

A vibrant photograph of a forest. In the foreground, a large, textured tree trunk stands prominently. To its left, a thinner, lighter-colored tree trunk is visible. A rustic wooden fence runs across the middle ground. The background is filled with dense green foliage and more trees, creating a sense of depth. The ground is covered in brown leaves and some small blue flowers.

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2015

Evolution vs. God

The Flood and Science

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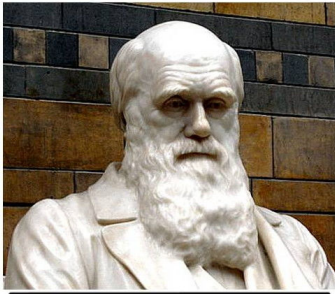
The Annual Meeting of the Institute is held the 2nd Saturday of October. Meetings are open to the public and announced in the LSI JOURNAL and/or on our website.

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.

A Review of Ray Comfort



Evolution vs God

By Jeffrey Stueber

The movie¹ *Evolution vs. God* opens with this quote from Richard Dawkins: “Faith is the great cop-out, the great excuse to evade the need to think and evaluate evidence.”² Rather than assume religion is the cop-out, this video attempts to show evolutionists are the ones who exercise blind faith.

First, Ray Comfort asks

1. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U0u3-2CGOMQ>.
2. The video does not detail where Dawkins’ statement comes from, but I found it came from a 1992 lecture at the Edinburgh International Science Festival. Alister McGrath, *Christianity: An Introduction* (Malden, A:Blackwell, 2006), 102.

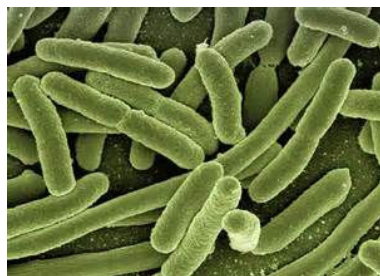
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several professors and college students whether they know of any presently observable examples of evolution that show evolution can be believed by more than just faith. One unnamed man, who says he started to believe in evolution when he began to think for himself, instantly leaps to events 65 million years ago. Comfort interrupts him by pointing out those events are unobservable, but others follow in same fashion. Comfort concludes with a quotation from Richard Dawkins that we live only a short time, too short to witness evolution.

At this juncture, Comfort introduces the term “kind,” a word he defines somewhat nebulously but perhaps well enough for this video by giving some examples: the canine kind, coyote kind, domestic dog, feline kind, and human kind. Comfort asks Associate Professor of Biology at the University of Minnesota³ and blogger PZ Myers for evidence of evolution by asking him for an example of a change in kinds. Myers cites the evolution in the fossil record of the ancestor of cats and dogs. Unfortunately Comfort does not allow him to expand on this because Comfort is looking for evidence we can see now and not in the past. Next Comfort asks a biology major the same question, and this student is

very frank in stating there is not much he can provide. A chemistry major says roughly the same thing and suggests he believes in evolution because of his faith in experts. Comfort returns to Myers who suggests stickleback fish are an example of a change in kinds even though they remain stickleback fish. When questioned on this fact, Myers says they are all distinctly different types of fish and doubles up on this suggestion by proposing that bacteria are a change in kinds. Comfort objects to this example, but Myers says they are still bacteria acquiring new metabolic capabilities. While Comfort questions Gail Kennedy, Associate Professor of Anthropology at UCLA, about it, she simply smirks.

What Comfort could have done is ask the question this way: “We know there is change in bacteria and finches, but what is the evi-



dence these bacteria or finches become anything other than bacteria or

finches? Could it be possible that after millions and billions of years they would be nothing more than bacteria or finches?” This would frame the issue as clearly as possible because it brings up the question of where the animals came from if one kind could not evolve into another. It would also introduce the question of whether they would be supernaturally created.

The bait and switch between defining evolution as only a change in genetic makeup among similar animals with no evolution between kinds and defining it as the supposed fact that all life came about through changes from simple organisms to complex is not unique. Change in genetic makeup is compatible with creationism, but Darwinian evolution is proposing more than just genetic change. It's proposing its own version of secular creation. Phillip Johnson drew attention to this fact back in 1991 when stating

“Evolution” in Darwinist usage implies a completely naturalistic metaphysical system, in which matter evolved to its present state of organized complexity without any participation by a Creator. But “evolution” also refers to much more modest concepts,

such as microevolution and biological relationship. The tendency of dark moths to preponderate in a population when the background trees are dark therefore demonstrates evolution – and also demonstrates, by semantic transformation, the naturalistic descent of human beings from bacteria.⁴

What Johnson is saying is that evolutionists believe all life came from natural processes where simple organisms gave rise to more advanced life forms through changes in DNA. All changes – including genetic changes from one-celled organisms to multi-celled organisms and changes from an ape-like ancestor of



man to man - are examples of evolution. Evolutionists, however, refer to more modest concepts such as changes in the colors in moths as evolution also. Such modest changes are compatible with creationism, but evolutionists claim any change – whether a

3. Located at Morris, Minnesota.

4. Phillip Johnson, *Darwin on Trial* (Downers Grove, IL: Intervarsity, 1993), 153.

mere change in color or a change from ape to man – confirms that evolution is true.

