arranged in the shape of a dish. Some species even build a roof over the top.

The male bowerbird decorates his bower with leaves, flowers, berries, feathers, coloured stones, snail shells, and even things stolen from humans, such as car keys. They also seem to have a special liking for blue

objects, such as bits of plastic, glass bottle caps and drinking straws! They often arrange stones and shells to make an “avenue” leading to the entrance. Eventually a female bowerbird, suitably impressed, will enter the bower, and he will have found a mate. The bower isn't a nest, and the female later flies off to build her nest in a nearby tree, where she lays her eggs and hatches the young.

Did bowerbirds gradually evolve the skill to build their amazing bowers? This seems unlikely, and they never have the chance to learn by watching others do it. It's not even necessary for their survival, since most birds manage quite well without going to such trouble. It seems more likely that we could admire another of His created wonders!

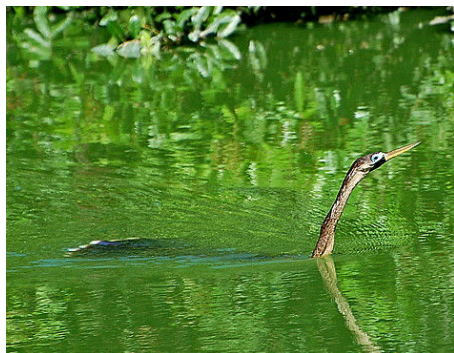


A bowerbird's bower or shelter

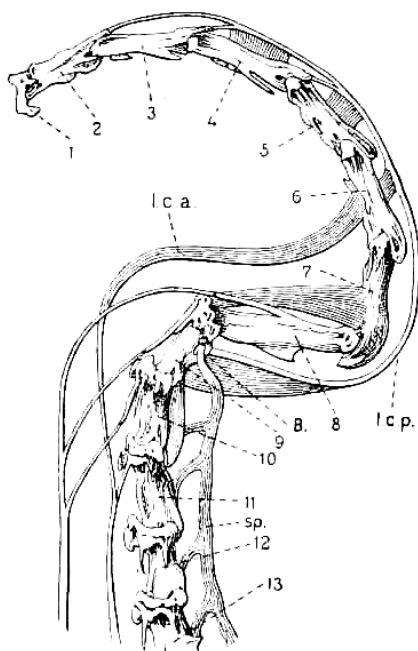
DARTER

DARTERS are quite large birds that live near water and catch fish. Darters swim with their bodies below the water. They are sometimes called snakebirds, because when they are swimming their neck looks like a snake (right). They get their name from the way they can quickly “dart” their heads forward to catch fish, and then toss the fish into the air before swallowing them.

Unlike most other birds, darters have a very unique



neck, which has a hinge part-way down. This unusual arrangement of the neck bones (see diagram, left) makes it easier for them to “dart” their head quickly. Only a few other birds, such as herons — which also catch fish have hinged necks like this.



If darters evolved from birds with no hinge in their necks, how did they survive while the bones were changing? Surely this couldn't happen gradually? Fossils show that darters haven't evolved from some other kind of bird, and show no evidence of changes in the neck bones. This unusual but useful design looks like the work of a wise Creator. LSI

—“Weird and Wonderful,” *Our World* (Numbers 106 and 113), Creation Resources Trust, England, Geoff Chapman, editor (All pictures from Wikipedia)

The Flood and How It Relates to Science

— Part 1

by Ted Nommensen



The topic involves two major and very different sources and approaches. The flood is, of course, the Flood mentioned in Genesis. The information that is given in Scripture is absolutely true. We do not need, nor do we dare, to substantiate the facts given here with science. The other part relates to science. This is always tentative. It is information inferred from what we see in nature. It tries to piece together events not mentioned in the Bible, or just vaguely alluded to. We are speculating. We are like detectives who are trying to piece together a crime scene in order to derive certain information. The scene that we are studying is ancient. Detectives will have trouble piecing together a scene that happened months or several years ago. We are trying to look at a scene that occurred

thousands of years ago. We will often be wrong, even though we are careful not to contradict the inspired Word of God. We need always remember this. We are looking for things that relate to the physical aspects. Local floods, winds, earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions have caused things to be lost, altered, or rearranged. God's Word is always correct in historical, scientific, anthropological, and every other study. Its purpose, however, is to relate God's plan of salvation to redeem a sinful world. It relates our only hope of forgiveness of sins and eternal life in the joys of heaven. Thank God that He has given us this

Ted Nommensen is a retired educator and former vice-president of LSI. This paper was first presented at a teachers conference in 2004. It was first printed in the January/February, 2005 *LSI Journal*.

infallible Word! Study it! Believe it! Defend it! Treasure it!

