Communique'

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**March 2019**

Its March, but the weather feels like February! We are going to enjoy Spring Break anyway!

This month’s **Communique’** features an article addressing a letter we got form an Old Earth Creationist. We will examine how tenable that view is. We also have an article from CMI which highlights how society is totally abandoning any belief in God’s sovereign right to create life with laws and bills being passed in New York and Virginia allowing abortions up to and including the time of birth! We could not do this to ourselves, folks, if we had any belief in Genesis’ account of God’s creation of life and hold it to be sacred.

We also have another installment in our continuing **“Genesis Commentary”** series which gives 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 including **Scott Gillis of CMI** who will be with us March 10 in the San Antonio and New Braunfels area, and three first run films coming to local theaters very soon!

**Do some Bible Verses hint at an Old Earth?**

We got an unsigned, and no return addressed letter the other day from someone who obviously believes in Old Earth Creationism and probably hoped to convert us to that way of thinking. It was from Chattanooga, Tennessee and we would like to thank them for their letter. We need to be both open and sensitive to such people since there are deep believers in Christ who hold this view. Let’s examine these verses and see if they really make the point that the Bible allows the Earth to be billions of years old, or whether some are trying to read deep time into the Bible where it is not.

They opened with 2 peter 3:5 "For they deliberately overlook this fact, that the heavens existed long ago..." (ESV) In this case, the word translated “long ago” are indeterminant and could mean the thousands of years read by Young Earth Creationists. The Old Earther’s would similarly claim it could mean billions of years. Both are long ago in reference to human existence. But, but we first need to determine if this verse was quoted out of context.

The complete verse reads, 2 Peter 3:5 But they deliberately forget that long ago by God's word the heavens came into being and the earth was formed out of water and by water. (NIV) Note that the thrust of this verse was not to tell us exactly how long ago the heavens and the earth were formed (it does not do that specifically), but that scoffing humans deliberately decided to ignore God’s word and pay more credence to a fatally flawed “Big Bang” theory than to God’s eyewitness description of the initial creation of the earth by God out of water and that all other matter was created from this original element. Incidentally, there is deep dredge zircon evidence which substantiates this biblical claim of the earth being formed from water, rather than from a magma ball as the Big Bang theorists would claim.

Psalm 90:2 "Before the mountains were brought forth, or you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God." (ESV) This verse, I suppose, was quoted to show a long time period, but it only claims that God is everlasting, not the earth. It rightly maintains that the earth was formed before mountains were placed on it. But it makes no claims as to how old the earth is. Also, if the Bible is consistent, this further underscores that the world is not everlasting when the Bible describes its creation (a beginning) and its end.

Psalm 102:25 "Of old you laid the foundations of the earth" (ESV) Again the “of old” here is nebulous and could mean either thousands or millions or billions of years. We do not know. By a literal reading of the Bible, it would have been over three thousand years since the time of the creation at the time of writing by the Psalmist. Thus again, a Young Earth creation view fits well here.

Proverbs 8:22-29 - (Wisdom) "The LORD possessed me at the beginning of his work, the first of his acts of old. Ages ago I was set up at the first, before the beginning of the earth......." (ESV) There is a debate among some scholars as to the exact meaning of this passage, but many equate the “wisdom” referred to in these verses with “the word” referenced in the first chapter of John, and thus Jesus Christ. If this is a true interpretation then it is easily clear that Jesus, part of the Trinity and the Godhead pre-existed the creation and was here ages ago and existed before the creation. Again, the text here gives us nothing as to how long the “ages” have been since the creation. Either old or young views could fit here.

If the alternative interpretation is true that God is alliterating here and giving wisdom human attributes the result is the same on the question of old or young earth. God possessed wisdom before the creation and we still do not know how long ago that was.

Ephesians 1:4 “...he chose us in him before the foundation of the world..." (ESV) These verses again give us no specifics as to how long ago the creation was. It only indicates that the omnipotent God could see the future and knew who would be created throughout future history and who would respond to Him and would be saved. It lends us nothing on how long ago the world was formed.

Our letter writer made the comment that “The Bible always uses the age of the earth or heavens to describe "oldness". Never Adam, the first human.” This is logical from a Young Earth point of view since the earth was created at the beginning of time in this universe. It is as old as time itself, however long that is.

