

Hugh Ross and Reasons To Believe, Part 1

- ⊙ **The Enigma of 'Living Fossils'**
- ⊙ **Two Billion Earths**

LUTHERAN SCIENCE INSTITUTE, INC.

4130 Harvest Lane
Racine, Wisconsin 53402-9562
<http://www.lutherscience.org>

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: WARREN KRUG (2), M.S. Educ
E-mail: WPKrug5@yahoo.com

VICE PRES.: PATRICK WINKLER (1), P.E.,
M.S.Eng., M.Div.
E-mail: runx10@gmail.com

SECRETARY: MARK GROTH (2)
Email: mgroth@wi.rr

TREASURER: CRAIG SCHWARTZ (1), MSciEd
E-mail: jcs@ecentral.com

BOARD of DIRECTORS:

PASTOR DAVID PETERS S.T.M. (2), S.T.M.
E-mail: pastor@trinityug.org

JEFFREY STUEBER (2)
E-mail: jstueber@charter.net

RON ALTERGOTT (2)
E-mail: altron@att.net

DR. DAVID GORSUCH (1)
E-mail: CGorsuch@wi.rr.com

MARK BERGEMANN (1)
E-mail: MarkBergemann@yahoo.com

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: BRUCE HOLMAN, Ph.D.
E-mail: bholman3@sbcglobal.net

EDITOR: WARREN KRUG
E-mail: admin@lutherscience.org

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 ©1973, 1978, 1984) unless otherwise noted.

Send your suggestions, comments, and manuscripts to:

LSI JOURNAL
4130 HARVEST LANE
RACINE, WI 53402-9562

or e-mail: admin@lutherscience.org

The Annual Meeting of the Institute is held the second Saturday in October. At least three other meetings are held during the year at locations

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

MEETING SCHEDULE*

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

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

4 A Case Study: The Creationism of Hugh Ross And Reasons to Believe, Part 1 (Overview)

By Patrick Winkler

The first in a series of articles on the creationism of Hugh Ross and Reasons to Believe.

15 The Enigma of ‘Living Fossils’

The so-called living fossils are not a problem for Bible-believing scientists, but they are a puzzle – a hard to explain enigma for secular researchers who believe that the earth is millions and billions of years old.

19 Best of the Blog: Two Billion Earths

22 News

24 Nuggets: Amazing Bumblebees / Healthier Snacks / Music Devices and Hearing Loss / Biologists and Evolutionary Theory / Alzheimer’s and Cancer / Great Earthquakes of the Bible / Solar System Problems (for Evolutionists) / Warning Signs of Serious Eye Problems / Origin of the Word “Volcano” / An Angel at the Tomb / Humorous Questions for Marilyn Von Savant

28 Kids’ Page: Hyena

30 My View: Take Care When Sailing in Unchartered Waters

A Case Study: The Creationism of Hugh Ross and Reasons To Be- lieve, Part 1 (Overview)



Explanations of observations in this world and their relationship to Scripture result in a wide variety of conclusions and assertions, both theological and scientific. It is important for those who have an interest in creationism to understand not only *what* is said, but especially *why* it is said. This is true whether one is reviewing material from old earth¹ creationist sources, young earth² creationist sources, or, for that matter, naturalistic (atheistic) evolutionary³ literature. For it is only then that the creationist is able properly to assess whether or not Scripture speaks about the issue.

This paper is the first in a series of articles on the creationism of Hugh Ross and Reasons to Believe (hereafter, referred to as

¹ Generally, old earth creationism holds that God created the universe “over six long periods of time – ages or epochs that encompass thousands or millions of years” and is an attempt to harmonize assertions that the earth is scientifically measurably old with the creation account in Genesis. Hugh Ross, *A Matter of Days: Resolving A Creation Controversy* (Colorado Springs: NavPress, 2004) 11.

² Generally, young earth creationism holds that God created the universe some thousands of years ago. Many, therefore, conclude that the earth will be scientifically measurably young. It also requires the six days of creation to be 24-hour periods.

³ Generally, that the universe, earth and all life came to be by unguided, non-supernatural means over a long period of time.

Patrick Winkler, P.E., has worked for twelve years as a mechanical engineer in the Milwaukee area and earned a M.S. Engineering at the University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee. Prior to that, he served as pastor at Prince of Peace Ev. Lutheran Church (Yucaipa, CA) and also at Grace Ev. Lutheran Church (Casa Grande, AZ). Email: runx10@gmail.com

RTB).⁴ This paper is meant to give the reader a broad overview of some of the more significant claims of Hugh Ross and RTB.⁵ As we proceed, the reader should understand that, due to space limitations of this paper, many details will be omitted. The *hows* and *whys* will be left to future papers where we will have room to deal with the particulars of some of his arguments more thoroughly.

In my previous paper⁶ I outlined the method which I intend to follow for this series of papers. I intend to offer a distinctly confessional Lutheran assessment whenever applicable, as I believe that a distinctly confessional Lutheran approach is sorely lacking in the contemporary creationist movement. It is also my intent to strive, wherever possible, to keep Hugh Ross' purely scientific assertions separate from his theological assertions, or, in the very least, to make this distinction obvious to the reader. I realize that his theological position can and does influence many of his scientific conclusions. However, in order to make appropriate Scriptural application, the creationist must always be aware of that which has its foundation in Scripture and that which does not. Those assertions which do not have their foundations in Scripture may, therefore, be open

to the application of Christian freedom either to be accepted or rejected on rational grounds. In such situations, individuals may in good conscience hold differing scientific opinions. Finally, it is my hope to portray Ross' and RTB's position accurately and in the proper context.



A Day

One of the more well known characteristics of Ross and RTB's position is the interpretation of "yom" (Hebrew for "day"). Ross says that "young universe Christians claim that the Bible can *only* [emphasis his] be interpreted as teaching that all creation took place in six consecutive 24-hour days about

4. <http://www.reasons.org/> (accessed April 7, 2011). Reasons To Believe was founded by Ross in 1986.

5. Ross gives a more complete presentation of RTB's position in the book *More Than A Theory: Revealing A Testable Model for Creation* (Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2009).

6. Patrick Winkler, *Essential Tools of a Creationist*, <http://www.lutheranscience.org/2010-EssentialTools.html> (accessed April 3, 2011).

10,000 years ago. Old-universe Christians say the text allows ample room, with no compromise of biblical inerrancy, for creation days of longer duration and even for a cosmic origin date of just over 10 billion years ago.”⁷ Ross continues,



According to the Bible, God’s unlimited power meant he could have chosen any time scale, short or long, to perform his creative work (see Isa. 40-48). Concerning the six ‘days’ of creation, the Hebrew allows for more than one literal interpretation. In Genesis 1, the word translated ‘day,’ *yom*, could have any of four different definitions: (1) a portion of the daylight hours, (2) the entire day-light segment of a twenty-four-hour day, (3) a twenty-four-hour day, and (4) a long but finite time period.⁸



Such a view, according to Ross, also offers a means by which the fossil record might be explained.⁹

One of the evidences RTB uses to show that “the universe cannot be very young [is] because most radioactive isotopes have decayed away.”¹⁰ However, I would emphasize that even though there may be scientific evidence which seems to support an old earth (or, as Don

⁷ Ross, *A Matter of Days*, 18.