The question may be then asked, "Why waste time speculating about the results of the Flood on the Earth?" The answer is that the Flood had such a great effect on the Earth that ignoring its effect would keep us from understanding important concepts that would help us to get a more complete picture of the present Earth. Science is a process that uses inferences and logical deductions to find out about the unknown. If the purpose of the Bible were to be a science text, we would be able to know all the pertinent facts. As stated before, the Bible's purpose is to show God's gracious plan of salvation. We, however, rely completely upon any scientific facts that it provides. This will always be our starting point. Then we will look at nature and infer and deduce what we see that results from the actions that occurred in Genesis. These inferences and deductions, while they do not contradict Scriptures, are very tentative. They seem to be the best explanation, but there are always many facets of the picture that may be unknown. And even what we do know may be warped by our feeble

human minds and/or the skewed data that we obtain from imperfect collection mechanisms. Science demands testing of hypotheses to verify, alter, or discard them. Attempts at this are being made by the Institute for Creation Research in Santee, California. While the work they are doing is important, their approach is somewhat skewed. They tend to try to substantiate Holy Scripture by using science. This is extremely dangerous. We rely on Scripture by faith. If we think that we need proof or evidence that Scripture is correct, we are no longer relying on faith. Much of what is accepted in science will soon be altered or thrown out. This seems to have happened with the Canopy Theory. Because a canopy of water vapor would so alter the climate on Earth so that it would become inhabitable, does that mean that the Bible is wrong? Never! God's Word is not accepted by reason or logic. We readily alter or discard any theory or hypothesis when it is shown to be weak or untenable. Scripture is sure. It isn't reliant on the proofs of laboratory or the logic of human minds. Use science to answer questions of the physical world, but accept by faith



what Scripture says about all things.

We will divide this paper into the following parts:

The earth before the Flood

The purpose for the Flood.

The chronological events of the Flood as related in the Bible.

The effects on plants during the Flood.

The effects on animals living at the time of the Flood.

The possible effect on the geology of the Earth as a result of the Flood.

The Earth Before the Flood

To determine the changes that occurred during the Flood, we need to get as good a picture as we can of the earth before the Flood. We see the earth covered by water at the end of the first day of Creation. Then, on the second day, God separated the waters below from the waters above the expanse. The waters below the expanse covered the entire earth. There was no

separation of the water from the dry land until the third day of Creation. The waters above the expanse are most likely not what we know today. The Bible seems to refer to this in several places. The word for waters below and waters above are the same Hebrew word. The expanse translated sky is to separate these two waters. Genesis 2:5-6 states: “and no shrub of the field had yet sprung up, for the Lord God had not sent rain on the earth and there was no man to work the ground, but streams came up from the earth and watered the whole surface of the ground.” Did this rainlessness last until the time of the Flood? We don’t know. Hebrews 11:7 relates: “By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family.” Although this must refer to the Flood, it may indicate that Noah had not yet even seen rain. It could be that the hydrological processes that we know today

were much different before the Flood.

Another aspect that describes the climate of the early earth is that the climate must have been very mild. It was so mild in fact that Adam and Eve were completely comfortable in the paradise God created for them without clothes. This probably did not change until after the Flood, even though God provided animal skins for their modesty after the Fall. Evidence in nature shows a lush landscape in the Saharan Desert as well as the Antarctic. Apparently some type of “greenhouse effect” was in place, moderating the climate and providing a moist, warm environment for the growth of both plants and animals.