Often the video reaches humorous proportions. Myers suggests we are still fish – a claim that is obviously not true. One interviewee claims that we came out of the ground as mammals and, when pressed on this, claims we either came out of the ground or sea and then claims to not know where we came from. What is funny about this exchange is that a man who seems so sure of his evolutionist beliefs is obviously not sure when asked for details.

Comfort, while questioning PZ Myers about the ethical results of evolutionist belief, asks him whether Hitler was putting into use the idea of the survival of the fittest.



Myers denies Hitler was doing this. Comfort then asks him what Hitler was doing, and Myers retorts that Hitler was murdering people. Comfort

asks him how that is not survival of the fittest and any different than a lion eating an antelope. Myers retorts that there is more to evolution than this crudeness and suggests that just because Hitler advocated this violence does not make it moral. That is true, but Myers misses Comfort's point. An animal can be the fittest by surviving in a harsh environment while another animal dies from that environment, or an animal can be the fittest by killing another. In either case, one animal is clearly the fittest, and evolution would be accomplished by these incidents. So why does Myers find discomfort in an evolutionist process like murder if that's how Darwinian processes operate? What Myers' approach to this subject shows is that he finds discomfort when evolution is actually applied in real life because he accepts the existence of objective moral precepts that do not come from evolution.

The one problem with this video is that the majority of people interviewed are students. No doubt if Comfort had interviewed people such as Richard Dawkins, Michael Ruse, and Eugenie Scott the answers might have been different. Comfort is welcome to go after easy targets, but his video won't do much to show any conclusive evidence that

evolutionist belief is faulty.

The video is not without merit though. If evolution were really as much a fact as evolutionists claim, the professors interviewed would be able to give more examples than changes in fish and bacteria that remain fish and bacteria.

Comfort's video is not without critics. One video often cited is Jaclyn Glenn's atheist YouTube review.⁵ Not to be outdone, the website www.creationscience.info produced a reply to Glenn's video as well.⁶ Here are some of Glenn's missteps:

1. Glenn, quoting Richard Dawkins, suggests that creationists think evolution happens by one kind of animal giving birth to another. For instance, an ape would have to give birth to a human. Glynn points out that evolution is not that rapid, and I agree. However, no creationists I know argue this way.

2. Glenn thinks that just because evolution cannot be witnessed and scientists cannot necessarily understand how it happens, creationists immediately leap to the conclusion that God created life. That is a "god of the gaps" strategy that does not reflect modern scholarship. Creationists and intelligent design theorists claim positive reasons

for attributing life forms to divine creation whether it involves a young earth, old earth, or even progressive creation.

3. Glenn takes aim at Comfort's argument that you cannot observe evidence for evolution in the fossil record. She likens that to a claim that aging doesn't exist because we cannot witness it. Yet, people and their children can, during a period of time, observe a child growing old. However, there were no people living



when fossils were made.

4. Glenn assumes that molecular similarities between chimpanzees and humans show they are cousins via evolutionist relationship. However, similarities do not show common ancestry and may easily show common design – much like similarities between cars indicate similar designers.

5. Glenn claims that evolution could be disproven by finding one fossil in the wrong location. Yet, I've found that evolutionist beliefs are not falsifiable and can be molded to fit any theory. If a rabbit, for instance, existed in strata before you would expect

5. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i0k9NyHh7TQ>

6. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X70GFpKeRZk6>

that rabbit, evolutionists would simply say that evolution proceeded more rapidly than expected and life evolved to that rabbit faster than we thought.

6. Glenn makes a big misstep criticizing Comfort's critique of the moral ramifications of evolution — particularly Comfort's claim that Hitler was putting natural selection into practice. Glenn retorts that evolution is a biological process, not a moral one, and we might as well sit in a circle and discuss the morality of a tsunami. It's interesting that Glenn never denies that Hitler was eliminating the unfit; she just wants to find a detour around the issue. What Glenn does is jump from human evil to natural evil as if to suggest both are morally equivalent. Yes, evolution is a natural process, but one with moral or immoral results and we can't ignore making ethical judgments about human actions. If humans did actions that happen to

fall under the rubric of evolution, then we should describe them as moral or immoral. I think, like PZ Myers, she does not want to face the ethical ramifications of evolution.

