Communique'

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Happy New Year! We hope and pray all of you had a joyous Christmas season and a Happy New Year!

This month’s **Communique’** features three articles that will show you the wide variety of resources available from **Creation Ministries International (CMI)** whom we have plugged before as an excellent resource. The first article on whether the Bible is in error claiming rabbits “chew their cud” comes from their excellent **“Creation Magazine”** which you can subscribe to as I do. For those with a more technical taste, CMI also produces their **“Journal of Creation.”** Our speaker this month, Dr. Matthew Cserhati subscribes to this magazine and will attest to its quality. You can subscribe to either fine magazine by going to <https://creation.com/magazines>

The last two were brought to my attention by a recent **“Infobyte”** weekly email which you may receive for yourself by going to their website at [www.creation.com](http://www.creation.com) and signing up. In that infobyte, I got the article you see on how Christians should respond and view the **current trends in homosexuality and transgenderism.** Finally, we have an article from an Old testament scholar testifyingthat the Bible both describes a **Young Earth as well as Genesis being written as real history** and not poetry. This article was drawn from the CMI archive on their website which has a wealth of such articles.

We also have for you what we hope you will find to be an exciting new series in our new **“Genesis Commentary”** series which will give in-depth biblical commentary from a creationist point of view for the first several chapters of Genesis, a verse at a time.

As always, we have a full rundown of all the creation science educational opportunities in the greater San Antonio area and Texas. This includes information on the **2019** **Biblical Worldview Conference** annually held by **Faith Lutheran Church**. Also, we have a reminder of our exciting **“Taking Us to the Stars!”** programs we are hosting for FEAST this coming year. We would like to thank the Reverend David Thompson not only for hosting us with the FEAST activities, but also for stepping up to offer their facilities for our **monthly SABBBSA meetings**. Faith Lutheran is a real Godsend to us as we found out last month we would have to move from the Grady’s location which we enjoyed this past year.

**Does the Bible assertion of rabbits “chew the cud” show error?** *by Jonathan Sarfati* (CMI)

The book of Leviticus contains a number of food laws that the ancient Israelites were to obey. Modern medicine has shown that many of them had very good health benefits for people in that time and place. As the Law of Moses was our tutor to lead people to Christ (Galatians 3:24), many of the individual commands are no longer applicable after Christ’s death for our sins and His bodily resurrection from the dead. In particular, the Lord Jesus and His Apostles declared that all foods are now ‘clean’ (Mark 7:18–19, Acts 10:10–15, Colossians 2:16).

Some of the food laws have been attacked by sceptics as ‘proof’ that the Bible makes mistakes, meaning it could not be God’s written word. For example, Leviticus 11:3–6 says:

1. ‘Whatever divides the hoof, and is cloven-footed, chewing the cud, among the animals, that you shall eat.
2. ‘Only, you shall not eat these of them that chew the cud, or of them that divide the hoof: the camel, for he chews the cud but does not divide the hoof; he is unclean to you.
3. ‘And the rock badger, because he chews the cud, but does not divide the hoof; he is unclean to you.
4. ‘And the hare, because he chews the cud but does not divide the hoof; he is unclean to you.’

We showed a photo of the camel’s hoof in *Creation* 19(4):29, 1997, proving that the Leviticus 11:4 assertion was right that the camel did not completely ‘divide the hoof’, despite what some sceptics claim. Other sceptics have claimed that the coney (KJV; Hebrew שָּׁפָ֗ן *shāphān*, = hyrax, rock badger) and hare (Hebrew אַרְנֶ֗בֶת *’arnebet* = hare/rabbit) don’t chew the cud.

In modern English, animals that ‘chew the cud’ are called *ruminants*. They hardly chew their food when first eaten, but swallow it into a special stomach where the food is partially digested. Then it is regurgitated, chewed again, and swallowed into a different stomach. Animals which do this include cows, sheep and goats, and they all have four stomachs.1 Rock badgers and rabbits are not ruminants in this modern sense.

*It is not an error of Scripture that ‘chewing the cud’ now has a more restrictive meaning than it did in Moses’ day.*

However, the Hebrew phrase for ‘chew the cud’ simply means ‘raising up what has been swallowed’. Coneys and rabbits go through such similar motions to ruminants that Linnaeus, the father of modern classification (and a creationist), at first classified them as ruminants.

Also, rabbits and hares practice *refection*, which is essentially the same principle as rumination, and does indeed ‘raise up what has been swallowed’. The food goes right through the rabbit and is passed out as a special type of dropping. These are re-eaten and can now nourish the rabbit as they have already been partly digested.

In particular, another name for this process is called *cecotrophy*, because the material is taken in a pouch at the beginning of the large intestine called the *cecum* or ‘blind gut’ (Latin *caecus* = blind). In the cecum, a process called ‘hindgut fermentation’ occurs, where bacteria help digest the food by breaking down cellulose into simple sugars. Then the special dropping, called a *cecotrope*, is expelled and re-eaten. This cecotrope is very different from normal feces, thus cecotrophy is very different from other forms of coprophagy (eating dung) practiced by animals such as pigs and dogs.