Adam on the other hand was created in less than a day with apparent age, but in fact was less than a day old when walking and talking. Although he lived over 900 years, he is not alive today, nor does his life compare well with that of the earth or the Trinity. In such a case it would make no sense to refer to “Adam of old”? Their claim here is that since Adam is not said “of old” he was not put on earth at the creation, but much later. But, to say this makes Christ a liar for He said, “But at the beginning of creation God ‘made them male and female.’”

Incidentally, the Earth was also created with apparent age, fully formed and mature aa a part of the biblical account like Adam. It is that apparent age which produces so many debates about her age today.

Our letter writer than strung together three verses to try and define God’s days. “Exodus 20:11 "For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them... (ESV) Job 10:5 "Are your days as the days of man, or your years as man's years... (ESV) (The answer is no) 2 Peter 3:8 "But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day" (ESV)”

It should be noted here that no competent Hebraist claims that the references in Genesis of 6-day creation refer to anything but a literal six 24-hour days. I will also assent to the fact that God’s days may be different from ours. However, the text in Job does not give us a time period, nor does it detract from the context in Genesis which clearly defines each day of creation as literal 24-hour days (in each case **“evening and morning” were a “day”**).

By God’s own word and by definition God is outside of time and His days may be timeless. The depiction in 2 Peter 3:8 of one of God’s days being as a thousand years is meant to show us this and not define one of God’s days as a thousand of our years. Even if this were true, it would not give the immense periods of time required to read 4.5 billion years into the Genesis account.

Indeed, there are also good contextual clues which precludes the Genesis account from being synchronized in any way with a “Big Bang” or naturalistic creation. There are more than twenty places in Genesis chapter 1 where the order of creation and the supposed naturalistic order are at odds. For example, Genesis says that the earth was created before light and the rest of the heavens. All naturalistic theories claim that the universe, the heavens and light were created billions of years before the earth was formed.

Another example is plants being created on Day 3 and the Sun on Day 4. Not only is this an order problem, but a practicality of survival problem. If the text is the literal truth, then plants could be made on Day 3 and easily survive till the next day when light from the Sun is created for them to carry forward their life sustaining photosynthetic processes. If we read into this text millions of years for each day, then the order cannot be correct since plants could not wait millions of years after their creation for life giving sunlight to appear.

Our letter writer put special emphasis on “2 Peter 3:8 "But do not forget this one thing, dear friend: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand yeas is like a day (NIV) ("as is" and "like" mean a long period of time)” The writer’s interpretation of “as is” and “like” as “long period of time” could fit into these verses or as previously stated these may just hint at how God’s days are outside of time. Again, regardless of the exact meaning here “long periods of time” could be thousands of years, which fits into the literal biblical reading used by Young Earth creationists, or millions or billions as used by the Old Earthers. The text here does not make mention of the billions of years needed by the Old Earthers to make their thesis work.

Our letter writer went on to comment, “The 6 creation days in Genesis are God's days. God's days are not the same as man's days. The six days cannot be 24- hour days, but long periods of time. The young earth view is based on the six days in Genesis being 24-hour days. According to the Bible, they cannot be 24-hour days.” As we have described, long periods of time is a very variable statement which may or may not fit within the Young Earth creation view, but the Hebrew used in Genesis, the context and the continuity of other verses in the Bible all point to a belief by the writers of the Bible that the days of creation were 24-hour days.

Our Old Earth friends then said, “Adam and Eve were both created on the 6th day. Too much happens between the creation of Adam and the creation of Eve for day 6 to be only a 24-hour day.” This is a frequent claim by the Old Earth and Progressive Creation crowd that too much happened on Day 6 for it all to have happened in one 24-hour day, and in fact a lot did happen on Day 6.

God formed man and breathed the “Nephesh” into him. He formed all of the land animals and had Adam name them. Among all of these animals no fit mate for Adam was found so God put Adam to sleep and did surgery on him, taking a rib out of Adam and using this as a starting point from which to construct woman (Eve).

Let’s analyze this claim that it could not have all been accomplished in a single day. Genesis chapter 2 is helpful in this as it recaps and embellishes on what happened on Day 6. Adam was formed from the ground and the spirit of life was breathed into him by God. He was then placed in the Garden of Eden. All of this could have occurred in just seconds at the first break of sunrise (or instantaneously – don’t put limits on God).

