

Communique'

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It's September, so when do the 100^o days end? This month's **Communique'** leads off with two stories exemplifying how our culture is under constant attack today. We are truly in a **culture war** and the target of these attacks is to destroy a biblical worldview. We have two articles on Engineering Design in Biological Systems and the new Assembly Theory testifying to the evidence in nature for a Creator!

We also have articles on the Miracle of a Seed and the lack of transitional lineage for the Rhinoceros which both point to a biblical view of origins. Finally, we have an excellent article detailing how useless the tired old argument by skeptics of "who created god" really is.

Our **Genesis Commentary** this month features the story of **Isaac and Abimelek in Genesis 26**. As always, we have a full rundown of all the creation education opportunities coming up in our area. This includes a seven-week seminar at Cibolo Valley Baptist in September and October and programs on the southside of SA. Please note - our radio show will be moved from its normal Saturday time slot on September 9 and 16 due to Baylor football and will be heard Sunday mornings 9/10 and 9/17 at 6:45am on KSLR. We pray you find something in these pages to encourage and enlighten so that you can operate with a truly biblical worldview and praise the Creator!

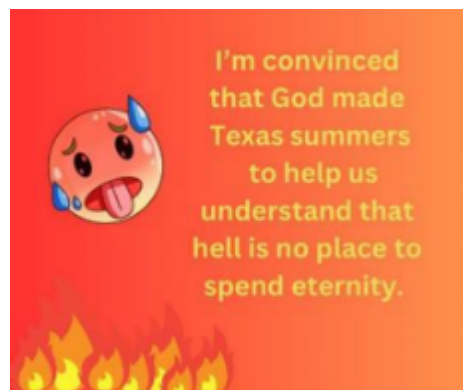
Our Daily Attacks on our Culture (reports from UPI and FOXNEWS)

The Biden administration and California state officials have taken away the lunch money of low-income kids because their Christian school doesn't comply with its radical redefinition of "sex" in Title IX. Nearly two dozen states sued the Biden administration recently over new guidelines that would cut federal funding for student lunches at schools with supposedly outdated LGBTQ+ protections.

The rule is part of the U.S. Agriculture Department's new initiative to fight discrimination against LGBTQ+ students.

The Church of Compassion, a non-denominational church in El Cajon, CA, operates a small Christian school—Dayspring Christian Learning Center. They are dedicated to serving everyone in the community, and roughly 40 percent of students come from low-income families.

Now, because the school won't violate its religious beliefs, state and federal officials have denied its application to continue receiving the school lunch funding it has received for almost 20 years.



This is outrageous. It's cruel to use low-income children as leverage to force a small Christian school to violate its religious beliefs.

The next article gives another example of the continuing war on our culture.

“Morning After” pills via vending machines on campus and states mandating them Adapted from a story By KATHERINE HAMILTON Breitbart

Universities Around U.S. Install Morning-After Pill Vending Machines

Students can now get a "morning-after" pill purchased from the Plan-B vending machine that sits in the basement of the student union building on the Boston University Campus in Boston. Each carton contains a single pill and cost \$7.25 ...

At least 39 universities in 17 states have installed morning-after pill vending machines, and at least 20 more are considering them, AP reported, citing the American Society for Emergency Contraception.

“With some states enacting abortion bans and others enshrining protections and expanding access to birth control, the machines are part of a push on college campuses to ensure emergency contraceptives are cheap, discreet and widely available,” according to the report.



(JOSEPH PREZIOSO/AFP via Getty Images)

Washington became the first state this year to set aside funding (\$200,000 for \$10,000 grants) for public universities to “expand access to emergency contraceptives...through automatic dispensers,” the report states.

“The University of Washington’s machine was installed after a student-led campaign. It offers boxes of generic Plan B for \$12.60, about a quarter of what the name-brand versions sell for in stores, and more than 640 have

been sold,” according to the report. “The drug is even cheaper in some machines than it is in UW’s, as low as \$7 per box. That’s because it is sold at just above wholesale cost, compared with pharmacy retail prices that might go up to \$50.”

In New York and Illinois, legislators are working on bills that would require state college campuses to have at least one emergency contraceptive vending machine. Lawmakers in Connecticut also approved a measure this year allowing the morning-after pill and other over-the-counter medications to be sold from vending machines on college campuses and elsewhere.

Zoe Amaris, a University of Washington pharmacy student and board member of UW Pharmacists for Reproductive Education and Sexual Health said “there is a stigma associated with getting access to these medications” that is ameliorated by having vending machines. “You don’t need to go to a pharmacy. You don’t need to go through your health care provider,” Amaris said.