It is not an error of Scripture that ‘chewing the cud’ now has a more restrictive meaning than it did in Moses’ day. Indeed, rabbits and hares *do* ‘chew the cud’ in an even more specific sense. Once again, the Bible is right, and the sceptics are wrong.

God, through Moses, was giving instructions that any Israelite could follow. It is inconceivable that someone familiar with Middle-Eastern animal life would make an easily corrected mistake about rabbits, and also inconceivable that the Israelites would have accepted a book as Scripture if it were contrary to observation, which it is not.

**How should Christians think about homosexuality and transgenderism?**

***by***[***Lita Cosner***](https://creation.com/lita-cosner)

In a recent video, Dr. Tim Jennings (a liberal Christian Psychiatrist) calls out the Christian community for “a lot of ignorance and a lot of misinformation.” He believes that “We have to start with facts, we have to start with truth.” He asks, “Are you willing to look at evidence and facts or do you want to hold beliefs that are refuted by evidence, facts, and truth?”

But when he goes into these ‘facts’, we find that they don’t prove what he thinks they prove. Most of his arguments involve very rare abnormalities.

First, he brings out **Androgen Insensitivity Syndrome (AIS)**, where a person is genetically male (XY), but has no testosterone receptors, so the child develops to look outwardly female (but lacks a uterus and ovaries). Dr Jennings makes the first of many errors in his video when he says that all babies begin as females, and hormones, particularly testosterone, cause the baby to masculinize. At fertilization, every individual is either genetically female (XX) or male (XY) (yes—there are a handful of intersex chromosomal conditions, most commonly Klinefelter’, but these are extremely rare), and the baby develops as a female or a male according to the genetics. Dr Jennings inadvertently *acknowledges* this when he says that the male baby has testes even with AIS.

The next condition is chimerism, the extremely rare condition where one embryo absorbs his or her fraternal twin early in development, resulting in one individual with two distinct sets of genetics. He claims that this can result in someone with both male and female DNA. So, someone could have a male brain genetically, and a female body, and so on. Then he claims that epigenetic markers affect whether the brain is masculinized in the womb or not.

His AIS and epigenetic arguments basically say that hormones can determine someone’s sexual identity. But then the chimerism argument says *precisely the opposite*—that genetics determine sexual identity. Which is it? Of course, this discussion of chromosomal and developmental conditions leaves out the fact that most people who identify as homosexual or transgender are biologically healthy males or females with no ambiguity or genetic defect.

It is not loving to present a false gospel to any person that says that Christ is powerless to transform them, regardless of what needs to be transformed.

Then Dr Jennings goes in a completely different direction and notes that sometimes trauma can confuse a person’s sexual identity, and gives an anecdote involving one of his counselees. In that counselee’s case, resolving a trauma led her to realize that she was not a lesbian after all, but heterosexual. But how can we tell someone who is ‘naturally’ homosexual from someone who is confused because of a trauma? And how can we even ask that question when it is now forbidden to even raise that as a possibility?

Dr Jennings then turns to Romans 1 and says that “exchanging natural relations for unnatural ones” means that naturally heterosexual people were engaging in homosexual relations as part of Roman fertility cult worship. He argues Paul wasn’t talking about people who are naturally homosexual. But sexual orientation as a core element of our personality wasn’t even conceived of until less than 200 years ago. In the Roman world, free men in particular would engage in both homosexual and heterosexual acts with a variety of partner. The only thing that was taboo was for a free male adult to assume a ‘submissive’ role, which of course is contrary to homosexual behavior.

Then he criticizes Christians with “imperial” and “legal” ways of reading the Bible. I think that’s extremely judgmental of him—my brain development was shaped in the womb to make me think in imperial and legal ways. In any case, he says that Christians think homosexuals should act like heterosexuals. That’s not true. Rather, Christians recognize that the Fall affects us in different ways in our bodies, our minds, and our relationships. All of us have to submit ourselves to Scripture, which challenges each of us in different ways.

Dr Jennings says that we should present the truth in love, and this will leave people free. While I would agree with him about this principle, we would disagree vastly about the proper application. I do not believe it is loving to present a false gospel to any person that says that Christ is powerless to transform them, regardless of what needs to be transformed!

**OT scholar: Genesis teaches a short timescale**

Jonathan Sarfati chats with Old Testament *professor Dr Travis Richard (‘Rick’) Freeman*

Dr Travis Freeman serves as Professor of Old Testament at the Baptist College of Florida in Graceville. He is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University (B.A.) and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (M.Div., Ph.D.). He has been a young-earth creationist for over twenty years and is a member of the Evangelical Theological Society Creation Fellowship. He has been married to Dawn for over 50 years, and they have a son and daughter, and a grandson and granddaughter.

I met Dr Freeman recently when he hosted me at a conference at his Baptist College. But I was already familiar with his cogent defense of a straightforward biblical timeline in Genesis,1 which was the topic of his doctoral thesis, *The Genesis 5 and 11 fluidity question*.