Still other variations before the Flood that come solely by observation are the land and sea areas. Perhaps the continents as we know them today were joined as one. The shapes of the land forms do fit together pretty well. All the animals came to Noah before the Flood to enter into the ark. There are evidences of land formations beneath the oceans. Formations in the middle of the ocean basins show areas of stress. Canyons

along the continental shelves show evidence of flood waters. Other fossil evidence also seems to point to a single continent before the Flood. The Bible relates about the streams that watered the land: “A river watering the garden flowed from Eden, from there it was separated into four headwaters. The name of the first is the Pishon; it winds through the entire land of Havilah, where there is gold. (The gold of that land is good, aromatic resin and onyx are also there.) The name of the second river is the Gihon, it winds through the entire land of Cush. The name of the third river is the Tigris; it runs along the east side of Asshur. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.” Gen. 2:10-14. The location of these rivers range from the Pishon, believed to be in the central tableland of Asia or Armenia. The name of the second river, the Gihon is associated with Ethiopia in Africa. This is on a different continent. The third and fourth rivers are in present Iraq, again in Asia.¹ This may indicate that the division

1. Paul E. Kretzmann, *Popular Commentary of the Bible. Old Testament*, Vol. 1, Ph. D., D. D.; Concordia Publishing House. St. Louis, MO; 1923; p 5



of the land into continents as we know them today was not there before the Flood.

The Purpose of the Flood

In regard to the purpose of the Flood, we read in Genesis 6: “When men began to increase in number on the earth and daughters were born to them, the sons of God saw that the daughters of men were beautiful, and they married any of them they chose. Then the Lord said, ‘My Spirit will not contend with man forever, for he is mortal; his days will be a hundred and twenty years.’ The Nephilim were on the earth in those days — and also afterward — when the sons of God went to the daughters of men and had children by them. They were the heroes of old, men of renown. The Lord saw how great man’s wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time. The Lord was grieved that he had made man

on the earth, and his heart was filled with pain. So the Lord said. ‘I will wipe mankind, whom I have created, from the face of the earth — men and animals, and creatures that move along the ground, and birds of the air — for I am grieved that I have made them.’ But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord.” The purpose was to not only wipe mankind from the face of the earth, but to destroy livestock, creatures that move along the ground, and the birds of the air. Again, in Genesis 6:13 God tells Noah, “I am going to destroy both them and the earth.” In Genesis 6:17 we find God being more specific: “I am going to bring floodwaters on the earth to destroy all life under the heavens, every creature that has the breath of life in it. Everything on earth will perish.” The earth itself — as it was known before the Flood — would no longer exist. Notice how emphatic God was that the devastation would be complete. In order to preserve

righteous Noah and his family as the ancestors of promised Savior, God found it necessary to wipe out almost all of his original creation.

Sin was rampant. Inter-marriage between the believers and unbelievers caused a degeneration of mankind. God was forsaken. Might made right. Those who were strongest were revered. Following God's way was no longer sought. God could not allow mankind to continue along this path. But God is a God of mercy and grace. He allowed mankind 120 years to repent.

The world-wide flood recorded in Genesis chapters 6 to 8 is the most devastating catastrophe recorded in Scripture. Its scope, purpose, and result changed the entire world from what was found before it. This flood was miraculous. It took supernatural powers of the almighty God to accomplish it. It was a special catastrophe that is unparalleled in the history of the world. What the earth was like before the flood — what land forms existed — what oceans existed — what the firmament consisted of— is pure speculation. Because God carried out his threat to

“destroy both them and the earth,” (Gen. 6:13) we simply don't know what the earth was like at that time. We do have certain aspects alluded to before the Flood. These facts from Scripture may give us an incomplete picture of what the earth was like before the Flood.

Genesis 1:2 states: “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.” The Flood was the second time that the earth was covered with waters. Continuing with the Creation of the earth, we find that God said, “ ‘Let there be an expanse between the waters to separate water from water.’ God made the expanse to separate water under the expanse from the water above it.” (Gen. 1:6) What is meant by water below and water above is not explained. Was there a vapor canopy above the earth? We simply are not told. Many hold that the waters above the sky were more substantial than what is found in the clouds now. The “vapor canopy theory” would try to explain a universal mild climate, protection of the inhabitants of the earth from harmful radiation, and



provide water for a forty-day downpour. This is pure speculation. We simply don't know whether the water cycle as we know it today even existed before the Flood. II Peter 3:5 explains that the waters of Creation were the same waters that provided the Deluge. It states: "by God's word the heavens existed and the earth was formed out of water and by water. By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed" (II Peter 3:5-6). This indicates that God did not multiply the water as he did the food at the feeding of the 5000 and 4000. We know that the earth before the flood had mountains: "They (the flood waters) rose greatly on the earth, and all the high mountains under the entire heavens were covered. The waters rose and covered the mountains to a depth of more than twenty feet." Gen. 7:19-20 The second chapter of Genesis may be showing that the hydrology cycle of precipitation, percolation, transformation, evapora-