⁸ Ross, *More Than A Theory: Revealing A Testable Model for Creation* (Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2009), 83. This point on the definition of *yom* will be covered in detail in a future paper. Here Ross refers to the Brown-Driver-Briggs-Gesenius Lexicon (BDBG) as well as the *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament* (TWOT) definitions when making this argument. While it is true that the Hebrew word *yom* can denote different time durations in various Hebrew contexts, this **does not mean** that all definitions of *yom* might be open to an arbitrary length of time when used in the opening chapters of Genesis. It is necessary to look at the context in which *yom* occurs to determine whether such usage indicates a 24-hour period or otherwise.

⁹ “If the Genesis 1 creation days are long time periods, the Bible offers an explanation of the fossil record enigma. It tells why so much animal speciation occurred before the creation of humans and why virtually no animal speciation has occurred since: after God created Adam and Eve, He stopped creating new life-forms.” Ross, *A Matter of Days*, 129.

¹⁰ Ross, *A Matter of Days*, 157.

DeYoung describes, a mature earth¹¹), that does not demand that we must interpret the Hebrew *yom* (“day”) as a period longer than twenty-four hours. The Bible does not present God’s creation as being inherently dependent upon when he created it. In other words, a creation which manifests age or maturity is not necessarily inconsistent with the biblical account of creation *per se*.

Basis of the RTB Biblical Creation Model

In addition to a day-age interpretation of *yom*, there are other factors which RTB uses to construct their biblical creation model. One of these is that “the Bible teaches a dual, consistent revelation” because “the facts of nature and Scripture will always agree.”¹² On this point, Ross adds, “there can be no contradiction between what He has made and what He has spoken through the inspired writers of Scripture. The testimony of both will always agree.”¹³ “No contradictions exist between the established record of nature and a plain reading of the biblical creation texts.”¹⁴ Referencing Psalm 19:1-4 and Romans 1:18-20, “The Bible ... declares that the record of nature is reliable and understandable.”¹⁵



11. Don B. DeYoung, author of “*Thousands ... not Billions: Challenging the Icon of Evolution: Questioning the Age of the Earth*” (Green Forest, Arkansas: Master Books, 2005) has some very pertinent comments on this subject. In an ICC (International Conference on Creationism) paper, he writes, “In the ‘mature’ or ‘fully functioning’ creation view, one can speculate on the extent to which ‘apparent age’ details were imbedded into the fabric of creation. Would it be deceptive to instantly create daughter elements which normally arise over a long time period from radioactive parent nuclei? There is no definite answer to this question, since the Creation is described as fully functioning. For all we know, created details such as isotope abundances might be essential to the integrity and stability of the universe. One can only conclude that a mature creation is consistent with biblical data.” DeYoung, *Extinct Isotopes and the Age of the Earth*, Proceedings of the Sixth International Conference on Creationism (Pittsburgh: Creation Science Fellowship and Dallas: Institute for Creation Research, 2008), 337.

12. In this context, Ross also states that “the Bible, therefore, has a definite priority over the facts of nature and a unique authority as the sufficient standard for Christian doctrine.” Ross, *A Matter of Days*, 89-90.

13. Ross, *A Matter of Days*, 211.

14. Ross, *A Matter of Days*, 237-238.

15. Ross, *A Matter of Days*, 60.

Ross, an astronomer and physicist by training as well as by profession, accepts an age of the universe in the billions of years.¹⁶ Therefore, he concludes, God must have supernaturally created the universe at the Big Bang some billions of years ago and supernaturally intervened at various times since. Ross says that if the universe's age is younger than that, it would create a logical disconnect between the *real* age of the cosmos versus its *apparent* age.¹⁷ Ross stipulates that a deceptive appearance of age would violate God's own stated character and purpose.¹⁸



Ross continues, “Advocates of the appearance-of-age view typically hold what may be termed a ‘biblicist’ perspective – belief that the Bible is the only reliable truth source about any subject” (i.e., from astronomy to zoology). “Biblicists claim the Bible must be interpreted ‘literally’ (by which they mean

concretely), even if that interpretation contradicts observable facts of nature. ... Biblicism has sometimes been confused with the Protestant doctrine of *Sola Scriptura*, according to which the Bible is the supreme authoritative source of information on all subjects it addresses.”¹⁹

From my perspective, RTB's subscription to *Sola Scriptura* (albeit from a Reformed

¹⁶ <http://www.reasons.org/special-edition-trnrb-astronomers-assess-age-universe> (accessed April 5, 2011).

¹⁷ In citing the opinion of Gary North (Institute for Christian Economics), Ross concurs with North that “a cosmic creation date of only thousands of years implies, in some respect, that the universe is an illusion. Since astronomers have sound reasons for concluding that the cosmos is real, they cannot reasonably adopt young-universe creationism.” Ross, *A Matter of Days*, 36.

¹⁸ “To suggest that God artificially fixed the broadening and reddening of the light individually from 10 billion trillion stars and 100 billion galaxies is to imply intentional deceit on a vast scale. ... Such action would be contradictory to His revealed character and purpose and to His declaration that creation is a truthful witness.” Ross, *A Matter of Days*, 163. The reader should be aware that I do not agree with Ross' conclusions here and intend to cover this subject more in depth at a later date.

¹⁹ Ross, *A Matter of Days*, 37. In his end-notes, Ross points out that “*Sola Scriptura* is the position held by Reasons To Believe.” Ross, *A Matter of Days*, 259. *Sola Scriptura* means, literally, “Scripture alone.”

theological viewpoint) makes it understandable to also find that they subscribe to biblical inerrancy in the sixty-six books of the Bible²⁰ as well as to the use of “sound exegetical techniques” and the “historical-grammatical method.”²¹ RTB holds that its model remains consistent with the creation tenets of the Reformation confessional statements of the Heidelberg Catechism, the Belgic Confession and the Westminster Confession of Faith.²² The tendency of RTB toward the rationalism of Reformed theology comes to light with the tendency to rationalize miraculous events,²³ the inclination toward the reasonableness of the objects of faith,²⁴ as well as the tendency toward pre-millennialism.²⁵

20. Ross, *More Than A Theory*, 60-61.

21. Fazale Rana with Hugh Ross, *Who was Adam? A Creation Model Approach To The Origin Of Man* (Colorado Springs: NavPress, 2005), 43; “Reasons To Believe [adheres] to the doctrinal statements of the National Association of Evangelicals and the International Council on Biblical Inerrancy” Hugh Ross, *The Genesis Question: Scientific Advances And The Accuracy Of Genesis* (Colorado Springs: NavPress, 2001), 239. The reader might be familiar with the fact that, in 1978, the International Council on Biblical Inerrancy (ICBI) produced the Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy, in 1982, the Chicago Statement on Biblical Hermeneutics, and the Chicago Statement on Biblical Application in 1986. See <http://www.alliancenet.org/partner/>

Article_Display_Page/0,,PTID307086_CHID750054_CIID2094578,00.html (accessed April 7, 2011).