**Does Genesis have gaps?**

The biblical text gives the number of years between the births of the descendants of Adam in the line leading to Noah. By adding these numbers together, we can calculate the number of years from Adam to Noah.

Some claim that there are gaps in the genealogies of [Genesis 5](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Gen%205) and [11](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Genesis%2011). Dr Freeman points out that there can be no *time* gaps, because: The biblical text gives the number of years between the births of the descendants of Adam in the line leading to Noah. By adding these numbers together, we can calculate the number of years from Adam to Noah. These numbers would be superfluous, even misleading, if generations are missing between fathers and sons. In fact, one strains without success to even imagine why the author of Genesis would include these numbers unless he meant to tie the generations together in a continuous sequence without chronological gaps.

Dr. Travis Freeman

“This type of genealogy seems to be designed for chronological purposes and never contains gaps, at least none that anyone has ever demonstrated. In fact, every biblical genealogy of this sort has been shown to be without gaps. Thus, we can calculate that Genesis 5 and 11 record that about 2008 years passed between creation and Abraham’s birth around 1996 BC, thus rendering a creation date of about 4004 BC.”

Dr Freeman also pointed out that this understanding is hardly a novelty. Rather, “nearly all Bible scholars, Jewish and Christian, from the first century BC to about AD 1800, understood Genesis 5 and 11 as setting forth a no-gap chronology of ancient history. So, unless we are prepared to show how all of these scholars were wrong, we should reject the idea of gaps.”

Unlike Genesis 5 and 11, Matthew 1 does not record the number of years between generations. This type of genealogy often contains generational gaps, that is, some names are omitted for the sake of brevity or symmetry.

Why was this clear understanding doubted from around AD 1800? Dr Freeman reminds us this is when old-earth ideas started to become popular in ‘science’, due to the Flood-rejecting uniformitarian dogma of Hutton and Lyell, explicitly designed to “free the science from Moses.”2 Long-age beliefs almost invariably come from such outside ideas being imposed upon the text, rather than anything in the text itself.

But don’t other genealogies, such as the Matthew 1 genealogy of Jesus, have gaps? Dr Freeman points out that this is a different genre, and a key difference is that “Matthew 1 does not record the number of years between generations. This type of genealogy often contains generational gaps, that is, some names are omitted for the sake of brevity or symmetry.”

**The doctrine of creation**

One of Dr Freeman’s most popular classes is his ‘The Doctrine of Creation’, which he summarizes in three statements:

1. God created all things in six twenty-four-hour days about 4004 BC in mature form.
2. God created all living things according to distinct kinds that were programmed to produce only their kinds but able to adapt to their environment within their kinds.
3. God ravaged the earth with a catastrophic flood which began about 2348 BC, lasted about a year, covered the entire world, destroyed and rebuilt Earth’s crust, left behind millions of fossils, left behind vast coal and oil deposits, and permanently altered Earth’s environment.

When modified by a number or by the phrase ‘evening and morning’, the Hebrew word for ‘day’ always means a solar day, not an indefinite period of time, in the Old Testament.

Since Dr Freeman teaches at a school that affirms the inerrancy and sufficiency of Scripture, I asked how all that is supported by the Bible. He pointed out that Genesis 1 declares that God created all things in six *days*. He explained that when modified by a number or by the phrase ‘evening and morning’, the Hebrew word for ‘day’ always means a solar day, not an indefinite period of time, in the Old Testament.

Also, the same chapter describes Adam, Eve, fruit trees, and other living things as mature at the time of their creation, and it says that they would reproduce after their kinds. That is, one created kind did not evolve into another, leading eventually to a group of human-like creatures.

Dr Freeman also stresses that Genesis 7 and 8 describe the Flood of Noah’s day as year-long, worldwide, earth-devastating, and deadly to all land vertebrates but those on the Ark. These things would be responsible for the formation of most of Earth’s sedimentary rock layers and fossils.

**What is the problem with millions of years?**

But many people in the church think that it’s OK to believe in evolution over millions of years. Dr Freeman points out severe problems. One of the most important for Christians is surely that “Jesus contradicted evolution and millions of years when he said that God created Adam and Eve at the beginning of creation (Mark 10:5–9), not billions of years after a big bang.”

He further points out that a straightforward understanding of Genesis indicates that God created humans, animals, trees, and so on in mature form, and only a few thousand years ago.

Dr Freeman explains that real archaeology opposes long-age dogma, revealing no civilizations or historical documents older than a few thousand years. Geology also opposes this dogma, because creatures must have been buried quickly to form fossils, so the layers must have been deposited catastrophically. Also, there must be little time between the layers, because the contact lines are flat and largely erosion-free, and they have other features such as footprints that must have been preserved quickly.

**How does creation matter to Christians?**

Many in the church think of creation as a side issue. Naturally, Dr Freeman disagrees, and explains why it is actually foundational:

“God has placed in every person the desire to know the answer to some basic questions about life, such as who am I, where did I come from, why am I here, where am I going, and how should I then live? The biblical doctrine of creation answers those questions and thus helps us understand the need for obedience to our Creator, including belief in the Gospel. The doctrine of creation also helps us believe in the accuracy of the Bible, because we see that its opening chapters are compatible with history and science.”