God also gave Adam some simple instructions to live by in the garden, but this could have been done in a very few minutes.

The creation of all of the land animals could have been similarly quick or instantaneous. Now, Adam’s naming of “all the livestock, the birds in the sky and all the wild animals” will take some time. Old Earth creationists often claim this means he would have had to name the 20-million species of all such animals we know of today. However, that is not true. A literal reading of Genesis 1 reveals that what was created at the beginning were each **“kind**” of animal, not every species. Speciation is a process which has been going on since the creation and goes on still today in rapid fashion. Creation scientists today estimate that the 20-million species of these animals we have today all came from something between 800 and 1500 original kinds. Allowing that they were paraded before Adam as the text hints at and giving Adam about 6 seconds to name each and allowing for rest times each hour, Adam could have got this done in four or five hours.

There is an old joke told by the Old Earth crowd about Adam starting this affair very energetic and giving the first hundred or so animals paraded before him inventive names like “Ramforinkus, Iguanodon, Elephant, Hippopotamus, etc.”. However, after Adam had been at this for many hours or days, we find him slumped over as the seemingly endless line passed him and he now tiredly says, “cat, dog, mouse, rat, …”

This joke and the Old Earth contention do not recognize two facts about this situation. One is that Adam did not have to name anything like 20-million species and Adam was perfect man. Where as it is estimated we use only between 10% to 35% of our brains at one time based on thermal imaging studies, Adam may well have been able to use it all. In such a case, coming up with all of these names would have been easy for him and indeed he would have been preprogrammed by God for this task. There is also ample proof from ancient history of man operating better mentally than he does today such as with the construction of the pyramids.

Our letter writer made a special note of, “Adam takes the time to name all the animals and discover none of the animals were a fit helper. God then put Adam into a deep sleep. When Adam woke, he said "at last".” The Progressive creation groups use this “at last” to indicate Adam had been naming animal species as he came upon them for days, weeks or years (which fits into their naming each species idea), never finding a fit mate till “at last” he finds one.

But, consider that had he just spent the middle of the day for 4 or 5 hours naming a thousand animals and finding no mate for himself, would it not have been a great relief to find someone made like and for him!

Thus, we find man and the animals could have been made early in the morning on Day 6. The naming of the animals would have taken Adam the rest of the morning into the early afternoon and Eve could easily have been created by God in the later afternoon.

An interesting side note to all of this is a Chinese pictograph which seems to tell us about this. The Chinese symbol (or radical) for woman is shown at right. Below it is the Chinese pictograph for “necessary”. You will notice the woman’s radical at the bottom of this composite pictograph, with more radicals on top.

One interpretation of these ancient radicals on top is “west” (or “late in the day sun”) combined with “enclosure” (or “garden”). These Chinese pictographs are part of more than a hundred Chinese pictographs which reveal a deep understand of the Genesis account in China 4500 year ago (just after the dispersion from Babel). In this case, it appears that as Genesis says, woman was “necessary” for man and in the construction of this word concept they used radicals which tell of her being made **in the garden late in the day!**

Necessary

Our letter writer also includes, “Genealogies: The Hebrew words used for father and son - ab and ben - have broader definitions than English translations indicate. Ab can mean father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and so on. Ben can mean son, grandson, great-grandson, and so on. For much more about Chronology of Genealogies: William Green - PRIMEVAL CHRONOLOGY (internet) "Why Don't Bible Genealogies Always Match Up?" by Walter C. Kaiser Jr. in "Hard Sayings of the Bible"”

This is an argument used by both Old Earth advocates and Young Earth advocates. It takes note of the writing style in Old Testament times. Joseph for example could have easily said my father Abraham (the father of the Hebrews) or my father Isaac both of which were grandfathers or great grandfathers to him (Joseph’s father was actually Jacob). The Jews frequently had this tendency to name their forefathers as their “father.” An example of this is in genesis 32:9 where Jacob prayed, "**O God of my father Abraham**, God of my father Isaac, LORD, you who said to me, 'Go back to your country and your relatives, and I will make you prosper,'”

One attribute of this writing and reference style is that they would frequently skip or “write out” inconsequential fathers of persons in their lineage. An example of this today in my family would go like this. My father was Lawrence who has a PhD in Education and was the Superintendent of three school districts. I was just a teacher and coach. My son Tom if he is the first man on Mars will be a significant figure in human history. In this scenario, it would have been easy from the Hebrew writing style of the Old Testament times to write me out and record that Lawrence begat Tom.