Just as Bill Maher's video *Religulous* is not the final word as far as criticisms of religion, so Comfort's video is not the final definitive word in whether evolution is true or not. What the video does is show that people who believe in evolution can't necessarily give answers to simple questions about their beliefs. Often they demonstrate that their beliefs are based on faith in teachers or scientists who are presumed to have those answers. These "experts" do not have those answers, though, and faith in them is nothing but a cop-out and excuse to evade thinking about questions concerning creation and evolution. *LSI*

"If it could be demonstrated that any complex organ existed, which could not possibly have been formed by numerous, successive, slight modifications, my theory would absolutely break down. But I can find no such case."

— Charles Darwin, *The Origin of Species*

"The absence of fossil evidence for intermediary stages between major transitions in organic design, indeed our inability, even in our imagination, to construct functional intermediates in many cases, has been a persistent and nagging problem for gradualist accounts of evolution." (Gould, Stephen J., 'Is a new and general theory of evolution emerging?' *Paleobiology*, vol 6(1), January 1980, p. 127)

The Flood and How It Relates to Science – Part 2

by Ted Nommensen

The Chronological Events of the Flood

God gave the world 120 years of grace before he sent the Flood. Noah was instructed to build the ark according to God's scale. It was to be made with cypress wood. It was to be coated with pitch inside and out. It was to be 450 feet long, 75 feet wide and 45 feet high. It was to have 18 inches of ventilation space beneath the roof. It was to have three decks. Think of the assignment the God gave Noah and his family. This ark was immense! It was the largest vessel constructed until the nineteenth century.¹ They were to build it, in addition to providing for themselves. We are not told whether help was enlisted to hoist the beams and other heavy structures that made up the ark's superstructure. I might guess that such was the case. When the time of grace was ended, "Pairs of clean and unclean animals, of birds and of all

creatures that move along the ground, male and female, came to Noah and entered the ark." (Gen 7:8,9) God directed the creatures to come to the ark during the last week. Then, when Noah was 600 years, two months, and 17 days old, "all the springs of the great deep burst forth, and the floodgates of the heavens were opened" (Gen.7: 11). It rained for forty days and forty nights. The ark was carried high above the earth. All the high mountains under the entire heavens were covered with over 20 feet of water. Every living thing that moved on the earth perished — birds, livestock, wild animals, all the creatures that swam over the earth, and all mankind. Everything on dry land that

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1. John C. Whitcomb Jr., *The World That Perished*, (Baker Book House, 1973), 20

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had the breath of life in its nostrils died. (Gen. 7:21,22) The waters flooded the earth for 150 days.

Critics have often questioned whether the ark was large enough to house all the animals that would be needed. To answer this question, we need only to point out that the ark was designed by God. Obviously it had sufficient size. We may also surmise that the animals of each kind would not have to be full grown. It can also be pointed out that the “kind” is not synonymous with the “species” that is used in biology today. The criterion to determine both “kind” and “species” is the same. They would be able to reproduce offspring. However genetic losses of genes when members of one created kind are isolated may not allow certain animals to reproduce even though they started as the same created kind. So there are many more species today that originated from the same created kind. How many created kinds of animals would be useless speculation. Suffice it to say that God knew what he was

doing. His design was adequate.

God miraculously brought the correct number of animals to Noah. Then God himself sealed up the ark. Noah did not have this responsibility. Then the miracles continued. Genesis 7:11 states the beginning of the Flood: “on that day all the springs of the great deep were opened.” Professor John Jeske in *The People’s Bible:Genesis* writes: “In a series of gigantic convulsions the huge reservoirs of water beneath the ground and all the surface waters exploded from behind the boundaries the Creator had originally set for them and flooded the earth. This may very well have provided the bulk of the floodwaters.”² Whitcomb in *The World That Perished*, states: “This uplift of ocean basins, accompanied by enormous explosions of suboceanic and subterranean magmas and steam, together with a corresponding sinking of continents, continued for six weeks until the Flood attained its maximum, mountain-covering depth (7:20); and

this depth was maintained for another 110 days until the waters had destroyed every living thing on the continents.³

The second source of water was no less miraculous. Gen. 7 continues: “and the floodgates of heaven were opened. And rain fell on the earth forty days and forty nights.” v 11-12 The word for rain in the Hebrew suggests a torrential downpour. The clouds in the sky today would not be capable of that kind of rain for that length of time. Do the floodgates of heaven refer to a source of rain other than from the clouds? This is probably true. Would that other source be a water vapor canopy? This hypothesis has lost favor. Was there some other source? Probably. Do I know what it might be? I haven’t a clue! If God inspired Moses to write that here was a torrential downpour for forty days and forty nights, there was. God is never limited by nature. Whatever it was, it was regulated by God in a balance of nature that He manipulated perfectly. It accomplished its purpose. “Every living thing that moved on the earth perished — birds, livestock, wild animals, all the creatures that swarm over the earth, and all mankind. every-

thing on dry land that had the breath of life in its nostrils died. Every living thing on the face of the earth was wiped out; men and animals and the creatures that move along the ground and the birds of the air were wiped from the earth.” Gen 7:21-23 The rain fell for 40 days. The fountains of the deep continued to maintain the water level for 110 days after that. Then God reversed the process to bring His precious cargo out of the ark. “The springs of the deep and the floodgates of the heavens had been closed, and the rain had stopped falling from the sky.” Gen 8:2 The waters below and the waters above were stopped. Winds were added to speed up the drying process. Where did all the water go? If it evaporated to the sky, it would form clouds and more rain. Perhaps the process of the fountains of the deep closing indicates that the movements of the ocean floor receded to allow the water to run off the land. Perhaps in a similar way to the separation of land and water on the third day of Creation. Ps.104 seems to be speaking of both processes. It states: “But at your rebuke the waters fled, at the sound of your thunder they took to