Indeed, it was very important to Travis personally. First, as a young man, he was an agnostic: “I did not know the answer to those questions, especially, how I should live. I was confused about the meaning of life, or if there even was a meaning. The confusion showed in my behavior.”

However, when he was 32, a pastor shared the Gospel with him. Like many people, Travis “objected that the Bible and its Gospel could not be true because we humans came into being through billions of years of blind evolutionary processes.” Many would-be evangelists would try to change the topic. Fortunately, not this pastor, who was well informed:

“In God’s providence, the pastor was also a biology teacher at a nearby university. He informed me that evolution was not even a good theory, and certainly had not been proven. His comments spurred me on a journey to find out the truth for myself. I soon came across several books, including *The Genesis Flood* by John Whitcomb and Henry Morris, which exposed the flaws in evolution and showed how the Bible and empirical science actually agree. Once I saw the accuracy of the Genesis account of creation, I knew instinctively that the rest of the Bible must be true. So, I repented of my sins and believed the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Now my life has meaning and direction—and may I add, great joy!”

We know of literally hundreds of people whose faith was ‘shipwrecked’ on the jagged reef of biblical compromise, but who, like Dr Freeman, were restored thanks to consistent biblical creation teaching. We trust that his encouraging testimony will help many more.

**Genesis is real history**

Dr Freeman has documented that Genesis 1–11 bears the marks of genuine and accurate history for a number of reasons, including:

1. Genesis 1 uses the word ‘and’ (Hebrew = *vav* or *waw*) repeatedly to tie together its sentences. Such usage is characteristic of ancient Near Eastern historical literature.
2. Genesis 7–8 records no less than 12 chronological references concerning events that occurred during the flood of Noah’s day. Historians generally view the presence of such references as evidence of real history, as opposed to myth or legend.
3. The authors of the rest of the Bible refer to the events of Genesis 1–11 as factual history. Luke even reports that the patriarchs from Adam to Abraham were Jesus’ real-life ancestors just like David and Solomon, drawing from Genesis 5 and 11.
4. The first 11 chapters of Genesis employ the same style of writing as the other parts of the Old Testament commonly accepted as real history, including Genesis 12–50.

**Genesis Commentary** (from a Creationist Perspective)

The Book of Genesis (from the Latin Vulgate, in turn borrowed or transliterated from Greek "γένεσις", meaning "Origin"; Hebrew: בְּרֵאשִׁית‬, "Bərēšīṯ", "In [the] beginning") is the first book of the Hebrew Bible and the Christian Old Testament. It can be divided into two parts, the Primeval history (chapters 1–11) and the Ancestral history (chapters 12–50).

Jewish history, the book itself and the testimony of Joshua say that this book was written by Moses. Modernists contradict this and believe that it and other parts of the Pentateuch or Torah (first five books of the bible were edited together from many sources by what are called “redactors” in the sixth and fifth centuries BC. Their revisionist ideas have little in the way of scholarly substance and the documents they believe the first five books were created from cannot even be identified. Further, it is written in prose, not as poetry which should dismiss charges of it not being intended as real historical accounts.

Thus, our best evidence says that Genesis is just what it says it is. A real history of the creation, the Earth’s creation, the creation of life on Earth and our formation. There are references that some of this material may have been edited from now lost sources in Moses’ possession such as the “Annals of Adam”. But the best evidence we find is that Moses between 1450 and 1405 BC put down most of these first five books primarily from what were probably “word of mouth” remembrances of the creation, directed by the Holy Spirit.

There are indications of these “word of mouth remembrances being intact and in existence as a full biblical creation account as early as 2500 BC (1000 years before Moses) in the form of Chinese “radicals” which form the early Chinese language. These radical pictographs paint a full knowledge of Genesis chapters 1-11, showing both that this creation account was not a figment of Moses’ imagination, but a history handed down for a millennia or more. The striking clarity of: a monotheistic God; the Trinity; curse of sin; two original people in a garden; a serpent; a worldwide flood; an Ark with eight people on it; and much, much more make it clear that not only did this story exist 1000 years before Moses, but that it did not change for a millennia, a God thing which cannot be explained by human “word of mouth’ transmission.

(For more on this evidence from the Chinese language go to <http://youtu.be/rMp1kdtzgmA> which will give you a complete presentation on the evidence from the Chinese language for the biblical account being known in 2500 BC.)

**1 “**In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”

**Prescience from the Very First Verse**

The first verse of the Bible says, “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” It is usually missed by the casual reader, but in this first sentence of the Bible are four prescience claims which modern science is supporting. These include time, the fabric of space, all matter and energy in the universe as well as the primordial elements which will form the earth.