22. Ross, *More Than A Theory*, 59; Ross’ source for The Westminster Confession of Faith is http://www.reformed.org/documents/wcf_with_proofs/index.html (last accessed April 3, 2011)

23. “If the Sun, Moon, stars, and presumably planets in the vicinity of Earth were dropped into place on the fourth creation day, the gravitational perturbations would have radically altered Earth and instantly destroyed all life.” Ross, *A Matter of Days*, 77.

24. “The Bible claims that faith is based on reasonable evidence.” Continuing the quotation, “All the Hebrew and Greek words in the Bible translated into English as ‘faith’ document the importance of belief – and action – being based on verifiable truth.” Ross, *A Matter of Days*, 63. Here, Ross includes such examples as 1 Thess. 5:21, 1 John 4:1 and Acts 17:11. The application made by Ross is to ultimately come to a **consistent** agreement of information from both Scripture and nature. He points out that some “believe that by discrediting Genesis they can demonstrate a flawed Bible. This ‘faulty creation message’ is [then] used to discredit the deity of Christ, the inerrancy of Scripture, the sanctity of life, doctrines of heaven and hell, and so forth. **If the creation account is implausible, what basis remains to believe anything else the Bible declares?**” [emphasis mine] Ross, *A Matter of Days*, 17. This subject of dual revelation, as well as the related subjects of the roles of faith and reason, will be covered in a separate paper. In the meantime, however, the reader should observe with caution how reason here seems to be emphasized since scientific plausibility is purposed to verify Scripture.

25. “A common, though not universal doctrinal position among old-earth creationists is pre-millennialism.” Ross, *A Matter of Days*, 265.



Existence of death

With respect to the role of death, RTB says,

the story of life, death, and new life is part of RTB's biblical model. It does not contradict New Testament statements about the kind of death that originated with Adam. Romans 5:12 clarifies this position: "Sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all have sinned." This death, introduced by Adam's sin, applies strictly to humans. The whole of Scripture confirms that only humans, among all life created on Earth, can (and do) sin. Therefore this "death through sin" applies to humans alone, not to plants and animals. In addition, the passage states specifically that this "death came to all men." It does not say "to all creation" or "to all creatures." The verses make no apparent reference to plant or animal life, nor do other parallel passages

(see 1 Cor. 15:20-23).²⁶

This role of death seems to be, at least in part, a way for RTB to deal with the problem of evil in the world.²⁷

Origin of Humanity

With RTB's position that death was preparative over much of Earth's history, one might have questions about RTB's explanation of fossilized remains of bipedal primates, for example, the Neanderthals, as well as the introduction of Adam and Eve into history.



26. Ross, *More Than A Theory*, 85

27. "God has the capacity right now to reduce human suffering. But a loving, merciful God allows people ... to suffer discomfort, illness, injury, and death. Can it be that God has good purposes for what seem like bad things? Could Earth's long history of plant and animal death have been part of God's good preparation for humanity and human civilization, technology, and the efficient spreading of the gospel?" Ross, *A Matter of Days*, 134-135.

RTB makes a distinction between pre-human bipedal primate species and humans.²⁸ Whereas pre-humans are animals, specially created by God,²⁹ humans are distinct in that they are God's crown of creation, supernaturally created and made in God's image.³⁰

The reader should also be aware that, if Neanderthals and modern humans are two separate species,³¹ any "pre-human" hominid genetic information found in the human genome might be interpreted by RTB as



28. "Neanderthals represent a pre-human primate species." Ross, *A Matter of Days*, 225; "A note on nomenclature: In modern evolutionary biology, humans are classified as 'hominids.' This book uses that term to refer only to the bipedal primates that preceded 'modern humans.' ...neither the authors [Rana and Ross] nor RTB believes that hominids prior to modern humans should be called human beings." Rana with Ross, *Who was Adam?* 29; "RTB's biblical creation model considers the hominids found in the fossil record to be animals created by

God's direct intervention for His purposes. . . . While the hominids were created by God's command, they were not spiritual beings made in His image. This status was reserved for human beings." Rana with Ross, *Who was Adam?* 50; "*Homo sapiens idaltu* (like *H. erectus*, Neanderthals, and other archaic *Homo sapiens*) were simply primates – animals that walked upright, possessed limited intelligence, and had some type of culture, but animals nonetheless." Rana with Ross, *Who was Adam?* 83; The RTB model "identifies these [Neanderthal] hominids as created by God – with some similarities to human beings and yet distinct." Rana with Ross, *Who was Adam?* 191.

29. Ross points out, "theistic evolution seems to contradict Genesis 1 and 2 as well as Mark 10:6 and Matthew 19:4. . . . These and other Bible passages indicate that God created the original human pair in a special, direct, and personal way. Thus RTB's model for humanity's origin must reject any form of theistic evolution that doesn't posit God's direct involvement. The RTB model asserts that attempts to establish evolutionary relationship among the hominids in the fossil record and to identify the evolutionary pathways to modern humans will ultimately prove unfruitful." Rana with Ross, *Who was Adam?* 44; "Several positions, including the day-age interpretation adopted in this book, treat the biblical creation accounts as reliable (though not exhaustive) descriptions of Earth's and life's natural history. According to the day-age approach, the Creator repeatedly intervened in Earth's history, initiating new life-forms, including humans." Rana with Ross, *Who was Adam?* 42.

30. "...only human beings were made in God's image" Rana with Ross, *Who was Adam?* 48.

31. "In other words, humans could not possibly be descended from Neanderthals." Ross, *A Matter of Days*, 225.

being the result of interbreeding between species (i.e., bestiality) as Todd C. Wood³² points out.³³

What was the purpose of such pre-human bipedal primate species? According to RTB,

It seems reasonable that God anticipated the negative impact of (post-Fall) human activity on birds and mammals. One possible scenario is that in the time period prior to Adam and Eve's creation God made a sequence of bipedal primate species, each more skillful at hunting than the one before. Birds and mammals would then have developed better behavioral defenses against the future onslaught of humanity. God may have had other reasons as well for creating bipedal primates, reasons scientists are as yet incapable of discerning.³⁴

Finally, RTB continues with their day-age assertions in determining when Adam and Eve were created by God³⁵ and conclude from the fossil record that Adam and Eve were created approximately 50,000 years ago.³⁶

A Universal Flood

Another aspect of RTB's creation model lies in the interpretation of the flood described in Genesis chapters 6-9:

All human beings and the "soulish" animals (birds and

mammals) they came into contact with were destroyed by this flood – except for Noah, his three sons, and their wives. Contrary to popular perception of the Genesis Flood account,

32. Todd C. Wood, PhD is a young earth creationist with a background in biochemistry and genomics. Personally, I often appreciate his viewpoint and started following his blog after I ran across the following blog entry: <http://toddcwood.blogspot.com/2009/09/truth-about-evolution.html> (last accessed, April 4, 2011).