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2. John Jeske, *The Peoples' Bible — Genesis* (Milwaukee: Northwestern Publishing House, 1984), 84.
 3. Whitcomb, *World That Perished*, 20.



flight; they flowed over the mountains, they went down in the valleys, to the place you assigned for them. You set a boundary they cannot cross; never again will they cover the earth.” v 7-9 The waters receded to the ocean depths, to the aquifers deep underground. The winds added to speed up the drying process of the sedimentary rock containing the remains of the life that was destroyed.

Together with the ocean depths receding, there is scientific evidence that the mountains were forming. All the high mountains of the earth have several features in common. They have sedimentary rock, often containing marine fossils. They also have rock formed from volcanic action. This seems to indicate that their formation took place after the deposit of fossil beds and upward thrusts of the core material of the earth. Mount Ararat is no exception. It was here where the ark came to rest.

Noah sent out a raven. Several features of this bird

show that it was a good choice to release. It feeds on carrion. It has the ability to effortlessly ride the air currents for long periods of time. It did not return. The next bird to be released, the dove, lives on seeds and must aggressively fly to stay aloft. This bird returned. When it was let out a second time it returned with an olive leaf. Finally, it was able to maintain itself in the wild. Then, when the ground was completely dry, God called Noah to come out of the ark. Finally, after 371 days, God called Noah to come out of the ark. God gave Noah this special promise: “Never again will I curse the ground because of man, even though every inclination of his heart is evil from childhood. And never again will I destroy all living creatures, as I have done. As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease.” Gen 8:21-22. God also gave a sign, the rainbow, as a personal guarantee that the whole earth will not have to endure another flood as Noah had experi-

enced. What a precious sign in the clouds. It is always seen opposite the sun when a storm has passed by. It is caused by the reflection and refraction of light in the raindrops. It is personal today. No two people see the same rainbow. This can be shown by having two people take pictures of the same rainbow at the same time when there is a background behind the rainbow. The position of the rainbow you see will be determined by the sun and you and the rain clouds. God's promise extends to you as well. God also gave a sign, the rainbow, as a personal guarantee that the whole earth will not have to endure another flood as Noah had experienced.

The Flood's Effect on Plants

We look next to the material blessings that God has given us by means of this devastating catastrophe. The first has to do with the plants. The plant life during the period between Creation and the Flood must have been lush. Tropical plants grew where very little grows today. Even the polar regions show a time when there was extensive plant growth. Perhaps the climate and special conditions

set for the paradise of Eden remained in effect. The result of this lush growth is shown in the vast coal fields found in many parts of the world. The *Britannica Junior Encyclopedia* states: "From studying coal seams, both at the outcrops and underground in mines, people know that they are made of the remains of ancient trees and plants that grew in great swampy jungles in warm, moist climates."⁴ Dr. Harold Coffin, a noted biologist states: "Evidence of sea water in association with coal or with the sediments just above or below is usually present. Fossils such as seashells, worm tubes, mussels or foraminifera may lie deposited above or below. The thickness of certain coal beds is well known. In the Latrobe Valley of Australia, coal achieves a thickness of 758 feet with only two partings of five and nine feet. In the western United States, seams of 60 to 100 feet in thickness are known. In addition to the depth, the horizontal extent is also tremendous. The Pittsburgh bed that covers parts of Pennsylvania, Ohio, and West Virginia, an area of 2,100 square miles, averages about seven feet thick. The extent of mineable coal runs into the thousands of millions of tons.

4. William Benton, *The Britannica Junior Encyclopedia*, Vol. 4 (Chicago: Encyclopedia Britannica, Inc., 1971), 352.



The Syodak-American seam near Gillette, Wyoming is said to contain 19 billion tons. The Latrobe Valley in Victoria, Australia, is estimated to have a potential of 70 billion tons.”⁵ The Powder River coal seam in Wyoming has coal packed in immense strips. Some of these measure over 200 feet thick. They are hundreds of miles long and fifty miles wide.⁶ Coal has been formed in Dr. Gentry’s lab in just three weeks. Water-soaked wood or plant material is heated and compressed in the absence of oxygen. This is how coal and charcoal is formed. It is a simple chemical process, whether it takes place in a laboratory or in nature, not a process that takes hundreds of thousands of years as some scientists would have us believe.