tion, and condensation, were not used before the Flood. We read: "When the Lord God made the earth and the heavens— and no shrub of the field had yet appeared on the earth and no plant of the field had yet sprung up, for the Lord God had not sent rain on the earth and there was no man to work the ground, but streams came up from the earth and watered the whole surface of the ground." Gen. 2:4-6. Again, after Adam was created, rivers are shown watering, not only Eden, but the major regions of the pre-Flood world. Logic may surmise that some insulation was present for God did not clothe Adam and Eve before the Fall. Perhaps there was no rainbow until after the Flood. We don't know. We do know that after the Flood the rainbow was God's promise not to end another Flood. *LSI*

—To be continued—



What the 1980 Mount St. Helens Eruption Has Taught Us

"RAPID COOLING

Mount St. Helens blasted enough ash into the atmosphere to blanket eleven states and cool the earth. Since volcanic eruptions were much larger after the Flood, we can see how they contributed to a rapid Ice Age.



"RAPID COAL AND PETRIFIED FORESTS

The eruption destroyed the surrounding forests and produced a mat of logs floating on nearby Spirit Lake. The logs jostled together and lost their bark, producing a pile of peat (like peat in coal). Many logs floated upright and then sank in layers (like a petrified forest).

"RAPID LAYERS

The volcanic blast was followed by landslides, mudflows, and falling ash. These catastrophes produced complex sediment layers up to 600 feet (180 m) thick. Several slurries of volcanic ash produced many different fine layers in just minutes.

"RAPID CANYON FORMATION

The initial blast sent an avalanche into the Toutle River, depositing sediments an average of 150 feet (45 m) thick. Another eruption two years later melted snow and created a mudflow that cut canyons up to 140 feet (43 m) deep in a single day.

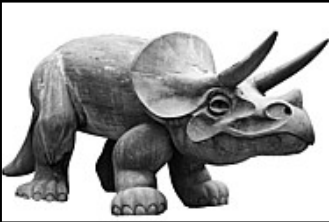
"NEW LAVA WITH OLD RADIOMETRIC DATES

A sample from one of the last lava flows was dated at 350,000 years old, using the potassium-argon method. Clearly, our lack of understanding about conditions inside the earth can produce incorrect radiometric dates.

"RAPID SOIL AND ANIMAL RECOVERY

Mount St. Helens covered the land in choking ash and debris—6 feet (2 m) in the hardest-hit Pumice Plain. Yet within a year, pocket gophers were digging and mixing good soil. Within a decade many animal species had repopulated the devastated area."

—Snelling, Francis and Hennigan, "Lasting Lessons from Mount St. Helens," *Answers* [April-June, 2015], page 63 (Photo of eruption from Wikipedia, by USGS).



Dinosaurs on the Ark

"While dinosaurs grew to a wide range of sizes, the average was about that of a bison. However, just because the median dinosaur size was fairly large, it does not mean there was a room problem on the Ark. Most dinosaur pairs on the Ark would likely have been smaller juveniles—not the large mature dinosaurs often seen in museums. Thus, the dinosaurs taken on the Ark might have only averaged 150 to 500 pounds—or about sheep-size.

"It appears many young dinosaurs went through a year or two of rapid growth, a growth spurt similar to teenage humans. Dinosaurs were probably taken on the Ark about a year prior to this growth spurt when they needed less to eat and took up minimal space. After the Flood and upon their release to the land, the dinosaurs would have rapidly matured to adult size and sexual maturity—perfectly able to fulfill God's command to repopulate and fill the Earth (Genesis 9:7)."

—Jeffrey P. Tomkins, "Settling the Dinosaur Weight Debate," *Acts & Facts* [May, 2015],

Do the self-serve blood pressure kiosks in some supermarkets offer reliable readings?

The Food and Drug Administration has approved these machines when they are used properly. Some cautions: the fixed size of the cuff may be too small or too large for some people and thus provide inaccurate readings. As with any blood pressure monitor, people must sit straight with legs on the ground and uncrossed and the arm with the cuff held at heart level.

Source: Paulette Lebda, MD, "Tune In, Tone Up," *Spry Living* [May, 2015], page 6.

What are the latest predictions for the first-year attendance at AiG's Ark Encounter?