“In the beginning…” tells us the Bible claims that there was a beginning to the universe. All current scientific theories support this conclusion including the “Big Bang” cosmology. In fact, everything in our existence has a beginning and an end. We are born and die. We get a new car and begin to own it. We get married and a single becomes a married person. This claim seems common sense to us, but in truth, it is not that easy an assumption that the universe had a beginning. This refers not only to the concept of a beginning, but the creation of the component of time.

Some creation stories from cultures all over the world say that everything had a beginning as the Bible does, but most do not. Some, such as the Gaia and Hindu philosophies propose that the Earth and the Universe are eternal. Others would posit that there was something here before the beginning, from which a god or matter formed, which is another form of the eternal matter argument. How did the Bible get this simple statement right, when there were other competing theories to choose from that did not include a beginning, but assumed eternal existence, if it did not have inside information of how it was all made?

Even many scientists up to fifty years ago believed in an eternal universe. Up until then, the leading concept of where matter came from was called the “steady state theory.” This theory says that somewhere in the universe there is a place where the first law of thermodynamics does not apply.[[1]](#footnote-1) The first law says matter does not just pop into existence. Our current physics is based on this assumption, and yet the prevailing theory in science until fifty years ago was that there was some grand exemption to this law and at that time critics would have said that this scientific belief was in contradiction to the Bible, which not only says that everything had a beginning, but also, in multiple places, confirms its devotion to the first law of thermodynamics being universal (without exception).

In Genesis 1:1 it also says that …God created the heavens...” this means that the fabric of space was created. Other verses go on to say that God spread out the heavens like unfurling a scroll or a rolled carpet. Both of these descriptions are consistent with modern astronomy. Our observations of the universe not only believe that matter was created in the beginning (the leading theory which includes this is the “Big Bang”), but these theories also include that the fabric of space itself (and their theories say that space is more than just emptiness, but has a fabric that is not as yet well-defined, but is theorized to have some type of “zero point” energy within it) was both created and flung out from a central point of creation. Modern astronomy agrees that what they observe is the universe proceeding out from a central point of initial creation.[[2]](#footnote-2) How did the Bible get this right? How did it know that everything was created in one point of space and exploded from there out to the far reaches we see today? All those other exotic stories from other cultures do not get this right when they say the universe was eternal or existed in two forms or was already filled from the beginning. But the Bible does. How is it so special?

One point to belabor is the idea the Bible describes of God “stretching out the heavens.” This concept is eerily similar what modern astronomy has theorized about, which is a rapid expansion in the initial stages of the universe. The Bible in Psalms 104:2; Isaiah 40:22; Isaiah 42:5; Job 9:8; and Job 37:18 all say that the Creator at the beginning “**stretched out the heavens**.” Indeed, Isaiah 42:5 says, ““Thus saith God the Lord (he that created the heavens and **spread them abroad**…” (Geneva Bible). The timing of this stretching or spreading of the heavens just after they were created is completely analogous to the theorized “inflation period” which rapidly expanded all of our universe from a very small region to an immense size. This theorized expansion does so in a way not possible via the normal physical laws of space and time. However, this inflation period is a crucial element in the “Big Bang theory” of the universe’s formation.[[3]](#footnote-3) The Bible not only describes a period similar to inflation in many places, but gives insight into the fact that it was caused by an actor and power (God) outside of our universe, which explains how this often theorized impossibility of nature could have occurred.

It was further found first by Edwin Hubble in 1920 and later confirmed by experiments in 1998 that the universe is constantly expanding.[[4]](#footnote-4) All of the noted verses in the Bible are consistent with this expansion but are mentioned nowhere else in other creation accounts from around the world. Again, how did the Bible get this one right without divine help?

Astronomer Dr. Hugh Ross has done an examination of the more than 300 creation myths, stories and accounts from across the world and its varied cultures. This examination revealed to him that only the Judeo-Christian Bible had within in its description an account consistent with what we think we know about the universe in modern astronomy. The results of this investigation are what led Dr. Ross, who had before this been an atheist and a skeptic, to investigate Christianity and become a believer.

Finally, this first verse of the Bible says “…God created the heavens and the earth.” This says that all matter in the entire universe was created in the beginning at this central point. Again, this claim by the Bible agrees with current theories of universal origins. This claim also vastly differs from the claims of many other creation stories which claim matter already existed, is eternal, matter is made after the beginning by a god or force. Modern astronomy constantly tells us that we live in a very ordinary solar system, in no special place in the universe. We are told that we are insignificant, which is contrary to the very special creation the Bible says we are.