If coal was formed during the Flood from the plants, what a gift from the devastation of the Flood! The energy stored in the plants from Creation to the Flood would thus be made available to us. Coal has been used to heat homes, run factories, power

locomotives, and make a myriad of products. Besides the energy that is available to us in coal, coal tar opens another whole storeroom of blessings. Dyes, solvents, plastics, medicines, synthetic rubber, and explosives are just some of the products made from coal. Even some of the clothing we’re wearing today may have synthetic cloth made from the byproducts of the coal industry. May we show our thanks for His bountiful blessings. The matter that God created in the world in those first six days is what we have. We cannot create more. Whatever was created will be there when the world comes to an end. We show our thanks by using these natural resource gifts wisely.

The Effects of Animals Killed in the Flood

Another blessing that may have had its origin in the Deluge is petroleum. Like coal, petroleum formation was thought to take eons of time to make. Today we have synthetic lubricants in abundance for our automobile en-

gines. It doesn't take all that long to make. Heat and pressure together with water and certain catalysts can produce oil in hours. The raw material seems to again be large amounts of once living matter. "To produce a large fossil-fuel deposit, a rich accumulation of organic matter (once living material) is required that is rich in hydrogen and carbon. This organic material needs to be buried quickly and air excluded if biological decay and reactions with oxygen are not to degrade the material" (*Oceans*, by Trevor Day, Facts On File, Inc. 1999, p 58). Once burial occurs, increased pressure and temperature cause chemical changes to break down the hydrocarbons into smaller molecules. "In the United States alone, petroleum products and natural gas account for more than two-thirds of energy consumption." The Flood would provide the rich source of organic matter. It would provide quick burial. It would provide the seismic activity that produces heat and pressure. That these conditions are not seen today outside of the laboratory indicates that the global catastrophe of the Flood would provide us with this rich blessing. Especially in our climate at

this time of the year, we appreciate the natural gas or propane that is used to heat our homes. We will soon appreciate a meal cooked on natural gas. We run our automobiles on octane and heptane. We know that petroleum is absolutely vital to our culture. But this is just the tip of the iceberg. The byproducts produce many more of our clothes. Our ubiquitous cell phones and most plastics are made from petroleum. What special blessings have been poured down upon us from our heavenly Father. To Him be all honor and praise.

The Effect of the Flood on Geology

There are several obvious results of the flood on the study of geology. The first is that the death and rapid burial of plants and animals in a water environment produced fossils. A fossil is any evidence of something that was once living. Fossils are usually found in many sedimentary rocks. Sedimentary rock is rock material that is carried and deposited by water. Scientists use the layers of rock from the pre-Cambrian, Paleozoic, Mesozoic, and Cenozoic to date the fossils. We see that size, density, mobility,

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5. Harold G. Coffin, "A Flood Model," in *Repossess the Land* (Minneapolis: Bible-Science Association, 1979).
 6. Robert Gentry, *Young Earth Proofs* (Research Communications Network, 1977).



and other factors of the animals and plants would be a more likely reason for the fossils being in the specific rock layer in which they are found. The two main kinds of fossils are imprint fossils and replacement fossils. Imprint fossils are formed when an object, like a leaf, is trapped in sedimentary rock. Coal, limestone, and shale often have imprint fossils. Replacement fossils have minerals in the water replace the cell structure of the animal itself. These can vary from tiny creatures to gigantic trees or mammoths. The Petrified Forest of Arizona has many large trees that have fossilized. Large creatures are found near here that have turned to stone. We can generally attribute the fossils to the Flood catastrophe because so many plants and animals were killed and rapidly buried. We can find fossils all over the earth. Many times we find fossils of sea creatures at high elevations. This should not surprise us because we know mineral laden Flood waters rose above the highest mountains and remained

there for many weeks. Here, too, fossil material must be buried quickly.

Another result of the Flood is the canyons that formed when dammed up water broke through its confinement barriers and washed huge gouges in the earth. These are beautiful to observe and they show many layers of the rock material. Rivers flowing through these canyons must not be the creator of these phenomena. Canyons that form today show that much more volume is needed to gouge out even small canyons of several hundred feet. Surely the humongous canyons of the western United States must have been formed with waters of the magnitude found only during the Flood. These canyons are awesome spectacles that must be seen to be appreciated. All of the canyons show fossilization in sedimentary rock.

Conclusion

We have seen how the almighty God preserved Noah and his family, together with

a breeding stock of animals, through the destruction of the sinful world. We witness God's grace each time we review this spectacular event. We have seen what science supposes were the mechanisms by which the Almighty carried out His purpose. We have seen resources that may have come to us through the devastating catastrophe of the Flood.