Some Old Earth and Young Earth advocates use this writing style to explain some missing and/or additional people either in or missing from the genealogies of Genesis as opposed to Luke. One example of this is in Luke 3:35-36 which says, “the son of Serug, the son of Reu, the son of Peleg, the son of Eber**, the son of Shelah, the son of Cainan, the son of Arphaxad**, the son of Shem, the son of Noah, the son of Lamech..” Now compare this to Genesis 10:24 which says, “**Arphaxad was the father of Shelah**, and Shelah the father of Eber.” Note that in between Arphaxad and Shelah in the Luke genealogy is Cainan, the son of Arphaxad, but Cainan is omitted from the New Testament Genesis genealogy.

Bible critics pick up on this and claim this shows biblical error and thus the Bible lacks credibility as written by an infallible god. Biblical historians however pick up on this as just being an example of the writing style of the times to include only “major players” in a story or genealogy.

Young Earth creationists who doubt that the Earth is only a little over 6000 years old have used this writing style to propose that there are other omitted generations in between these genealogies which may have added thousands of years to the history of our world and thus they claim the world may be 10,000 years old or a little more. This proposal has some merit and some substantiation since the Greek Septuagint version of the Bible includes missing generations and different birth numbers which would date the world back to a beginning over 7500 years ago.

In this case this Old Earth advocate wants us to read into the Bible thousands of missing generations (thousands of omitted ”fathers and sons”) so as to say the Bible allows for humans to be placed on this earth about 100,000 years ago as the Progressive Creationists claim. While the Young Earth claim that some generations may have been omitted may have some merit, the thought that 5000 generations were omitted stretches credulity.

We come to the question of why these two groups, Young Earthers and Old Earthers are in such disagreement. A video discussion between Thomas Purifoy (director of the documentary “Is Genesis History?”) and Del Tackett (author of the “Truth Project”) on this subject is enlightening (you can view this discussion at https://isgenesishistory.com/problem-old-earth-creation/?goal=0\_052697a034-1779dafcd3-149845389&mc\_cid=1779dafcd3&mc\_eid=bf069138e5 ).

Thomas Purifoy says that the major disagreement comes from a debate in where the rocks come from. Nicholas Steno's (1638-1686) work on the formation of rock layers and the fossils they contain was crucial to the development of modern geology. The principles he stated continue to be used today by geologists and paleontologists. Steno believed the sedimentary rock layers we see today were all flood layers from the Noahic Flood. Prior to the 19th century even though there were some “enlightened” thinkers who proposed long ages, the prevalent consensus like Steno was that the sedimentary rocks we see are predominantly from the great flood.

It was only in the 19th century that Hutton, Lyell and others actually started to win the day and convince people that these rocks came from something other than the flood. We are getting more and more evidence today from geology that they were wrong.

This 19th century “enlightened movement” toward naturalistic causes for the sedimentary rock layers and the widespread reading and dissemination of Darwin’s book origin of species led many theologians, pastors and Christians to look to see if this Old Earth, naturalistic set of processes could be found in the Bible so that they could still claim the Bible to be relevant. This led to the development of a lot of compromise theories such as the Gap theory, the Day/Age theory, the Framework Hypothesis, Progressive Creationism and more.

We are finding out today that such a search was unnecessary since our best geologic and biological data shows the rocks did come from the Noahic Flood and macroevolution has never occurred on this planet.

As spelled out in this article, we do not see a convincing set of scriptures which would make us a turn from a Young Earth view. Also, the Old Earth interpretation of Noahic Flood being a local event around the Persian Gulf region makes one twist scriptures describing the flood into totally implausible and illogical places.

While we honor the faith of Old Earth followers of Christ as genuine, we do not find convincing evidence in scripture nor science to go there. As such we will keep to a literal reading of scripture, including both a literal six-day creation and the Flood as a worldwide event.