But, when we examine the Doppler shifts of differing galaxies about our universe, we find that they line up in a series of concentric rings encircling our present place in the cosmos. This indicates not only that the universe was rolled out like a scroll (as the Bible says) from a central point, but this “quantization of red shift data” may show that our solar system exists within 100,000 light years of the center of the universe. (It should be noted that this red shift data is quite controversial. Analysis by astronomer Halton Arp suggests that our present interpretation of red shift may be completely flawed. If his analysis proves out, it will not only invalidate this quantized red shift data, but also invalidate the measurements of distances to all galaxies we see in the universe and seriously put into question our current cosmologies.)[[5]](#footnote-5)

An even stronger set of data for the Earth occupying a very special place in the universe has been provided by measurements of the “cosmic microwave background” radiation (CMB). This very low-level background radiation, found everywhere in space, is supposedly the leftovers or “echo” of the Big Bang. This data is at odds with the Big Bang cosmology in two ways. It is far more homogeneous than the Big Bang would have predicted and yet it has concentrations of hot and cool spots which seem aligned with our solar system and symmetric to our solar system! This data seems to show that the whole universe is aligned with the plane of our earth and our sun, and with our solar system![[6]](#footnote-6) Contrary to what we have been told by modern astronomy, these two pieces of data would suggest that we are not insignificant, and in fact, our solar system and our planet are located in what might be the most special place in the entire universe! If true, this would be amazingly consistent with how the Bible characterizes this planet and ourselves as special creations.

This data (if it holds up) is not only consistent with what the Bible says, but leads to two sets of theories proposed by astronomers which show how it is possible for us to have experienced only a few thousand years of existence on this planet and in this solar system, while the rest of the universe has experienced billions of years of time. All of this evidence we are now finding in the cosmos supports what is written in the Bible.

Thus, the Bible states in its first verse that matter, energy, the fabric of space and time were all created in a beginning and that the universe is not eternal. These are verified tenants of our scientific observations of our universe today. Again, we ask the question, how did the Bible get all this right? How did the Bible know this when the steady state theorists of just fifty years ago had not figured this one out? How did it know about inflation more 3500 years before modern cosmologists? How could it predict that we live in an expanding universe, when no other scientists, nor cultures would describe it as such until the 1920’s? It only makes sense if the Bible had inside information from the Creator of all things Himself!

**The Trinity**

In Genesis 1:1 we also get the first allusion to the Trinity. The biblical concept of the Holy Trinity (note the word “trinity” is not used in the Bible) says that there is only one God (monotheism), but that God exists in three persons called the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, who are all part of the same God. This concept of three persons in one (as confusing and alien as it is to us) is consistently alluded to throughout the New Testament, but one which even scholars and theologians cannot readily explain, since such an existence is outside of our experience and thus our conception. Some critics will charge that this “Trinity” concept is not shown in the Old Testament, but that is not true.

This concept of the Trinity begins with the very first verses of the Bible. In Genesis 1:1 it says, “In the beginning, God created the Heavens and the earth.” The Hebrew word used for God in Genesis 1:1 is "Elohim," which is a form of the word "El" (which means God). In the context of Genesis 1:1, there can certainly be no doubt as to who is doing the creating. In the Hebrew language the "im" ending imputes plurality. Therefore, "Elohim" is the **plural** from of the word "El."

It is interesting to note that each usage of this word throughout the Bible is grammatically incorrect. It is a plural noun used with singular verbs. According to Genesis 1:1, the Creator of the Universe, Elohim, exists as a plural being, but is referred to in the singular.

If this were not so, then the word "El" or perhaps Yahweh would have been used. However, the Holy Spirit chose to use the word "Elohim," the plural form of the name of God in the very first place where the name of God is proclaimed.[[7]](#footnote-7)

Likewise, this use occurs in Genesis 1:26 which says, “Then God (plural) said, let us make man in **our** own image, in **our** likeness.” It is clear here that God alludes to Himself in the plural, because He is a plural being. This concept did not originate in the New Testament, but at the very start of the Bible. It is further exemplified in the Bible by the picture of man having three parts, a body, a spirit and a soul, reflecting the three-part personage of the Godhead (some say this is what God means in the Bible in saying we were made in His image.).

Genesis 1:2 then expounds on this plural relationship with an explicit mention of the Holy Spirit. It says, “The earth was formless and void, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the **Spirit of God** was hovering over the waters. “ Here it is made clear that the Holy Spirit existed, was present and was part of the Godhead from the creation, and not just another name for God.

This concept is further expounded upon in John chapter 1 where it is stated that the “Word” (the name often used in the Bible for “Jesus the Son”), was not only present at the creation, but was the action partner of the Godhead which followed the Father’s will and “spoke” all creation into being.

Genesis 3:22 is another verse in the creation account which clearly refers to God as a plural being. It says, “The LORD God said, 'Behold, the man has become like **one of US**, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever'" (NKJ).

**2019 San Antonio** **Biblical Worldview Conference**

Saturday, January 26, 2019

***Today’s Educational World:***

***Is It Safe for the Christian Student?***

Sometimes yes. But increasingly no.  There are few “safe spaces” for biblically-minded Christians at most colleges and K-12 schools. Instead, the opposite is often found: subtle and not-so-subtle belittling and undermining of the Christian worldview. Today’s educational world can often be a very dangerous place for Christians and their faith.

This conference will explain what is dangerous in the educational world, offer God-pleasing support, alternatives to a postmodern/postfactual/progressive education, and prepare students to defend and share the hope they have in Christ.