These material blessings pale in comparison to the miraculous benefits we have received from the Flood. First we see the need to destroy the world depraved in sin and lust to preserve the precious seed of the woman. That line of descent from which the Savior of the world would come was carried safely afloat in the ark above the death and devastation of water. That same God has chosen us to bring that precious Gospel message to a world steeped in sin. We need the faith of Noah, who labored diligently in the face of ridicule and animosity. But we need more than that. Like Noah, we need the constant hand of our heavenly Father protecting and encouraging us to be his faithful witnesses. May the words of the Apostle Peter give us hope and encouragement for our work. "First of all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil

desires. They will say, 'Where is this "coming" he promised? Ever since our fathers died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation.' But they deliberately forget that long ago 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. By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.

"But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: with the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

"But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare"

"Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day



will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.

“So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless, and at peace with him.” II Pet. 3:3-14 *LSI*

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Being a Social Person Improves Odds of a Healthy Life

“Maintaining a strong social network may foster good health in part because support from sympathetic friends and family helps cushion the impact of life's blows. When you lead a less anxious life, you're less prone to certain chronic conditions, such as cardiovascular disease.

“George Vaillant, a psychiatrist who directed a study that has monitored a group of former Harvard students since 1939, writes, ‘It is social aptitude, not intellectual brilliance or parental social class, that leads to a well-adapted old age.’

“Barring a major drinking binge, being the life of the party is good for you. In fact, highly social people have a 50 percent better chance of survival than loners over a period of several years, according to Brigham Young University psychologist Julianne Holt-Lunstad.”

—Elizabeth Svoboda, "Age and Enlightenment: Healthy Aging Claim," *Discover* [October, 2015], page 31

COMMENT: “The Lord God said, ‘It is not good for the man to be alone’” (Genesis 2:18a). And one of the best places to enjoy the company of others is in God’s house on Sundays.



Thick Polar Ice Sheets No Problem for Biblical Timeline

"Secular scientists claim that ice in deep cores extracted from the thick Greenland and Antarctic ice sheets is hundreds of thousands of years old. Do these ice cores prove an old earth?



"Although these scientists believe the ice sheets to be millions of years old, vast amounts of time are not necessarily required for their formation. 'Back of the envelope' calculations show that if current average snowfall rates have always been the norm, then the Greenland ice sheet could form in about 5,000 years and the Antarctic ice sheets in a little more than 10,000 years, ignoring factors such as melting. Of course, melting would increase the ice

sheet formation time, but higher snowfall rates would decrease the time. Therefore, the 4,500 years since the Flood provide ample time for the growth of the thick ice sheets we see today, considering the much greater snowfall during the post-Flood Ice Age."

—Jake Hebert, "Thick Ice Sheets: How Old are They Really?," *Acts&Facts* [June, 2015], p. 15.



The Earth is Like a Well-Designed House

“If your family bought a new house, you would know that it had been designed for your comfort. Unless you live in a hot country, it would most likely have central heating, double glazing, loft insulation, and hot and

cold running water. It might also have air conditioning - all designed for your benefit. So it is with our planet earth. Scientists sometimes say it is ‘finely tuned.’

“The earth's atmosphere is made of two main gases — 78% nitrogen, and 21% oxygen. The rest is mainly argon and carbon dioxide. This mixture is just right for us to breathe. The atmospheres of Venus and Mars are mostly carbon dioxide — anyone trying to breathe this would suffocate. Our planet is 93 million miles from the sun - which keeps the average temperature around 15 deg. C (59 deg. F). This means that, although the temperature varies quite a lot around the world, in most places it is neither too cold nor too hot for life to exist and for plants to grow. The average temperature on Venus is 449deg. C (850 deg. F), and the average for faraway Neptune is -223 deg. C (-370 deg. F). Earth is special because God made it special. The Bible says, ‘The Lord created the heavens... He made the earth. But he did not want it to be empty. He wanted life to be on the earth.’ (Isaiah 45: 18)”

Source: "Our Special Home," Our World [No. 109], Creation Resources Trust, England, Geoff Chapman, editor

The Bible Permits Wine Drinking — in Moderation

“GLASS (BUT NOT FOUR) - Red wine contains substances that may delay aging. These include a plant-produced chemical called resveratrol, which spurs cells to increase production of sirtuins, the proteins that promote cell survival. A University of Connecticut study suggests that resveratrol helps stave off heart disease, and another study suggests that antioxidants like those found in red wine protect blood vessels from premature damage. But drinking too much worsens conditions like diabetes and high blood pressure, and may cause cancer and liver damage. National Institutes of Health experts advise that women consume no more than three drinks in a day and seven per week; men should not surpass four in a day and 14 per week.”

—Elizabeth Svoboda, "Age and Enlightenment: Healthy Aging Claim," *Discover* [October, 2015], page 31

COMMENT: The Bible permits the consumption of wine [[“Stop drinking only water, and use a little wine because of your stomach and your frequent illnesses”](#) - 1 Timothy 5:23] but not to excess [[“Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness”](#) - Romans 13:13].

Lacking Skeletons, Why Don't Trees Collapse?