33. <http://toddcwood.blogspot.com/2010/04/neandertals-bred-with-humans.html>
<http://toddcwood.blogspot.com/2010/05/neandertals-in-bizarro-world.html>
<http://toddcwood.blogspot.com/2010/05/neandertal-non-sequitur.html>
<http://toddcwood.blogspot.com/2010/05/pondering-image-of-god.html> and a related post
<http://toddcwood.blogspot.com/2011/01/human-species.html>. Todd Wood also offers an interesting multi-part assessment of RTB's human/chimp genome comparison which he finishes here
<http://toddcwood.blogspot.com/2011/01/rtb-and-chimp-genome-part-8.html> (last accessed, April 22, 2011)

34. Ross, *A Matter of Days*, 237.

35. "...precisely dating the creation of Adam and Eve from the biblical text is not possible. Gaps in the genealogies and the ambiguity of key words in the original Hebrew text render the best attempts at a biblical date for Adam and Eve as estimates only. If few gaps exist, the date calculates to around 10,000 years ago. If many gaps occur, the date falls closer to 100,000 years ago." Rana with Ross, *Who was Adam?* 45.

36. Ross, *More Than A Theory*, 59.

RTB's model for human origins posits that the Flood was geographically limited (confined to the environs of Mesopotamia), not global. Still, the RTB model considers the extent of the Flood to be "universal" in that all humanity was impacted by it.³⁷

This is because their model is required to be both a "biblically consistent and scientifically plausible interpretation of the Flood account."³⁸ In other words, RTB's interpretation of the flood is a conclusion based upon, and a result of, RTB's adherence to a dual, consistent revelation between nature and Scripture which I spoke of earlier in this paper.

In addition, the reader should also distinguish between *universal* and *global*. *Global* would imply that the flood covered the entire planet, something which the RTB model deems to be scientifically implausible. Whereas *universal* implies that "the Flood event described in Genesis 6-9 did, indeed, accomplish the ends God clearly intended – and explicitly stated – without covering the entire planet."³⁹

Although RTB appeals to a local universal flood, they still maintain the scientific plausibility of humans living hundreds of years prior to the Flood. "The Genesis 5 genealogy indicates

that some of humanity's patriarchs to be several hundred years old. The RTB model maintains that these ages are to be taken literally. Genesis 6:3 records that God deplored humanity's rampant sinful behavior and intervened to shorten the maximum human life span from about 900 years to about 120 years."⁴⁰ "The RTB biblical creation model must accept the burden of proof by demonstrating that the long life spans recorded in Genesis are scientifically plausible."⁴¹

37. Rana with Ross, *Who was Adam?* 51.

38. Ross, *The Genesis Question*, 160.

39. *Ibid.*

40. Rana with Ross, *Who was Adam?* 50. My personal opinion is that it is likely that the words in Genesis 6:3 ("his days will be a hundred and twenty years" [NIV]) not only mark the time until the flood waters came upon the earth, but that these words also limit the maximum life span of human beings to 120 years. Nevertheless, it took time for this reduction of the maximum life span to reach 120 years. I find it highly correlative that the current scientific approximation for the maximum life span of human beings is, and has historically been, 120 years. Note that the definition of *maximum life span* is not the same as *average life span*, *life expectancy* or *mortality rate*.

41. Rana with Ross, *Who was Adam?* 112.

Some Final Comments

The reader should notice that, while RTB presents an old earth viewpoint, they present themselves as standing in opposition to a purely naturalistic (atheistic) evolutionary position.⁴² The RTB creation model is one characterized by God's supernatural, intentionally designed and finely tuned⁴³ intervention.

Because chance governs biological evolution at its most fundamental level, repeated evolutionary events much result in dramatically different outcomes. ... The nature of the evolutionary process renders outcomes nonreproducible. ... Biological evolution must take place along a unique pathway each time, if and when it occurs. In other words, evolution cannot repeat."⁴⁴

Finally, RTB makes a significant observation with which I agree. Christian creationists need to be reminded of this on occasion: "Although materialism is the reigning worldview in science, Christians must realize that the scientific community's resistance to creation stems largely from the view that the biblical perspective represents a religion, not science."⁴⁵ This does not mean that God's creation is immeasurable or unquantifiable in a

scientific way. What it does mean is that Christians interpret the world and see God's hand in the marvels of His creation from the presupposition of faith – something that is unquantifiable from a scientific point of view.

In future papers, we will take a closer look at some of the biblical assertions of RTB that we have mentioned here. LSI

42. "A 14-billion-year-old universe is vastly too young for any conceivable natural-process scenario to yield, on its own, even the simplest living organism. Yet biologists and chemists have spent years building naturalistic models based on these inadequate boundary conditions." Ross, *A Matter of Days*, 121.

43. "No other characteristic of the universe is so well designed as this cosmic expansion." Ross, *A Matter of Days*, 139. "This observed stability indicates that the universe is expanding at a highly fine-tuned rate." Ross, *A Matter of Days*, 146. RTB spends a fair amount of time in their literature speaking about the *anthropic principle*, namely, that the physical aspects of our universe, including the seeming arbitrary values of physical constants (e.g. gravitational constant, strong nuclear force, etc), have all been finely tuned/determined. If any one of those constants would have been slightly different than its current value, life would not be possible.

44. Rana with Ross, *Who was Adam?* 23. Rana here is referring to Stephen Jay Gould's conclusion that, from an atheistic evolutionary perspective, humanity's arrival in evolutionary history is a "wildly improbable evolutionary event."

45. Rana with Ross, *Who was Adam?* 12.



'LIVING FOSSILS'

By Warren Krug

In 1939 a fisherman fishing off the coast of South Africa caught a remarkable fish called a coelacanth [see-luh-kanth]. What was remarkable about this coelacanth fish (scientific name: *Latimeria chalumnae*) is that it shouldn't have been in those waters – or in any waters – in 1939. Secular scientists had declared that the coelacanth had gone extinct some 65 million years ago. But there it was, alive and well, and since then other living coelacanths have been sighted and photographed.¹

The coelacanth fish is just one of hundreds of examples of what are referred to as “living fossils.” The so-called living fossils are not a problem for Bible-believing scientists, but they are

a puzzle – a hard to explain enigma for secular researchers who accept the theory of evolution and who believe that the earth is millions and billions of years old.

What is a Fossil?

Before trying to understand living fossils, we need to know what a fossil is. The word *fossil*

¹ Sea and Sky Presents the Sea. N.d. "Creatures of the Sea: Coelacanth." <http://www.seasky.org/deep-sea/coelacanth.html>

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

Photos from Wikipedia. Above photo is of the coelacanth.

comes from a word [Latin *fossilis*] that means “something dug up.”² It originally was used to refer to ancient manmade items, gems, or mineral ores. Today fossils are considered the remains or trace of once-living creatures which have been preserved in the ground by natural processes.