**Presentations:**

* **“Postmodernism: Embedded in Education and There’s (Almost) Nothing to Do about It”** (Pastor David Thompson, Faith Lutheran Church, San Antonio)
* **“Getting the Facts Straight: How Grammar, History, and Logic Can Rescue Education from Postfactualism”** (Dr. Ryan MacPherson, Bethany Lutheran College, Minnesota)
* **“Science – Distinguishing a Classical & Biblical Education from an Evolutionary Education”** (Dr. Gary Locklair, Concordia University Wisconsin)
* **“For Students on the Front Lines of Higher Education”** (Dr. Andrew Das, Elmhurst College, Illinois)



* 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
* $25 per person (includes a catered lunch)
* Live streaming available
* Worship and social hour 7:00 Friday evening

**Faith Lutheran Church**

**14819 Jones Maltsberger, San Antonio, TX**

[**www.worldviewsa.org**](http://www.worldviewsa.org) **210-494-7800** **pastor@flc-sa.org**

We highly recommend this annual faith-based worldview conference which is hosted by our partners in Christ at **Faith Lutheran Church**! This conference includes presentations both for the creationist, as well as great talks for home school parents.

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**Prayer Needs and Praises!**

**ICR and AOI** – ICR is in the final stages of building their **Creation Discovery Center.** Please pray for this huge endeavor and pray about contributing to the last $4 million needed to finish the project. Likewise, our friends at the **Alpha Omega Institute** have moved into their own facilities and are looking to pay off that facility. Please pray that this facility helps them reach the college students for which this facility was bought and pray about contributing to paying off this facility.

**Free Seminar with the Alpha Omega institute**

Saturday, January 26, 2019, our friends at the **Alpha Omega Institute** will offer a free creation seminar on radio station KJOL out of Grand Junction, Colorado and via live-streaming. This event will be live streamed video and audio. To see or listen to this free seminar you can go to <http://kjol.org/listenonline.asp> to listen to this radio station live on the 26th. We will send out more details as we get them on times as well as how to get the live-streaming as we get them.

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**SABBSA on KSLR**

Please join the **San Antonio Bible Based Science Association** “on the air” each Saturday afternoon with “**Believing the Bible!”** Join us **Saturday afternoons at 1:45 pm on radio station KSLR 630 AM in San Antonio and airing for 9-million people across the U.S. in 10 major markets.**

Here is our schedule of upcoming program topics: 

1/5 **You Think You Know?**
1/12 **Grand Canyon and Colorado River**
1/19 **Always Question?**
1/26 **Natural Selection**

These programs are available on **podcast**. If you cannot tune in on Saturday afternoons, or would like to sample our program or hear previous shows, they are available on podcast on the KSLR website. Click on the link below to go to the KSLR podcast page and scroll down till you find "**Believing the Bible**."

["Believing the Bible" - SABBSA on KSLR Radio](https://am630theword.com/radioshow/local)

**Coming to SABBSA on Second Tuesdays in 2019**

Janaury 8, 2019 - **Mammalian Baraminology based on Gene Content Similarity**

February – “**Call of the Cosmos**” from Illustra Media

March – “**Living Waters**” from Illustra Media

**Science Workshops for 2019 at FEAST. “Taking Us to the Stars!”**

We have a very special set of programs for the FEAST Science Workshops in 2019. We will take December off for the holidays in this series, but start up again on the fourth Monday in Janaury with the **“Heavens Declare”** series from Awesome Science Media.

Please remember there is also a young **children’s program** being provided by Dr. Carl and Mrs. Cindy Williams. Thanks to the Williams for this invaluable program!

Due to FEAST’s recent move from their Burwood location, these events this coming New Year will all occur at **Faith Lutheran Church, 14819 Jones Maltsberger, San Antonio, TX 78247**.

Many thanks to Pastor David Thompson and the membership at Faith Lutheran for hosting us!

**Cartoon Corner**

Thanks to **Answers in Genesis** who provides these cartoons each month for our newsletter and our presentations. Please think about donating to them in gratitude for this and all the ministries they give us.



**Around Texas**

**Houston:**
The **Greater Houston Creation Association** (**GHCA**) meets the first Thursday of each month. They meet at Houston's First Baptist Church at 7 pm, in Room 143. After the presentation, there will be refreshments, fellowship and creation science materials for all to enjoy. Their meetings can be streamed live! For more information, go to [www.ghcaonline.com](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=bztaencab&et=1103662222545&s=545&e=001xF-6WOYzM5Yyre44Ea_qUjH5EOT_fFIGjrfpfa5h-rD53IlUVbz3Vc0Dp47_VEwW3iQQ6F1b6K0EtKc_vUxYKpzN_8V2upXFbsOScvUeD92nJdUTjDIFeg==).