"Not only are the varieties of seed dispersal evidence of design, but the construction of basic tree structure that enables them to reach hundreds of feet into the air reflects God's creative hand. Trees are without an internal or external skeleton to provide their rigidity and support. However, each plant cell has a robust cell wall composed of cellulose (the most abundant biomolecule on Earth) that we appreciate every time we bite into a celery stalk. Together, these trillions of cell walls make up the wood (secondary xylem) of the tree. Where did wood come from? Evidently evolutionists don't know, as one study stated, 'The first steps of wood evolution are unknown.' "

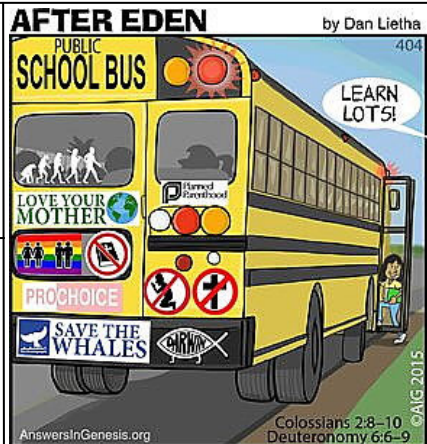
—Frank Sherwin, "Trees: An Engineering Wonder," *Acts&Facts* [September, 2015], p. 11



Why We're Now Called *Homo Sapiens Sapiens*

"The term anatomically modern humans (AMH) or anatomically modern *Homo sapiens* (AMHS) refers in paleoanthropology to individual members of the species *Homo sapiens* with an appearance consistent with the range of phenotypes in modern humans. Anatomically modern humans evolved from archaic *Homo sapiens* in the Middle Paleolithic, about 200,000 years ago. The emergence of anatomically modern humans marks the dawn of the subspecies *Homo sapiens sapiens*, i.e. the subspecies of *Homo sapiens* that includes all modern humans."

—"Anatomically modern human," Wikipedia [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anatomically_modern_human]



"Change is always one generation away. So if we can plant the seeds of doubt in our children, religion will go away in a generation..."

—Atheist Lawrence Krauss

—http://www.answersingenesis.org

"Great are the works
of the Lord;
they are pondered by
all who delight in them."
(Psalm 111:2 NIV)

Did Chickens Once Have Teeth?

"In 2006, developmental biologist Matthew Harris was continuing research into the *talpid2* gene in chickens, a recessive gene that results in the death of the chicken before hatching. While examining a 16-day old chicken embryo's beak that carried the gene one night, Harris made the startling discovery of teeth-like projections coming from the edges of the beak. Small, saber-shaped, and conical, these protuberances do not appear in chickens that do not carry the *talpid2* gene, which make up the vast majority of modern chicken



"Many scientists first pointed to the evolutionary implications of these findings. The modern theory of evolution asserts that modern birds evolved from reptiles not unlike dinosaurs roughly 70-80 million years ago. Therefore, the fact that these chickens possess the genetic potential to grow teeth offered further validation to this theory. Apparently, the genes for teeth in chickens slowly became obsolete and were 'turned off' millions of years ago as reptiles made the transition into beaked birds and other avians. Researchers concluded that mutations with the *talpid2* gene allowed the expression of these vestigial genes that no longer could serve a purpose in modern chickens.

"According to Creation Ministries International, this experiment reveals further information about the chicken biblical kind. When originally created, the chicken kind possessed a gene pool that would provide the possibility to grow teeth, in cases of environmental selective stress in favor of teeth. Applying this assessment, many fossils point to avian creatures with teeth, so the prospect that early chickens also retained that potential is not unreasonable. Creationists point to this case as an example of 'devolution,' where genetic information has been lost over time, not gained through Darwinism."

—"Chicken teeth," Creationwiki [http://creationwiki.org/Chicken_teeth]

What names are given to non-doctor health care professionals?

They are usually referred to as nurse practitioners (NPs) or physician assistants (PAs) or, together, as advanced practice providers (APPs). They most often work in primary care and family medicine but may also work as specialists in hospitals and retail clinics. Often the only health care provider in rural areas, their numbers are growing rapidly,

Source: "The Doctor-Free Office Visit," *Consumer Reports On Health* [August, 2015], page 1

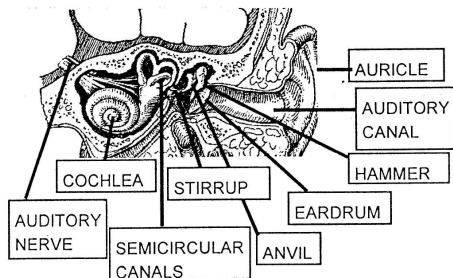


Ears and Hearing

He who has ears, let him hear. Matthew 11:15

These words of Jesus are good advice. With the gifts of ears and hearing that He has given to us, let us listen carefully to what He tells us in His Word. If we do, we will one day be able to talk with Him in heaven and even the deaf will be able to hear Him perfectly.