**New York State introduces Molech-honouring law legalizing abortions up to birth**

***by Lita Cosner CMI* Published: 5 February 2019**

In ancient Canaan, the inhabitants of the land had a particularly horrific practice of worshiping a false god named Molech by burning their infant children alive. Sacrificing a precious child was supposed to ensure this god’s favor. When God brought the Israelites into the Promised Land, He specifically told them not to participate in this murderous ritual:

The Lord spoke to Moses, saying, “Say to the people of Israel, Any one of the people of Israel or of the strangers who sojourn in Israel who gives any of his children to Molech shall surely be put to death. The people of the land shall stone him with stones. I myself will set my face against that man and will cut him off from among his people, because he has given one of his children to Molech, to make my sanctuary unclean and to profane my holy name. And if the people of the land do at all close their eyes to that man when he gives one of his children to Molech, and do not put him to death, then I will set my face against that man and against his clan and will cut them off from among their people, him and all who follow him in whoring after Molech” (Leviticus 20:1–5).

Israel failed to follow this command, and the prophet Jeremiah proclaimed God’s judgment against Israel for their sin: They built the high places of Baal in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, to offer up their sons and daughters to Molech, though I did not command them, nor did it enter into my mind, that they should do this abomination, to cause Judah to sin (Jeremiah 32:35).

In Scripture, God seems to reserve special anger for idolatrous worship practices that destroy innocent infant life. The unnatural act of a parent sacrificing the helpless baby for something deemed more valuable is so abhorrent that in ancient Israel, anyone caught doing it was supposed to have received the death penalty without mercy.

**Modern day Molech worship**

Today, there is a growing trend of not just being reluctantly pro-choice, characterized by the wish for abortion to be “safe, legal, and rare”, but actively pro-abortion, celebrating the right of a woman to murder her child for any reason and at any stage of the pregnancy. People who object to a child being poisoned, burned with saline, or dismembered in the womb are said to be “anti-choice”, opponents of women’s health care, and religious fundamentalists.

New York has recently rushed legislation through that makes it legal to abort a child at any point in the pregnancy, for any reason, *up to birth*, changing the previous law that banned abortion after 24 weeks, when a child is considered viable outside the womb. This is a far more radical policy than exists at most places in the world. At a time when state-of-the-art medical care makes the survival of ‘micro-preemies’ more and more common, with fewer lasting effects or disabilities, in New York it is legal to abort a child that could exist outside the womb.

**Late term abortion is not better for a woman’s health**

Given that a child can routinely survive as early as 22 weeks into the pregnancy, and late-term abortion is very risky and hard on the mother’s body (though not as damaging as it is to the baby’s), if ending a pregnancy in the third trimester is done for a medical reason, by far the fastest and safest option for the mother is delivering the baby prematurely. This also means that the baby is preserved alive.

But abortion requires the baby to be killed inside the mother’s body. This is most often done by injecting the child with poison into his abdomen or head, causing a very painful death. Then the woman must deliver her dead baby, either in a hospital, or often into the toilet at home. Think of the horrific irony that a state that has banned lethal injection of criminals has allowed the lethal injection of unborn babies.

Abortion is never a safe ‘procedure’ for the mother in that even first-trimester abortions can have negative effects. But it becomes more and more medically risky as the pregnancy goes on. And it is difficult to see how someone who cares about the mother’s health would recommend going through labor to deliver a dead child after having him or her killed via lethal injection, rather than safely delivering a live baby, who could then be adopted by parents, if the birth mother feels unable or unwilling to raise the baby.

**Late term abortion law threatens women’s safety**

Pregnant women are often targets of violence, particularly of men in their lives who do not respect their choice to carry a child the man wants her to kill. Many states have laws that recognize the unique evil of violence against a pregnant woman to kill her wanted child—if a pregnant woman is killed, the perpetrator can be charged with two murders. If violence results in her baby dying, the perpetrator can be charged with murder.

New York’s new law removes protections for pregnant women who are victims of domestic or other violence. A case in point is the sad story of Livia Abreu, who was stabbed by her ex-boyfriend and left for dead. She survived, but she lost her unborn daughter. Because of New York’s new law, the ex-boyfriend may face a significantly lighter prison sentence, because the state will no longer recognize the murder of her daughter as a separate crime.1

**Don’t buy the hype: abortion is not women’s health care**

Women do face some unique health care needs because of our sex-specific biology, just like men have some unique needs because of theirs. Women’s reproductive health is also an important concern, and preserving access to genuine health care should be something everyone can agree about. But the question is: does abortion fall under the category of women’s health care?

