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Creationists Call Their Shot ... Again!

By Bruce Holman, Ph.D.



The legend goes that in the fifth inning of game 3 of the 1932 World Series, Babe Ruth gestured to center field as if to tell all who were watching that he would hit the next pitch for a home run. The fact is that the Babe did hit a home run, and the alleged incident has become known in baseball lore as the “called shot.”¹ Even in the year of Babe’s record 60 home runs, you’d go broke betting even money that the Bambino would hit one on any particular one of the 154 games that season. To predict one on a specific swing of the bat to a specific spot would be truly amazing.

1. L. Montville, *The Big Bam: The Life and Times of Babe Ruth* (Random House Digital, Inc., 2006).

Jesus called his shot many times. Particularly in the Gospel According to John, Jesus gives specific indications of about what was going to happen before he did many of his miracles. In particular, he predicted his own resurrection.² Only God has control over life and death. Only God could call his own shot regarding his own resurrection!

2. For example, cf. John 16:16-28.

In science there are similar feats. Albert Einstein’s General³ and Special⁴ Theories of Relativity predicted time dilation and space curvature, both of which have actually been observed.⁵ Such confirmations are strong indications that the basic theory is actually true. Young earth creationists are particularly adept at shocking the materialistic scientific community with expectations which turn out to be verified by Steve Austin recognized the 1980 eruption of Mt. St. Helens would quickly produce many geological formations previously thought to require millions of years of geologic evolution. He rushed to the site and documented the rapid formation of a miniature Grand Canyon and Petrified Forest, among other features.⁶

3. Albert Einstein, “The Foundation of the General Theory of Relativity,” *Annalen der Physik* 49 (1916), 769-822.

4. Albert Einstein, “On the Electrodynamics of Moving Bodies,” *Annalen der Physik* 17 (1905), 891-921.

5. Edwin Taylor and John A. Wheeler, *Spacetime Physics* (W. H. Freeman & Co., 1992).

6. John Morris and Steven A. Austin, *Footprints in the Ash: The Explosive Story of Mount St. Helens* (Master Books, 2003).

In 2000 and 2005, the RATE Group — named after Radioisotopes and the Age of The Earth — published a summary of an extensive study of radioactive phenomena which had relevance to the age of the earth.⁷ This team of eight young earth creationist researchers was committed to the idea that the earth is only thousands of years old, not millions and billions. They held this conviction because of their firm belief in the inerrancy of Scripture, and because of their own previous scientific research. The team members found more evidence of a young earth during their study, which they published in summary form in 2005.⁸ However, they did find clear evidence that a large amount of radioactive decay has in fact occurred in the earth. When they put their findings into a young earth paradigm involving a global flood, they concluded that the rate of radioactive decay had accelerated during both creation and the flood. Soon after they published their findings they were severely criticized⁹ because there was no experimental evidence of changes to radioactive decay rates, or even a theoretical mechanism by which such a change might be possible.

7. L. Vardiman, A. A. Snelling and E. F. Chaffin, eds., *Radioisotopes and the Age of the Earth* (Institute for Creation Research and Creation Research Society, 2000 [vol.1] and 2005 [vol. 2]).

8. D. Russell Humphreys, "Evidence for a Young World," *Impact* 384 (June, 2005), <http://www.icr.org/article/1842>.

9. Greg Neyman, "RATE Research Comes up Empty," *Creation Science Rebuttals*, Old Earth Ministries (November 2005), http://www.oldearth.org/rate_nonsense.htm, accessed June 10, 2012. Randy Isaac, "Assessing the RATE Project," *Perspectives on Science & Christian Faith*, American Scientific Affiliation (June, 2007), 143-146, <http://www.asa3.org/ASA/education/origins/rate-ri.htm>, accessed June 10, 2012.