What are the parts of our ears? Scientists divide the ear into three main parts: 1. the outer ear or pinna which contains the auricle (the part of the ear that sticks out from the side of the head) and the external auditory canal (the opening in the ear); 2. the middle ear which contains the eardrum (a thin layer of skin about 1/4 inch across) and three small moveable bones called the hammer, the anvil, and the stirrup; and the inner ear which contains three semicircular canals (which help us



kept our balance), the cochlea (shaped like a snail's shell, it contains the sense organ for hearing), and the vestibule (a passageway that connects the canals and the cochlea).

How do we hear? The most common way of hearing involves vibrations in the air which are gathered in by the cup-shaped auricle and directed down the auditory canal until the vibrations hit the eardrum. The eardrum then begins vibrating and sends the sound waves through the three small bones in the middle ear. The stirrup as it vibrates causes movement in the fluid which fills the cochlea. Inside the cochlea are thousands of fibers and hair cells which become activated as the sound waves pass through the fluid in the cochlea. The movement of the hair cells turns the sound waves into nerve impulses or signals which travel down the auditory

nerve to the brain. The brain understands the nerve impulses and tells us what we are hearing.

Sound waves can also travel directly through the bones of the skull to the middle ear. This is the method that we use for the most part when we hear ourselves talk and the reason why we sound slightly different to ourselves than we do to other people or on a tape recorder.

WHAT ARE SOME EAR PROBLEMS? Loss of hearing is, of course, the most serious problem? Anything that prevents the vibrations from passing through the ear can lead to deafness. Birth defects, diseases, hard blows to the head, very loud sounds, things stuck in the ears, and a long life (aging) all can lead to deafness. Other problems include earaches caused by infections and too much wax in the ear. Doctors can treat the infections and wax problems, and hearing aids can help many people who are not completely deaf by making the sounds they hear louder.

Praise God for the gift of

hearing, especially for being able to hear the good news that we have a Savior from sin.

Activity: Why do we have two ears? One reason is that with two ears it is easier to tell what direction a sound is coming from. For this activity, work with a partner. Blindfold yourself or tightly close your eyes. Then place one side of your head on a pillow so that only one ear is open. Have your partner clap from different parts of the room. After each clap, point at the spot from which you think the sound is coming. Was it hard to tell the direction with only one ear available?

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February, 1994 LSI Journal



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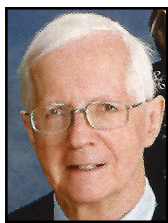
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My View

Creation Evangelism in Lutheran Theology

The term “creation evangelism” doesn’t seem to be heard very often among Lutherans. Here’s why I think it should be heard more often.

Seeing as this is my last issue of the *LSI Journal* which I have been privileged to edit for some 29 years, it behooves me to again relate how I ended up with this calling.

It all goes back to my freshman year at a “Lutheran” university. My biology professor was an evolutionist and let everybody know it.

One incident from this class in particular remains in my mind. We were being taught about human evolution when a coed raised her hand and asked something like, “Well, if what you say is true, what about Adam and Eve?” The professor responded angrily and said things to the effect that nobody believes in that “fairy tale” anymore.

The coed was crushed, but I sat there as a naïve freshman and had no sympathy for my fellow student.

I also remember a bull session in the dorm. Students were discussing why they felt

the book of Genesis must be inspired. Why? Because, in their opinion, it fits so well with our evolutionary history. I had no objections.

I thank God that after I transferred to a different college for my junior year, I was given some creationist literature. I ate it up. It didn’t take long for me to see how much the theory of evolution is lacking in actual scientific evidence. I was even a bit angry for having been taught a lie.

When a call went out for a new LSI editor, thanking God I gladly accepted. While I can’t say I had ever lost my faith in college, the slippery slope was not that far away.

It can’t be denied that many people resist the Gospel message or experience a weakening of faith because of this Satan-inspired teaching.

Creation evangelism normally begins with the book of Genesis, which gives us the reasons why we are here, why there is sin in the world, and why we need a Savior.

It often includes a heavy dose of creation science, which offers answers to Darwinian arguments, and which, with God’s help, can knock down serious obstacles to evangelistic efforts.

While only the Holy Spirit through the means of grace can work faith and keep a person in the faith, I believe creation evangelism can often be a useful tool for removing the devil’s evolutionist barriers.

—Warren Krug, editor

Farewell!



After 29 years, this issue of the *LSI Journal* marks my last as editor. Mark Bergemann will be taking over as the editor. Expect a new format.

I wish to thank all those who have supported this project over the years. It has not always been easy, but, in general, the work has been enjoyable and rewarding.

It has been my prayer that at least some people have found this magazine spiritually rewarding as we have been studying God's Holy Word alongside His amazing natural world.

May God's blessings be with you now and in the future! Farewell!

Warren Krug