First, there is no instance in which abortion is the best treatment to preserve a woman’s physical or mental health.2 In fact, abortion at all stages of pregnancy is dangerous for a woman’s physical and mental health.

When an abortion advocate talks about women’s health care, challenge them as to what they mean by this. Do they mean that we need further research to explore the ways in which women respond to medication differently than men? Do they mean that we need to challenge the assumptions some doctors make that mean they may sometimes treat women’s pain less seriously than men’s? Do they mean we need to make sure women receive affordable prenatal screenings, meaning that women do not face purely economic pressure to abort their children? Do they mean we need to investigate why black women in America face perinatal complications at a much higher rate than other populations?

In fact, they mean none of that. They mean only that abortion should be made as available as possible to anyone who wants one for any reason, disregarding the most common-sense restrictions based on parental consent for their underage daughters, informed consent including the option to see an ultrasound of the baby, counseling with a waiting period, and ability of the baby to survive outside the womb. This seems less like a policy based on concern for women, and more like fanatical baby slaughtering.

**Legislation is not going to solve the problem—but that doesn’t mean we shouldn’t try to legislate**

For decades, political conservatives have been trying to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, the decision that overturned state-level laws outlawing abortion. But nominating conservative judges to the bench has not yet reversed that horrific 1973 decision. Fighting the legislative battle at the state level to chip away at this abomination, though achieving some incremental gains, is also not likely to remedy the problem without an accompanying heart-change on the part of the American people.

In ancient Rome, it was common practice to expose unwanted babies, leaving them to die from the elements or wild animals. One letter from a Roman man to his pregnant wife explicitly told her that if their baby was a boy, she was to let it live; but if it was a girl, she was to expose it. This was an accepted and celebrated part of their culture.

But as Christianity spread, there was immediate opposition to this practice. Converts to Christianity recognized that the murder of infants was antithetical to their profession of faith in Christ, and they even went as far as to adopt children they found exposed, even though this was illegal. Their care and concern for the weakest and most vulnerable distinguished them, and eventually led to transforming the culture’s view of the value of infant life.

Just like the early Christians were willing to face sanctions and ridicule for the value they placed on ‘worthless’ infants, today one of the clearest contrasts we can make with the culture is to vocally oppose the slaughter of infants.

**Every Christian should be pro-life**

We should confidently proclaim the Gospel of God’s grace to all people, including women who have had abortions.

We should be very careful about what we demand that every Christian believe. We cannot add to Scripture and require things that God does not require. However, the prohibition on murder, and the special emphasis on the abomination of child murder, means that we can include being pro-life and anti-abortion as a requirement for *all* Christians. Some Christians are not yet pro-life because they are immature, they have not yet learned about this issue, or for other reasons, just like the Trinity is a required Christian belief that some Christians do not yet understand correctly, and we make allowances for this. But no Christian can *reject* pro-life teaching and remain consistent.

Likely some will think this is too harsh, or unloving to women who may be in hard circumstances. While acknowledging women may face hard circumstances, we must also have compassion for the helpless child who is the victim of abortion. At the same time, we should confidently proclaim the Gospel of God’s grace to *all* people, including women who have had abortions.

**Editor’s Note: A Virginia bill (analogous to the New York Law described in this article) allows abortion (killing the infant) even in some cases after it is safely born. If anyone thinks we have not lost our minds in this, they are not paying attention. If our society had any belief in the Bible and how God describes that the life He has created is sacred, we could not do this to ourselves, but man’s enmity toward God rages on. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**CMI In our Area in March**

**Scott Gillis** with **Creation Ministries International (CMI)** will be coming to: **San Antonio on Sunday, 10 March at the Calvary Temple Assembly of God** (14335 O'Connor Rd, San Antonio, TX 78247) at 9 and 11 am in the morning with the topic **“Creation, Why it Matters”;** And to **San Marcos that evening at 6 pm at Calvary Chapel of the Springs** (310 W Hutchison St, San Marcos, TX 78666) speaking on the same topic.