Fossils are of different types. A process known as *permineralization* can form fossils when mineral material fills the cavity of an organism as it decays, duplicating the form of the creature. *Impressions* are two-dimensional imprints most commonly found in silt or clay. A *trace* refers to impressions made by a creature as it moves over the surface of soft sediment. Entire bodies of creatures can be trapped and preserved in *amber*. Still other fossil classifications refer to how the fossil was preserved, such as by *drying*, *freezing*, or by being *compressed* or *compacted*.³

Fossils offer evidence in nature that something important once happened in the past. When living things die, they begin decaying rapidly. If they lie around on the ground or on the bottom of the sea for years, they would have long since turned into nothing except perhaps for their

bones or other hard parts. Yet we find numerous examples of plants and animals with impressions of their soft parts perfectly preserved in rock. That strongly suggests these organisms were buried quickly before they could decompose. We know of no historical event that was more likely to have buried so many creatures all over the world so rapidly than the chaotic Noah's Flood.

What are Living Fossils?

A living fossil is simply a fossil which looks virtually the same as its modern, living relative. Living fossils are not rare by any means. They are found throughout the fossil layers, and almost every family of living animal has been matched to fossils which appear amazingly similar.

Especially interesting are the living fossils, such as the coelacanth, which scientists had declared to have gone extinct “millions of years ago” only to find them doing well in the modern world. It is as if tomorrow an explorer would find a living *T-rex*

² <http://www.Dictionary.com>. N.d. "Fossil." IAC Corporation. <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/fossil> (accessed March 25, 2011).

³ K. Mani, 1996. "Fossils: Windows to the Past." Berkeley. UCMP. <http://www.ucmp.berkeley.edu/paleo/fossils> (accessed March 25, 2011).

roaming through some unexplored rain forest. Scientists refer to this type of living fossil as examples of a “Lazarus taxon.”⁴ This term refers to a species that seemed to disappear for many years only to reappear at a later time in the fossil record or in the living world, as if it were resurrected from the dead, like Lazarus in the Bible.



Wollemi pine tree

Another recent example of a living fossil that appears to fit the Lazarus taxon definition is the Wollemi pine tree (scientific name: *Wollemia nobilis*). This plant was discovered by a park ranger in 1994 in the Blue Mountains near Sydney, Australia. The tree, which reaches heights of 40 meters (130 feet), was thought to have become extinct 150 million years ago during the “age of the dinosaurs.” Yet another example of this type of living fossil is the lungfish.⁵

How do Evolutionists Explain Living Fossils?

The discovery of so many living fossils representing so

many different kinds of creatures does appear to pose a significant problem for the theory of evolution. We know that, according to Darwinism, there once were only simple organisms. These organisms gradually started evolving into more complex organisms until mammals evolved and eventually humans.

Evolution is sometimes defined as “progressive change” or simply “change.”⁶ These evolutionary changes are said to happen because of mutations (changes in genes) and natural selection (“the fittest survive”). Yet all these examples of living fossils, sometimes representing quite primitive organisms, show little or no change at all over millions of years. Doesn’t “no change” imply “no evolution”?

Darwinists do have something

4. Wikipedia: the Free Encyclopedia. March 15, 2011. "Living Fossil." http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Living_fossil (accessed March 25, 2011).

5. Woodford, James. "Tree From The Dinosaur Age, And It's Alive." *Sydney Morning Herald*, December 14, 1994. http://netherlands.wollemipine.com/news/Found_Tree_from_the_Dinosaur_Age.php (accessed March 25, 2011).

6. <http://www.Dictionary.com>. N. d. "Evolution." IAC Corporation. <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/evolution> (accessed March 25, 2011).

of an answer to this question. According to a creationist website,⁷ evolutionists claim only small segments of populations of creatures split off the main groups to form new living beings while leaving the main groups unaffected. Another way of putting it is that in each case the main group “found its niche” and there was no pressure put on these animals to evolve into anything else. Of course, there is no evidence that the breaking off of small groups actually happened, and this answer seems like too easy a way out.

We are told natural selection and mutations caused single-celled organisms eventually to evolve into human beings. That's quite an accomplishment for blind processes! But haven't mutations and natural selection been processes that have been active down through the ages? How easy was it for these living fossil creatures to remain immune to these processes for millions of years while other creatures were evolving into more complex living things? Or why didn't all the early creatures “find their niche” and happily settle down to enjoying what they were?

It's up to the evolutionary scientists to show why the many living fossils are not a rebuke to

their theory. They could easily do this by providing examples from the fossil record of slow progressions of creatures evolving from less complex organisms into animals which are far more complex. But where is there such an example, now that the famed horse evolution series has been cast into serious doubt by recent DNA studies?⁸

In one important respect Bible-believing Christians do believe in change. When we came to faith in Jesus Christ as our Savior from sin, we became new beings “created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness” (Ephesians 4:24). When we get to heaven, we will inherit new, perfect, glorified bodies (1 Corinthians 15:42-44). In the Holy Bible we have a far more reliable testimony to the truth of these changes than any truth about changes we can glean from the record of the fossils. ☞

7. Creation Ministries International. N. d. "Arguments We Think Creationists Should NOT Use." Australia. <http://creation.com/arguments-we-think-creationists-should-not-use> (accessed March 25, 2011).

8. University of Adelaide (December 10, 2009). DNA sheds new light on horse evolution. *ScienceDaily*. <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2009/12/091210092001.htm> (accessed March 25, 2011).

April 6, 2011 post

Two Billion Earths

Scientists say that's how many Earthlike planets may be found in the Milky Way



Summary: One out of every 37 to 70 sunlike stars may host a planet like Earth, according to a new study. Scientists at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif. based these new calculations on data from the Kepler space telescope. The spacecraft reveals new worlds by looking for dimming of stars as planets move in front of them.

The researchers focus on Earthlike planets — those with diameters 80% to 200% the size of Earth's — which lie within the habitable zones of their stars where liquid water might exist on the surfaces of the planets. After deciding that 1.4 to 2.7% of all sunlike stars should have Earthlike planets, they concluded the Milky Way has 2 billion “Earth analogs.” “With that large a number, there's a good chance life and maybe even intelligent life might exist on some of those planets. And that's just our galaxy alone — there are 50 billion other galaxies,” said Joseph Catanzarite, an astronomer at the Jet Propulsion Lab.

After the scientists investigate the Kepler data for three to four years, they predict a total of 12 Earthlike worlds will be found. Four have already been discovered, and they think as many as 50 billion may exist in the Milky Way, though most would not be Earth-size worlds residing within the habitable zones of their stars. Only two of the nearest 100 sunlike stars might have planets of this size.

Catanzarite believes red dwarfs, which are far more common than sunlike stars, might also host Earthlike planets. These worlds are harder to detect when they are moving in front of the dim red dwarfs. Still, he hopes one day to hear about habitable Earth analogs found around stars of this type. The scientific findings were published online March 8 in the *Astrophysical Journal*.

This summary was based on an article found at...

http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/42217136/ns/technology_and_science-space/

Comment: “Faith” is a word that usually brings up visions of houses of worship and deities. Yet, that word can be applied in other fields as well, such as in science. Despite the failure of SETI — the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence — to find even the slightest hint of a signal from an intelligent civilization in space after 50 years of trying, the SETI folks have not lost their faith and claim to be more optimistic than ever about eventually making such a discovery.