America's Research Group (ARG), which accurately predicted the first year attendance at the Creation Museum, is now predicting at least 1.4 million visitors and up to 2.2 million visitors to the Noah's Ark exhibit for year one.

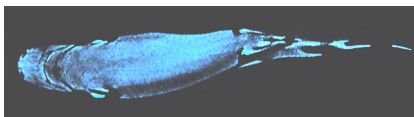
Source: Ken Ham, "Astounding



“DID YOU KNOW that about 50 species of sharks can produce their own light to glow in the dark? And each flashes a pattern unique to its own species, a recent report in *PLOS ONE* reveals.

“These sharks live in the ocean's twilight zone, where little light penetrates. Their specially designed, extra-sensitive eyes apparently measure the color and intensity of sunlight above, allowing them to mimic it with similar flashes and sparkles on their bellies. They use this amazing talent to hide in the light. When predators or prey below them look up, instead of seeing the sharks' dark silhouette against a lighter background, they see unbroken sunlight. The sharks can maintain this light camouflage, even as conditions change from moment to moment. The glow on their bellies enables them to hide from enemies below and to sneak up on prey.”

—“Perspective,” *Answers* [Jan.-March, 2015], page 14



“Free to modify, share and use” photo of Lanternfish from fishesofaustralia.net.au via Bing

Oldest ‘Living Fossil’ Discovered — Hasn’t Changed in ‘600 Million Years’

“Danish researchers recently examined a curious deep-sea ‘mushroom’, dubbed *Dendrogramma*, but it has proven difficult to categorize. It does bear some similarities to corals, jellyfish, and comb jellies, but it doesn't have some of the defining traits of those groups.

“The researchers also noted several similarities with the ‘Eldiacaran fauna’-strange soft-bodied life forms found lower than Cambrian fossils (‘dated’ to 635-540 million years ago-see also creation.com/eldiacaran-explosion). If so, this would make *Dendrogramma* the longest-lived ‘living fossil’ of all multicellular creatures-600 million years of no evolution (according to their own ‘dating’ methods!)”

—“600 million-year-old ‘living fossils?’” *Creation* magazine [July-September, 2015], page 7.

AFTER EDEN

by Dan Lietha
396

AnswersInGenesis.org



“In the news tonight ... lots of stuff that, not so long ago, was known as *sin*.”

It's Still Sin

—www.answersingenesis.org



(Photo of *Dendrogramma* specimens from Wikipedia, by Jean Just, Reinhardt Møbjerg Kristensen, Jørgen Olesen)

Fossil Wasp Baffles Researchers

“Fig trees rely on fig wasps for pollination, and fig wasps rely on fig trees to complete their life cycle. A fig is really an inside-out flower, so the pollinating wasps have to get inside the fig. They enter through a narrow passage, losing their wings as they do so. There are two types of fig – edible, and inedible caprifigs. When female wasps enter caprifigs, they find female flower parts specially shaped to hold their eggs. The wasps die, but the eggs hatch into male and female wasps, which mate. The wingless males then dig tunnels to allow the females to escape, taking pollen with them. The males die, while the females flyaway to pollinate figs on another tree. This strange, but wonderful system means that, whilst figs get pollinated successfully, only the inedible caprifigs ever contain baby wasps, and the figs people eat don't contain dead wasps.

“Evolutionists were shocked when they discovered the fossil of a fig wasp in ‘115-million-year-old’ rocks in Brazil. Why? Because, according to their dating, this was 65 million years before fig trees appeared! According to *Science Daily* (5th December 2013) this presents ‘a baffling puzzle to researchers.’ The wasp's ovipositor, through which it lays its eggs, looks like those of present-day fig wasps. The problem, researchers say, is that figs arose about 65 million years after this wasp was alive. This fossil proves that there is something wrong with the evolutionists' dating methods, as well as their "co-evolution" theory, which says that mutually dependent species evolved together. Design by a wise Creator is a more logical explanation.”

—“Fossil Wasp Baffles Researchers,” *Original View* [No. 75], Creation Resources Trust, England, Geoff Chapman, editor. (Photo of fig wasp from Wikimedia Commons.)



**“Your hands made me and formed me;
give me understanding to learn your
commands.”
Psalm 119:73**





Rain

“He makes clouds rise from the ends of the earth; he sends lightning with the *rain* and brings out the wind from his storehouses.”