**3 Films of Interest coming our way in the Next 2 Months!**

**Fathom Events** has put together **three upcoming Theatrical Releases** connected to us by our friends at the **International Association for Creation** (IAC which we did an article on last month). Please check out the list of first run movies and documentaries coming out in theaters over the next two months. Thanks to Dr. Carl Williams who has set up with IAC to have a booth presence at two of these openings.

**For a trailer and information about getting tickets click on each blue movie link below. Locally these films will be shown at the Regal Live Oak 18, Embassy 14, Regal Northwoods 14, Santikos Rialto and Regal Huebner Oaks Stadium 14 theaters on the dates and time shown.**

What's on the schedule?

1. [Patterns of Evidence: The Moses Controversy](https://www.fathomevents.com/events/patterns-of-evidence-the-moses-controversy?gclid=CjwKCAiAwJTjBRBhEiwA56V7q9BuDWv9PiPTOTuoNNmkRGXpNjBFJ_NR362RnQqIwpENn8mniPcGkhoCJGgQAvD_BwE): **March 14th** 6:30pm, **16th** 12:55pm, and **18th** 6:30 pm

2. [Sight & Sound: Noah](https://www.fathomevents.com/events/sight-and-sound-noah-2019): **April 9th** 2:30 & 6:30 pm, **11th** 6:30pm, and **13th** 12:55pm

3. [Pilgrim's Progress](https://www.fathomevents.com/events/the-pilgrims-progress): **April 18th** 7pm, and **20th** 12:55pm

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**Genesis Commentary**

**1:3** “And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light.”

This verse shows God created light by **His word**. John chapter 1 describes that the “Word” is Jesus Christ, thus it is Christ who at God’s direction is the actor here. This is contrary to the Big Bang Hypothesis which says light would have been created in the first instances of creation along with the heavens and well before the earth.

**1:4** “God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness.”

This verse sets up the complete dichotomy between not only light and darkness, but good and evil which will be linked to light and darkness throughout the Bible.

**1:5** God called the light “day,” and the darkness he called “night.” And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day.

We have three definitions here, the definition for “day” as “when there is light”, also “night” as “when there is darkness, or lack of light”. The third definition is often missed or downplayed and that is “evening and there was morning – the first **day**.”

The Hebrew word “yom” which is used for “day” in this first chapter of Genesis has definitions completely analogous to our English word “day”. English dictionaries usually give two definitions for day. Our dictionaries first definition for “day” is “a period of twenty-four hours as a unit of time, reckoned from one midnight to the next, corresponding to a rotation of the earth on its axis.”

Most of our dictionaries also list a secondary definition for day as “a particular period of the past; an era.” A couple of uses in this sense are: "the laws were very strict in those days", or “the leading architect of the day." The Hebrew word “yom” also had such a secondary definition and usage.

However, Old Earth Creationists try and stretch this second definition for day into hundreds of millions of years to be read into this text for each day (known as the “Day-Age theory). This is a forced insertion not consistent with our English usage of the word day and completely out of line with the Hebrew word “yom.” If you tell someone that I will meet you the second day of next week, we all understand that we will meet on Monday next week and that this can in no way refer to meeting in two hundred million years!

It should also be noted that in each of the two hundred places in the Bible where the word “yom” (day) is paired with an ordinal number (such as first day, second day, etc.), **in all cases** the context makes it clear that the usage of yom in each of these verses refers to a 24-hour day. There is no basis besides a forced fit into evolutionary time scales to try reading anything else besides 24-hour days into Genesis chapter 1.

All Jewish Hebraists (experts on ancient Hebrew) agree that the intent of the Genesis scriptures is to convey that each of the days were 24-hour days, using our first definition of the word day. The only difference between the ancient Hebrew use of Yom and our “day” is that we arbitrarily define it as starting and ending at Midnights. The Hebrew Yom (day) is defined as beginning and ending at sundown. However, both describe a normal and literal 24-hour day.

We have now alluded to both the “Gap Theory” and “Day-Age” compromise theories some have for compromising the Bible with supposed geologic history. In fact, there are several such compromise theories between the straight biblical creation account and Naturalistic Evolution (Creation without God, by the chance constructions by the laws of nature). These theories include the Gap theory, the Day-Age Theory, Progressive Creation, and a Framework Hypothesis.