Optimistic too are the astronomers who say they are finding multitudes of planets that might harbor life, even intelligent life, in the vast reaches of space. But note how their high hopes are based on assumptions. Just because they know of ONE planet lying in an habitable zone which has lots of water and life, they seem to assume that most planets lying in an habitable zone have a good chance of having water and life. Just because they know of ONE planet which has intelligent life, they assume there must be many other planets where intelligent life similarly can be found.

In addition, much of their belief that so many Earthlike planets have been found in space appears to lie in the size of these planets, as if planets our size have a much better chance of supporting life. Yet, we do know of one planet very close in size to Earth that is very inhospitable

to life, and that planet is Venus.

All these huge estimates of numbers of stars, sunlike stars, planets, Earthlike planets, etc. may sound impressive, but there is one statistic that completely overshadows this data. Until scientists can demonstrate how life can naturally evolve out of non-life, the chances of life being found on another planet are less than one out of a zillion times a zillion.

As far as we can tell, life can only come from other life. Bible-believing Christians know how life appeared on this planet — it was created by the Living God. The Living God not only is responsible for the hearts which are currently beating inside our chests, but He has also promised us a life that will never end. This eternal life can be ours, but only if we have come to faith in Jesus Christ as our Savior. (John 10:9-11)

Visitor Comment: Dr. Bruce Holman wrote: Typical of today's narrowly educated scientists the astronomers are ignorant of the tremendous chemical difficulties that must be overcome to achieve the molecular organization necessary for even the simplest cell. The statement "a good chance life might exist" is ridiculously optimistic as evidenced by the fact that we have no hope of producing life in the laboratory. It takes more than a warm pond to produce life. Jesus spoke the truth when he said "I am THE life." And there is no life apart from him. How unique earth is to be blessed by the creator's presence much less his sacrifice for the sins of all mankind. Too bad other earthlike planets.

Question of the Day

How many stars are in the Milky Way?

An estimated 100 to 400 billion stars. In the Milky Way there are an estimated 50 billion planets, some 500 million perhaps lying in an habitable zone.

Source: Wikipedia



Group Sets Record For Abortions

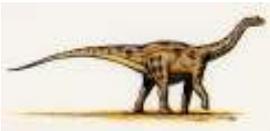
Planned Parenthood set a record for abortions in 2009. PFFA and affiliates performed 332,278 surgical and RU-486 chemical abortions that year. However, the organization also showed a decline in the number of women receiving prenatal services and adoption referrals. — *Clearly Caring* (Vol. 31, No. 1)

Skink-No Evolution Link

Evolutionists claim an Australian lizard provides proof of “evolution in action.” The yellow-bellied three-toed skink lays eggs like most reptiles in the warmer lowlands but in the colder mountains gives birth to live babies. These scientists say this shows live birth evolved from egg-laying. However, the skinks do not have a placenta like mammals—they simply retain the eggs inside their bodies. — *Answers* (January-March, 2011)

Survey: Humans-Dinosaurs Co-existed

A survey in Australia found one of three Australians believe humans and dinosaurs coexisted. Sponsors of the poll, who believe millions of years separated humans and dinosaurs, sounded the alarm that “science illiteracy” imperils the economy in Australia. — *Answers* (January-March, 2011)



Ancient Brain Surgery

Investigations at Bronze Age sites in Turkey found evidence of ancient brain surgery that was surprisingly precise. Most patients likely survived. At a small settlement near the Black Sea, five skulls with clean, rectangular incisions were uncovered which suggested basic cranial surgery. The procedure may have been performed to treat hemorrhages, brain cancer, head trauma, or mental illness. — *Discover* (April, 2011)

Chimps Care for Their Grandchildren

The idea that chimpanzees do not care for their offspring's young in the same way humans do may have to be revised. Japanese researchers studying chimps in Guinea saw a female chimpanzee assumed to be about 55 years old care for a 3-year-old youngster, even picking up the young one and carrying it across a road. Chimps in Guinea are well fed and live long lives without giving birth. — (*Racine*) *Journal Times* (1/16/11)

Bumblebees Hurting Too

It's not only honeybee populations that are experiencing a mysterious colony collapse disorder, bumblebees are suffering too. A new study of four species of bumblebees shows their numbers are down by more than 90%. Low genetic diversity is making them more susceptible to disease or other environmental pressures. Bees pollinate some 90% of the world's commercial plants including fruits, vegetables and nuts, and bumblebees do their share.— *discovermagazine.com* (1/3/11)

Old Pelican Fossil Looks Like Modern Species

A pelican fossil dated at “30 million years” and found in limestone in France had “all the details” preserved. A surprised Dr. Antoine Louchart of the U. of Lyon said the well-preserved fossil was “almost identical to modern species, despite its 30 million years.” The bird measured 4 feet long from beak to tail. — *Creation* (April-June, 2011)

Fish Fly Like Seabirds and Ducks

Some fish have been found to fly in the air much like birds do. They support their weight using aerodynamic lift, gliding over the surface of the water for long distances. Specimens of the darkened-wing flying fish was tested in a wind tunnel, and it was discovered they could glide as efficiently as seabirds and wood ducks. — *Creation* (April-June, 2011)



Apes Sing With a Regional Accent

Apes called gibbons appear to sing with regional accents that help scientists identify their species and where they are from, said a German researcher. Gibbons sing to communicate with other gibbons, to bond with mates and to define territory. More than 400 gibbons from 92 groups in 24 different locations were analyzed in the study.—*yahoo news* (2/7/11)

Life Expectancy Drops

After inching up for many years, U.S. life expectancy has dropped by about a month, the government has reported. A baby born in 2008 can expect to live to 77.8 years if current trends continue, but that's down from an all-time high of 77.9 years for 2007. Experts say it is too early to know if this is the beginning of a trend but rising obesity rates could be to blame. Life expectancy dipped for both men and women, but the gap between blacks and whites narrowed a bit. — *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* (12/10/10)

Powered Outer Skeleton Helps Paraplegics Walk

Some paraplegics are getting the opportunity to walk with the help of a battery powered, artificially intelligent, wearable outer skeleton called eLegs. Sensors in the legs convey their position to a control unit in a backpack. By means of two high-tech crutches, the user can tell the motorized legs to stand up and to walk, at speeds up to two miles per hour. Because of their cost, \$100,000 a piece, eLegs are currently found only in clinics. — *discovermagazine.com* (10/8/10)

New Blood Test Spots Cancer Cells

A blood test so sensitive it can spot a single cancer cell among a billion healthy ones may soon be available at the doctor's office. Boston scientists invented the test and say it could transform care for many types of cancer such as breast, prostate, colon and lung. It is like a "liquid biopsy" that avoids painful tissue sampling, a doctor said. — *(Racine) Journal Times* (1/3/11)

Smoking Bans Help Kids

Smoking bans appear to be helping many children with asthma from having to be hospitalized, new research has found. Other studies have discovered a decline in adult heart attack rates after smoking bans were adopted. The new study conducted in Scotland found asthma-related hospitalizations of kids fell 13% a year after smoking was banned from workplaces and public buildings in 2006. — *The (Racine) Journal Times* (9/16/10)



Self-Medicating

Bandages in the Works?