Psalm 135:7

Rain can be very upsetting, especially when it washed out a picnic or a ball game. Yet the Bible makes it clear that rain comes from God. We couldn't survive without it.

WHAT IS RAIN? Rain is water which falls from the clouds. Its scientific name is H_2O . This means that rainwater like all water is made up basically of 2 parts of hydrogen gas to 1 part of oxygen gas.

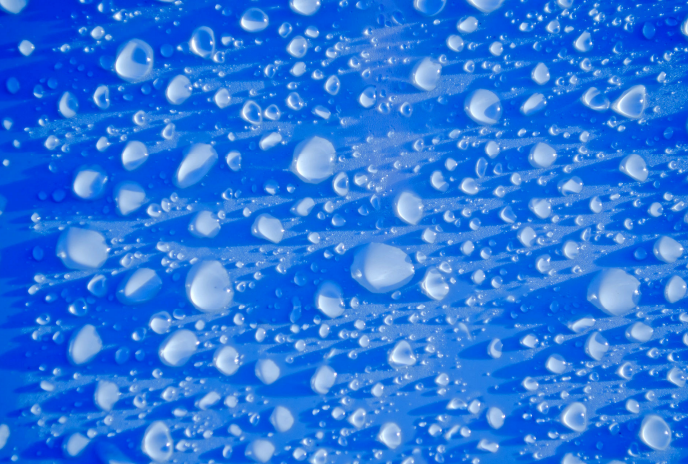


Rain is usually a purer form of water than groundwater. Rain is also called “precipitation” along with snow, hail, and sleet. These are the ways water can get from the clouds to the ground.

WHAT IS THE WATER CYCLE? Rain is an important part of the water cycle. The water cycle is the movement of water from the ground into the air (evaporation) and then back down to the ground (precipitation). This movement is constantly repeating itself.

HOW IS RAIN FORMED? Air contains water in a type of gas we call water vapor. When air cools it reaches a temperature (the “dew point”) at which the water vapor begins to condense or turn into tiny water droplets. These water droplets can collide with each other and join together, forming larger droplets until the droplets are heavy enough to become raindrops. Rain often forms also from ice crystals in the atmosphere.

HAS IT ALWAYS RAINED ON EARTH? There is evidence from the Bible that there was no rain at first. (See Genesis 2:5,6) Some scientists who are Christians (not all) believe that before Noah's flood there was no



outside of the can. These drops were formed from water vapor in the air which was cooled by the icy water in the can. In a similar way, water vapor in the atmosphere can produce water droplets when it cools.

precipitation. They believe that the Earth was watered by mists instead.

WHAT GOOD IS RAIN?

Rain is absolutely necessary for life on earth. All living things need water. If the water that evaporates did not return as precipitation, we would soon run out of water. During dry spells, read the newspapers to see how concerned farmers are about their crops. Thank God often for the rain He sends us.

When you first see the water droplets forming, read the thermometer. This temperatures is the dew point.







2. Making a weather calendar. You can keep track of how much rain your area is getting with a weather calendar like the one pictured. Use different symbols for sunny, partly sunny, cloudy, rainy and snowy conditions

Reprinted from the September/October, 1989 *LSI Journal*.

Activities. 1. Finding the dew point.

This simple experiment can show one way rain forms and also identify the dew point at which rain forms. Wipe off a tin can. Then fill it with ice and water. Place a glass thermometer into the water. Water drops will soon form on the

July

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 	2 	3 
4 	5 	6 	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

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.

Complete this form and mail to:

Lutheran Science Institute
4130 Harvest Lane
Racine WI 53402-9562

LSI members MUST be a member of a WELS, ELS, or CELC Lutheran congregation. I have read and accept the LSI Statement Of Belief (Article II of the LSI constitution)

Select 1 of the following (USA dollars)

- ☐ 1 year student (age 13-17; non-voting) \$5.00
- ☐ 1 year student (adult full time student) \$5.00
- ☐ 1 year adult \$29.00
- ☐ 3 year adult \$59.00
- ☐ 10 year adult \$180.00
- ☐ Lifetime adult \$475.00

Above memberships include electronic Journals / Bulletins.