The RATE scientists — along with all Bible believing Christians — recognized that God is not limited by physical processes, and that his creative activities during the creation week can only be classified as miracles not congruent with processes which we are able to examine today. However, the fact that they suggested rates of radioactive decay accelerated during the flood in Noah's day suggested that there was some mechanism by which a global acceleration might be effected. They were gesturing at the center field fence.

Since that time, and quite separate from the RATE work, researchers at Purdue, Stanford, and at government research centers, have observed a number instances of radioactive decay rates which were not constant.¹⁰ Moreover, they were able to correlate the changes in the rate of decay to the rotation of the sun's core. They suggested that the decay of radioactive nuclei is accelerated by neutrinos generated in the core of the sun. This suggestion has significant implications for both nuclear and solar physics. It also represents evidence that there is a mechanism by which the radioactive decay rates throughout the whole world may be accelerated. It's another shot called by young earth creationists.

10. P. A. Sturrock, et. al., "Power Spectrum Analysis of Physikalische-Technische Bundesanstalt Decay-Rate Data: Evidence for Solar Rotational Modulation," *Solar Physics* (October 13, 2010), 1-16. E. Fischbach, et. al., "Evidence for Solar Influences on Nuclear Decay Rates," *WSPC Proceedings* (July 21, 2010), 1-6. P. A. Sturrock et. al., "Further Evidence Suggestive of a Solar Influence on Nuclear Decay Rates," *Solar Physics* (May 17, 2011). E. Fischbach, et. al., "Evidence for Time-Varying Nuclear Decay Rates: Experimental Results and Their Implications for New Physics" (June 7, 2011), <http://arxiv.org/abs/1106.1470v1>, accessed June 10, 2012. J.H. Jenkins, et. al., "Analysis of Experiments Exhibiting Time-Varying Nuclear Decay Rates: Systematic Effects or New Physics?" (June 8, 2011), <http://arxiv.org/abs/1106.1678v1>, accessed June 10, 2012. P. A. Sturrock, et. al., "Concerning the Phases of Annual Variations of Nuclear Decay Rates" (June 3, 2011), <http://arxiv.org/abs/1106.2374v1>, accessed June 10, 2012. P. A. Sturrock, et. al., "Power Spectrum Analysis of LMSU (Lomonosov Moscow State University) Nuclear Decay-Rate Data: Further Indication of r-Mode Oscillations in an Inner Solar Tachocline" (March 21, 2012), <http://arxiv.org/abs/1203.3107v2>, accessed June 10, 2012. E. Fischbach, et. al., "Solar Influence on Nuclear Decay Rates; Constraints from the MESSENGER Mission" (September 1, 2011), <http://arxiv.org/abs/1107.4074v2>, accessed June 10, 2012.

P. A. Sturrock, et. al., "Analysis of Gamma Radiation from a Radon Source: Indications of a Solar Influence" (May 1, 2012), <http://arxiv.org/abs/1205.0205v1>, accessed June 10, 2012.

The apostle Thomas declared "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe [in the bodily resurrection of Jesus from the dead]" (John 20:24-29). One week later Jesus confronted Thomas with the physical evidence of his resurrection. But just as God had mercy on Thomas in spite of his weak faith, so he has also had mercy on us in these last days. A young age for the earth – thousands of years old rather than millions and billions of years – has been well documented by the witness of a number of scientific observations.¹¹ Although not specifically mentioned by Scripture, such scientific observations are consistent with what Scripture teaches about this relatively recent creation. That should be enough to shame unbelievers who reject God's Word.

11. D. Russell Humphreys, "Evidence for a Young World," Acts & Facts 34:6 (2005), <http://www.icr.org/article/1842>, accessed June 10, 2012.

We should recognize the fact that there is a lot that we don't know about nuclear physics and the cosmology of our universe. Just as Thomas should have relied on the promise Jesus made that he would rise from the dead, so we should rely on the fact that his Word does not lie nor mislead. We can have confidence that every aspect of his Word is true! *LSI*

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