Research in two different sites is trying to develop self-medicating bandages that will keep serious wounds free of infection. In England Toby Jenkins and colleagues are designing a dressing that releases antimicrobials when bacterial toxins appear in a wound. The dressing even changes color when this happens to alert doctors of a potential infection. And in Missouri Paul Durham and his team are working on a multitasking bandage layered with antifungal, antibacterial, and anti-inflammatory agents for use on various wounds including deep cuts and punctures. The researchers plan to incorporate chemical sensors that will trigger release of the drugs in response to changes in a wound. — *Discover* (April, 2011)

Woman Shows No Fear

Scientists are intrigued by a woman who doesn't seem to experience fear. A woman known as "SM" showed no hints of fright when visiting haunted houses, seeing spiders or snakes, or watching scary film clips. Instead, she was merely entertained. Her rare condition has a name—Urbach-Wiethe disease—and the illness has destroyed her amygdala, a structure in the brain that is thought to play a role in generating fear responses, at least in animals. The scientists hope to learn from the woman's condition on how to better treat post-traumatic stress disorders. — *livescience* (12/16/10)

Audubon's Bird Book Sells for Record Price

John James Audubon's *Birds of America* became the world's most expensive published book when it was purchased for \$10,270,000 by an anonymous collector at a London auction. The book has 435 hand-colored illustrations of birds drawn to size. Despite some fears the book could be broken up and the individual pictures sold as works of art, experts think it is more valuable intact. — *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* (12/8/10)

More News Briefs Online

Voyager 1 is still flying. How far out in space is it now?

What simple test can predict longevity in older folks?

Why is the government reducing the recommended amount of fluoride in water?

Find these and still more News Briefs online at www.lutheranscience.org



NUGGETS



Scientists have learned that a flying bumblebee flaps its wings 160 times per second and consumes the equivalent of 180 candy bars per hour! A flying bee uses the same amount of oxygen for its body weight as a flying bird or a bat. However, unlike birds, the bumblebee uses no more oxygen when hovering than when flying. This is only one of the discoveries that contradict scientists' theories. In fact, the director of the latest studies on bumblebee flight admits that they still have no idea how the bumblebee stays in the air. He warns other scientists to stop using the current theories on the subject because they are far too simple.

Source: <http://www.creationmoments.com/> (3/18/2011)

For Each Pair of Snacks Choose the Healthier

- ◆ Sun chips / Classic Potato chips
- ◆ Mini pretzels / Mini Oreos
- ◆ Salted peanuts / Pork rinds
- ◆ Pop-tarts / Animal crackers
- ◆ Skittles original / Fat-free Fig newtons

Answers:

sun chips-pretzels-peanuts
crackers-newtons

Source: *Consumer Reports on Health*
(April, 2011)

Music Devices and Hearing Loss

The volume and duration of listening time of music on iPods or MP3 players can affect hearing safety and cause permanent hearing damage over time. According to the May 2010 *Hearing Review*, the recommended volume-duration times suggested for these devices are:

—90 minutes at 80% of volume.

—unlimited time at less than 60% of volume.

Source: *Mayo Clinic Health Letter*
(October, 2010)



Do biologists depend upon evolutionary theory in their work?

Not according to Dr. Marc Kirschner of the Harvard Medical School. He says, "Over the last 100 years, almost all of biology has proceeded independent of evolution, except evolutionary biology itself. Molecular biology, biochemistry, physiology, have not taken evolution into account at all."



--*Boston Globe* (October 23, 2005), quoted by Jonathan Sarfati, *The Greatest Hoax on Earth? Refuting Dawkins on Evolution*

ALZHEIMER'S AND CANCER

A recent study found people suffering from Alzheimer's were 69% less likely to be hospitalized for cancer than those without Alzheimer's. And people who had cancer were 43% less likely to develop Alzheimer's disease than those without cancer. This discovery may help researchers find new treatments.

Source: *Bottom Line Personal* (June 15, 2010)

GREAT EARTHQUAKES OF THE BIBLE

☞ Day 3 of Creation Week -- the waters were gathered together and the continents appeared.

☞ Noah's Flood.

☞ Moses on Mount Sinai (Exodus 19:18).

☞ Korah's Rebellion (Numbers 16:1-40) - the land split apart and then closed again.

☞ Philistines Panic (1 Samuel 14:15) as the ground shakes.

☞ Elijah on Mt. Horeb (1 Kings 19:11).

☞ Amos's Earthquake (Amos 1:1).

Source: *Acts & Facts* (October, 2010)



SOLAR SYSTEM PROBLEMS (FOR EVOLUTIONISTS)

Most evolutionist astronomers seem to believe the solar system formed from a cloud of gas and dust: a *nebula*. The gas and dust condensed into rocks which stuck together to become planets, a theory called the “nebular hypothesis.” However, if this idea is correct, there are some problems with our planets.

Mercury is too dense. Evolutionists explain without evidence that Mercury was formed much lighter, but all the light material was blasted away by a collision with an asteroid.

Earth has a moon. The nebular theory can't explain where the moon came from, but secular scientists speculated it formed from debris caused by a massive asteroid crashing into Earth.

Venus has no moons. It should have if Earth and Venus are neighbors. But astronomers propose a second asteroid collision destroyed the moon of Venus.

Mars has only a thin atmosphere. Secular astronomers think it once had a thick atmosphere, but a massive asteroid collision caused Mars to lose most of its atmosphere.

Jupiter and Saturn have many irregular moons, some orbiting opposite the planet's rotation. The moons shouldn't be doing this according to the nebula hypothesis. The explanation: Jupiter and Saturn used their gravities to capture these moons.

Uranus rotates on its side and rolls along through space like a ball. The orbits of its moons are also sideways. Again, these facts contradict the nebular hypothesis, but scientists once more resort to the idea of a massive collision that knocked Uranus over followed by Uranus using its gravity to capture its moons.

Neptune also has a backward moving moon named Triton. Things get silly now. One explanation for this situation is that Triton used to be a moon of a planet named Amphitrite until Neptune stole it. Amphitrite then disappeared because it collided with either Neptune or Uranus.

Source: *Creation* (October-December, 2010)



WARNING SIGNS OF SERIOUS EYE PROBLEMS

Get immediate medical attention if you experience one or more of the following symptoms:

- ⊙ sudden flood of spots, squiggly lines (floaters), or flashing lights in front of your peripheral vision.
- ⊙ severe eye or head pain
- ⊙ colored circles, rays or halos around lights
- ⊙ nausea or vomiting with some of the above signs.



These signs and symptoms may indicate a retinal detachment or glaucoma caused by a rapid build-up of pressure in the eye which could lead to vision loss within hours.

Source: *Mayo Clinic Health Letter* (October, 2010)

What is the origin of the word "volcano"?



The word is based on the name of the Roman god of fire, Vulcan.

Source: livescience.com

AN ANGEL AT THE TOMB

The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay."