Additional fees for receiving printed publications:

- ☐ 1 year adult (USA) \$16.00
- ☐ 1 year adult (Canada) \$23.00
- ☐ 1 year adult (Mexico) \$25.00
- ☐ 1 year adult (Most Other) \$28.00
- ☐ 3 year adult (USA) \$35.00
- ☐ 3 year adult (Canada) \$56.00
- ☐ 3 year adult (Mexico) \$62.00
- ☐ 3 year adult (Most Others) \$68.00

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)

Subscribers: 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. There is no fee for being a subscriber unless you want to receive printed copies. (See other side)

My name _____

Mailing address _____

City _____

State or Province _____

Country _____ Zip code or postal code _____

Voice phone number _____

Church (include city, and state) _____

What is your highest college degree? (No degree is required for membership. We simply wish to know the mix of our membership.)

- ☐ none
- ☐ 2 year degree
- ☐ bachelor's degree
- ☐ master's degree
- ☐ PhD

What is your college major? (or NONE)

You must send payment to complete your membership application. You can pay with a credit card or PayPal using our LSI online donation page, or you can mail a check. Checks should be made to **Lutheran Science Institute**. www.LutheranScience.org



My View

One 'Prediction' Nobody Can Afford to Ignore

We are all interested in various predictions—about the weather or the stock market or how our favorite sports team will do in the upcoming season.

But when the idea of making predictions is used against Bible believers, then we must really sit up and take notice.

Evolutionists often belittle creation scientists (scientists who accept the Bible as true) by claiming creation science can't be right because it can't successfully make predictions.

The atheist website *patheos* has this to say about creationism: "If an idea makes no predictions, makes predictions that cannot be unambiguously interpreted as either success or failure, or makes predictions that cannot be checked out even in principle, then it is not science. Various forms of creationism fail on all three counts here." (<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/daylightatheism/essays/why-creationism-isnt-science/>)

Answer in Genesis's Ken

Ham begs to differ. In a recent column, he mentions three creationist predictions that have proven to be true.

"Junk" DNA — a project called ENCODE has already discovered that much of the so-called "junk DNA" regulates genes, helping genes produce protein. Because God doesn't create junk, creationists had predicted purposes for junk DNA would be found.

Carbon 14 — creationists had predicted that carbon 14, which can last only a few tens of thousands of years, would be found in fossils dated to be millions of years old because the world isn't that old. This has now been proven true.

Vestigial organs — mindless evolution might be expected to produce leftover organs which no longer have a purpose. But an omniscient Creator would not have created useless organs. Creationists have successfully predicted that the list of vestigial organs (such as the "tailbone" and the appendix) would drastically shrink as purposes for these organs are found.

While we might ignore some predictions without harm, one prediction we can't ignore without peril is God's "prediction" about the world's end because it is 100% true. Be prepared. "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved" (Acts 16:31).

—Warren Krug, editor

***National Geographic* Attacks Young-Earth Creationists**



"Being featured in a two-page spread in *National Geographic* is not always a compliment for Christians. The March 2015 issue of that magazine features a dinosaur standing near Adam and Eve at the Creation Museum. But the accompanying article is not positive.

"The magazine's cover blares 'The War on Science.' The feature article lumps young-earth creationists with 'science deniers,' including doubters of climate change and opponents of vaccination and genetically modified foods.

"The author, Joel Achenbach, explains that 'tribalism' drives people to associate with a particular group and then interpret all evidence in light of their group's beliefs. He refers to a study that showed that science literacy tends to strengthen already-held beliefs rather than change those beliefs. After all, people's beliefs determine how they interpret evidence and not the other way around.

"Achenbach admits that scientists are just as tribal as everyone else. But then, ironically, he descends into his own tribalism by defending the 'scientific' view (his evolutionary beliefs) as the only 'right' worldview. In this way, he accidentally demonstrates that people honest enough to admit biases can still be blind to those biases.

"The fact that a national magazine groups biblical creation with other scientific and political debates should cause Christians concern. How closely should we tie Christianity and the Bible's authority to political and scientific issues not directly addressed in the Bible—such as global warming or vaccination—however important those issues may be?

"Clearly, our biblical worldview should inform our attitude toward every subject in life. But we must distinguish between the clear teaching of God's Word and political positions, even if they are based on biblical principles. We don't want our personal views on political or scientific controversies to be confused with biblical truth."

—"War on Belief," *Answers* [July-Sept. 2015], page 14. ("Free to share and use" logo from <http://jayce-o.blogspot.com/> via Bing)