**Glen Rose:**
Dr. Carl Baugh gives a “***Director’s Lecture Series***” on the first Saturday of each month at the Creation Evidence Museum just outside Glen Rose, TX. This museum is also a great and beneficial way to spend any day. Presentations are at 11 am and 2 pm. For more information, go to [www.creationevidence.org](http://www.creationevidence.org)

**Dallas:**

The Museum of Earth History uses the highest quality research replicas of dinosaurs, mammals and authentic historical artifacts to not only lay out for the visitor a clear and easily understood connection between Genesis and Revelation, but will do so in an entertaining and intellectually challenging way. Open M-F 9 to 6. <http://visitcreation.org/item/museum-of-earth-history-dallas-tx/>

**Dallas-Ft Worth:**
The Metroplex Institute of Origin Science (MIOS) meets at the Dr. Pepper Starcenter, 12700 N. Stemmons Fwy, Farmers Branch, TX, usually at 7:30 pm on the first Tuesday of each month. <http://dfw-mios.com/>

**Abilene:**

The Discovery Center is a creation museum/emporium that exists primarily to provide scientific and historic evidence for the truthfulness of God’s word, especially as it relates to the creation/evolution issue. It also features some fascinating “Titanic Disaster” exhibits. <http://evidences.org/index.html>

**Lubbock Area (Crosbyton):**
All year: Consider a visit to the Mt. Blanco Fossil Museum, directed by Joe Taylor. The Museum is worth the visit if you live near or are traveling through the Panhandle near Lubbock. If you call ahead and time permitting, Joe has been known to give personal tours, especially to groups. For more information, visit [http://www.mtblanco.com/](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=bztaencab&et=1103662222545&s=545&e=001xF-6WOYzM5bqqt6T1G_CwJWJosrOSIhLAagtnP0Z504J-gEROEBe22S3gq720x6ofjFVqK-AfJcsjrsuQyRtoepYiAQVVUFC-cF56fLwwBJ0SQ-44KlLmw==).

**Greater San Antonio area:** Listen to **Answers with Ken Ham** online at the address below. (No nearby station for this broadcast). <http://www.answersingenesis.org/media/audio/answers-daily> To hear creation audio programs from the **Institute for Creation Research**, listen online at this address. <http://www.icr.org/radio/>Also, tune in KHCB FM 88.5 (San Marcos) or KKER FM 88.7 (Kerrville) for **Back to Genesis** at 8:57 AM Mon-Fri, then **Science, Scripture and Salvation** at 1:30 AM, 8:00 AM and 4:30 PM on Saturdays.

**Last Month at SABBSA**

**Distant Starlight: Does it Disprove Biblical Creation?**

We see stars and galaxies that are so far away, it seems that their light would need a long time to get here. In some cases, up to billions of years. Doesn't this disprove the book of Genesis, which says that the heavens and Earth were created merely thousands of years ago?

 Spike Psarris

No, it doesn't. In this multimedia presentation, Spike Psarris (former Military Space engineer) discussed the "LTT" (light travel time) issue, showing how this seemingly straightforward question relies on multiple assumptions being true, and at least some of them are false. Furthermore, it is not Biblical Creation which is disproved by distant starlight. It turns out that the Big Bang model has a fatal LTT problem of its own. The vastness of the cosmos does not disprove the Bible. Instead, it supports the glory of our Creator!



**Next SABBSA Meeting:
Tuesday, January 8, 2019, at 7 pm**

**SABBSA is moving!**

We had a fine year at Grady's, but circumstances have now forced us to move. Our monthly SABBSA meetings will now be held at **Faith Lutheran Church,** **14819 Jones Maltsberger Rd.,** **San Antonio, Texas 78247**

This location is just south of the intersection of Jones Maltsberger and Thousand Oaks which puts it squarely in the heart of our demographic. This is not a restaurant, so you are encouraged to either eat before attending or bring your dinner as we will be meeting in their fellowship hall.

Times and dates are the same. We will meet at 7 pm the second Tuesday of each month for our monthly SABBSA meetings. Our first meeting of the year will be **Tuesday, January 8th at 7 pm.**

Our January 8th program is entitled **"Mammalian Baraminology based on Gene Content Similarity"** and will be presented by Dr. Matthew Cserhati, a statistical biologist who is doing research into this field. Baraminology is the study of "created kinds" as described in the Bible. After the program we will have board elections.

 Dr. Matthew Cserhati

**We invite you to start the New Year right by joining us for this fascinating presentation and warm Christian fellowship! Thanks to Faith Lutheran church for their kind invitation to host us!** Please join us in January for creation science and biblical apologetics teaching you will find nowhere else in Bexar County.

1. https://www.britannica.com/topic/steady-state-theory [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. https://www.cfa.harvard.edu/seuforum/faq.htm [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. "First Second of the Big Bang". How The Universe Works 3. 2014. Discovery Science. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Hubble, E.P., The 200-inch telescope and some problems it may solve, Publications of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific 59:153–167, 1947. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Anonymous, Quantized redshifts: what’s going on here? Sky and Telescope 84(2):28–29, August, 1992. and Guthrie, B.N.G. and Napier, W.M., Evidence for redshift periodicity in nearby galaxies, Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society 253:533–544, 1991. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Huterer, D., “why is the Solar System cosmically aligned?”, 2007, Astronomy Mag., 35(12), pp. 38-43. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Missler, Chuck & Eastman, Mark, "The Creator Beyond Time and Space", Word for Today, 1995. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)