Humorous Questions for Columnist Marilyn Vos Savant

- ⊙ As I travel the highways, I notice signs that read "Deer Crossing." How do the deer know to cross at those signs?
- ⊙ Why are the Three Musketeers always depicted with swords? Why not muskets?
- ⊙ Why don't eggs taste like chicken?
- ⊙ The city of Toledo, Ohio is urging its residents to lose weight to the tune of one million pounds. With that much weight exiting our planet from such a small location, could it alter the Earth's orbit around the Sun?
- ⊙ I notice that global warming increased after daylight saving time started in 1974. Well, duh! More daylight is going to make the world hotter, isn't it?
- ⊙ If a person on television held up a mirror facing a camera, could someone at home see his reflection in it?

Source: *Parade* (Jan. 2, 2011)

Hyena

Hyenas will howl in her strongholds, jackals in her luxurious palaces. Her time is at hand, and her days will not be prolonged. Isaiah 13:22 (NIV)

Can you imagine a beautiful city and palace being taken over by wild animals? That situation is what the prophet *Isaiah* is here predicting will happen to the sinful city of Babylon after an army called the Medes destroys it.

Hyenas are one of the beasts mentioned in the Bible passage. What are hyenas? A *hyena* is a *carnivore*, which means it eats mainly meat, although it can eat vegetable matter. It looks and acts a lot like a *dog*, but scientists say it is more closely related to *cats*.

What do hyenas look like? These furry animals

have front legs or forelegs which are much longer than their hind legs. This causes their backs to slope downward. Their skulls look similar to those of dogs but are larger and heavier. Their paws each have four digits or parts with thick pawpads. Like the *claws* of dogs, the hyena claws cannot be retracted or pulled in. Spotted hyenas, of course, have spots, but other hyenas are striped.



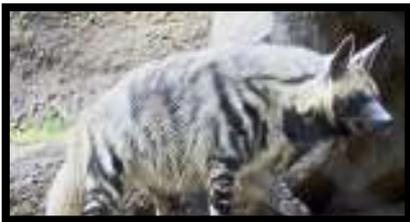
Spotted Hyena

Where do hyenas live? They live mainly in *Africa* and *Asia*. They can live in grasslands and woods as well as on mountains.

Do hyenas live by themselves or in groups? Hyenas live in groups called *clans*. The individual hyenas are related. They

live in dens where the baby hyenas called *cubs* are raised. Mother hyenas usually give birth to two to four cubs at a time.

What sounds do hyenas make? They make a various sounds from wailing calls to howling screams. Their most famous sound is a *laughing* sound they use to let other clan members up to three miles away know that they have found food.



Striped Hyena

Are hyenas a danger to humans? Spotted and striped hyenas have been know to attack humans, especially the young or sick. Besides this, hyenas can be a pest when they *steal* livestock from farmers.

What is an aardwolf? An aardwolf is the most

doglike of all the hyenas. Insects play an important part in the diet of aardwolves.

Sources: "Hyena" from Wikipedia
American Wildlife Federation
Photos: Wikipedia,
Wikimedia Commons



An Aardwolf

Activity: Try to find the 11 words in *italics* from the story in the word search. As you do, think of how God has blessed our country to keep it from destruction.

D	A	O	F	G	S	B	U	C
A	C	L	A	W	S	S	I	L
L	A	U	G	H	I	N	G	A
A	R	C	A	Y	S	U	B	E
S	N	S	S	E	A	H	Y	T
T	I	Y	E	N	I	N	A	S
A	V	D	C	A	A	L	N	A
C	O	W	O	S	H	A	S	S
E	R	A	L	G	L	I	S	I
A	E	H	A	C	I	R	F	A



Take Care When Sailing in Uncharted Waters

William Borucki is the head of NASA's Kepler program. William Borucki also seems to be a man in a bit of distress.

Kepler is a spacecraft with a telescope. Its mission, according to the Kepler website, is "to find terrestrial planets (i.e., those one half to twice the size of the Earth), especially those in the habitable zone of their stars where liquid water and possibly life might exist."

Kepler has apparently already found dozens of planets approximately the size of Earth along with other planets far larger. So, is Borucki happy? It certainly doesn't sound like he is, at least not entirely.

He is quoted in the May issue of *Discover* magazine as lamenting, "All planetary systems were supposed to look like ours. The planets we're finding are in the wrong places! And their orbits are unlike anything anyone predicted. Now, that's a warning. That tells you we don't know how to predict what's out there."

His warning should be an admonition to all scientists to be

careful of getting too arrogant about their theories and hypotheses. God has a way of making mere humans sometimes look silly when they set sail in uncharted waters.

It isn't just in cosmology, of course. In other fields too scientists have often looked foolish. Think of paleontology and all the arguments secular scientists have had over the meanings of various newly-discovered fossils.

Scientists who operate within a biblical framework are in a better position. They have the inerrant Word of God to guide them. They know, for instance, that no halfway fossil will ever be found such as a half dog-half something else. This is because God has said He designed all creatures to reproduce according to their own kinds, which allows for only limited variation, and that is exactly what we see.

However, there is much about the world and universe God has not told us. Therefore, creation scientists too, when they go beyond Scripture in formulating their theories and hypotheses, must always use words like "perhaps" or "maybe."

On the other hand, it is clear sailing in known waters when we consider the Gospel, that we are saved through faith in Jesus Christ as our Redeemer, a fact set forth in the Bible and proven by the resurrection of Jesus on the first Easter. Hallelujah! 🙌

—Warren Krug, editor

LUTHERAN SCIENCE INSTITUTE / APPLICATION FORM

Please complete form and mail with payment to: Mr. Craig Schwartz,
1710 Ulster St., Denver, CO 80220-2053

MEMBERSHIPS:

- Voting membership** (WELS or ELS, 18 years of age or older, must subscribe to the Statement of Belief and Objectives in the Constitution)
- Groups** (congregations, schools, organizations)
- Associate** (non-WELS/ELS, non-voting)
- Foreign** (outside the USA)
- Electronic memberships*** (half-price. *Shown below in parenthesis*)
* All publications will be delivered via e-mail in .pdf format.
- Student** (currently enrolled in high school or college or under age 18)
- Free One-Year Church Membership** for LSI-designated door offerings
- Bundled** (at least five copies for one year to a single address)

RATES: Circle membership & length desired and check ___ new or ___ renewal.

	One year	Three years	Ten years	Lifetime
Voting	\$18 (\$9)	\$42 (\$21)	\$120 (\$60)	\$200 (\$100)
Group/ Associate/ Foreign	\$25 (\$12.50)	\$60 (\$30)	\$165 (\$82.50)	\$275 (\$137.50) Not valid for groups
Student	\$5 (\$2.50)	—	—	—

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

E-MAIL _____ PHONE (____) _____

Signature _____ DATE _____

INDIVIDUALS, please also fill in the following:

CHURCH _____ CITY _____

DEGREES (if any) _____ FIELD or MAJOR _____

BUNDLED SUBSCRIPTION: _____ copies (5 minimum) x \$6 (for one year) = \$ _____

LUTHERAN SCIENCE INSTITUTE

4130 Harvest Lane
Racine, Wisconsin 53402