These compromise theories all suffer from a range of historical and theological problems which include: death before Adam; God’s use of extreme time and billions of years of death to create what God will call “very good.”; and evidence from geology which matches the biblical account, but disputes the evolutionary theory.

For a complete discussion of each of these theories, their problems and how they relate to the biblical text, please go to <http://youtu.be/c5AUQy4j0ss> which will link you to a PowerPoint presentation on the most prevalent compromise theories and show how they all fail to honor both scripture as well as pose grave theological and scientific problems. We can provide you with a DVD copy of this presentation as seen on YouTube at your request for viewing in your class or as your resource.

**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.

**SABBSA at Castle Hills Christian School**. Please pray as **Scott Lane** has been asked to give two creation presentations to the students and faculty at **Castle Hills Christian School** on March 20. We will be presenting “**Dinosaurs and the Bible**” to the younger kids and “**Fossils, Physics and Genetics**” to the secondary audiences. Please pray for the speaker and this great ministry opportunity that it will yield “eternal fruit”.

**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:

3/2 - **Dinosaurs and the Bible**
3/9 - **Dinosaurs Living with Man?**
3/16 - **Feathered Dinosaurs?**
3/23 - **Dr. Gary Locklair, Biblical vs. Evolutionary Education**
3/30 - **Ape-men**
4/6 - **Age of the Earth**
4/13 - **Earth Rocks / Age of the Earth**
4/20 - **Age of the Universe**
4/27 - **Collision Moon**

5/4 - **Geologic Column**

5/11 - **Homology**
5/18 - **Test Tube Life**
5/25 - **De-Faithing of America**

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)

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

We are continuing the FEAST science workshops this spring on the fourth Monday each month featuring the **“Heavens Declare”** series from Awesome Science Media. The March program will be the third in this series on **“The Starlight Travel Dilemma.”**

Due to FEAST’s recent move from their Burwood location, these events this coming 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**

**“Call of the Cosmos”**

Psalm 19:1 famously says, "**The heavens declare the glory of God**." The tools of modern astronomy enable us to see that glory as never before. As usual, **Illustra Media** brings ancient truths to glorious modern life through fantastic images, narration and interviews, and expansive music. The documentary includes seven episodes woven together that answer questions and explore mysteries about the universe and man's place in it including:

How big is the universe?

Are there really more stars than grains of sand?
How could God care about humans on such a "pale blue dot" in a vast universe?
Hear what a famous agnostic, author of God and the Astronomers, admitted about his agnosticism.
Learn about beautiful auroras and how they connect to the earth's habitability.
Watch how a total solar eclipse unlocked secrets of the universe.
What did astronauts say on the first trip to the moon?

**Next SABBSA Meeting:
Tuesday, March 12, 2019, 7 pm**

**“Living Waters”**

**LIVING WATERS: Intelligent Design in the Oceans of the Earth** is a fascinating exploration of life in the liquid universe that covers more than 70% of our planet. Filmed in Canada, Bermuda, Polynesia, Mexico, and the United States, this remarkable documentary celebrates the beauty and brilliance of the biological systems that make life in the oceans possible. Extraordinary cinematography and computer animation open stunning windows of discovery, including:

A spectacular tour of a dolphin's internal sonar system, a mechanism so powerful and precise, the animals can locate and capture small fish buried in the sand.

The magnetic compass embedded in the head of a sea turtle, a biological wonder that guides these long-distance travelers as they journey across thousands of miles of open sea.

A Pacific salmon's amazing sense of smell, an elaborate navigational aid that leads the fish back from years in the ocean to the gravel stream bed where it was born.

The power and majestic grace of a humpback whale, a creature whose existence defies the theory of Darwinian evolution.

Each leg of this cinematic odyssey is highlighted by cutting edge research and compelling evidence for purpose and design. LIVING WATERS is an unforgettable film that challenges scientific materialism with the timeless truth about the origin and complexity of life on Earth. LIVING WATERS is the third film in Illustra Media's acclaimed documentary collection, THE DESIGN OF LIFE.

Please join us in March for creation science and biblical apologetics teaching you will find nowhere else in Bexar County. We meet at **Faith Lutheran Church**, 14819 Jones Maltsberger Rd., San Antonio, Texas 78247