Editor’s Note: Folks we are now encouraging promiscuity among our youth! This is well related to the push by Planned Parenthood we revealed last month to declare “virginity is patriarchal and sexist.”

Engineering Principles Explain Biological Systems Better than Evolutionary Theory

Brian Miller, Evolution News & Science Today

Since antiquity, scholars have debated whether the appearance of design in life was the product of a transcendent mind or undirected natural processes. The latter view rose to dominance after the scientific community largely embraced Darwin's theory of natural selection.



In the last few decades, the hegemony of the standard model for evolution has started to wane. Recent discoveries have forced biologists to replace evolutionary assumptions with design-based assumptions, language, and methods of investigation. This trend is to a large extent driven by the observation that the same engineering motifs and patterns employed in human creations are pervasive in

living systems. What is becoming increasingly clear is that engineering principles far better explain nearly every aspect of life than does evolutionary theory. This conclusion perfectly coincides with the central Christian doctrine that life was designed by God and not an unintended accident of nature.

Introducing the Atomists

Since ancient times, scholars have debated whether everything in the world was simply the product of natural processes or derived from the plans of a supreme intellect. The ancient form of naturalism is termed atomism. Its adherents believed that matter was composed of indivisible "atoms" that interact according to various rules. The interactions of the atoms, chance, and time resulted in everything observed in our world. The modern form of this philosophical tradition is termed materialism.

The atomists developed evolutionary theories to explain the appearance of design in life. These theories seem eerily familiar to modern ears. The Greek physician Hippocrates proposed in the late 5th or early 4th century BC a model for heredity and adaptation that Charles Darwin described as nearly identical to his own (Tsiompanou & Marketos 2013). And the poet Lucretius developed in the 1st century BC an evolutionary framework based on a primitive form of natural selection (Campbell 2004). Lucretius' agenda was to remove teleology (aka design) and by extension the influence of any deity from the world.

In stark contrast, philosophers such as Plato and Aristotle rejected the claim that matter had in itself the capacity to self-organize into living creatures. Instead, they believed that a transcendent mind envisioned the architectural plan or design logic of every distinct creature. And the design plan detailed how the matter would be arranged in a creature's final form. That form would never have occurred without external direction.

Some scholars have argued that Aristotle's views are more compatible with materialism than with ID (Feser 2019). But such claims result from a misreading of Aristotle's writings (Bos 2003, 2018; Gerson 2005; Henry 2019). He, like Plato, would have aligned himself with modern design proponents far more than with materialists.

Modern Intelligent Design Theory

The arguments the ancient philosophers employed to defend their conclusion of design in life (Archer-Hind 1888; Aristotle 2010) resemble those promoted by proponents of design today. And the atomists' justification for ignoring the evidence for design resembles arguments by modern scientific materialists (Sedley 2008). This conflict was reflected in the opening chapter of the Apostle Paul's letter to

the Romans where he described how the clear evidence for God's "eternal power" is "understood by the things that are made" (Keener 2009). The apostle would have seen the design-evolution debate today as a continuation of the same conflict that raged in the 1st century.

Darwin developed the modern version of the evolutionary theory, and he, like his ancient predecessors, argued that evolutionary processes could mimic the creative power of an intelligent agent in generating biological features of any level of complexity and ingenuity. More specifically, natural selection could act as a designer substitute empowering the environment to act as a creative agent, thus removing the need for a creator. Such reasoning allowed evolutionists simply to dismiss any evidence for design, no matter how conclusive, as merely an artifact of a blind, undirected process with no goal in mind.

A Return to Atomism

Francisco Ayala, a former president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, described Darwin's achievement of returning the atomist philosophical tradition to dominance (Ayala 2007) in the clearest of possible terms:

Darwin's greatest contribution to science is that he completed the Copernican Revolution by drawing out for biology the notion of nature as a system of matter in motion governed by natural laws. With Darwin's discovery of natural selection, the origin and adaptations of organisms were brought into the realm of science. The adaptive features of organisms could now be explained, like the phenomena of the inanimate world, as the result of natural processes, without recourse to an intelligent designer.

Over the next century, biologists combined Darwin's theory with genetics and population genetics to form Neo-Darwinism, also known as the Modern Synthesis. In the following decades, the theory was widely accepted to explain away all the evidence for design in life as mere illusion. This belief, however, is becoming increasingly untenable in light of developments in the biological sciences over the past several decades.

Editor's Note: As Solomon said, "There is nothing new under the sun!" The debate over evolution vs. creation has been going not just since Darwin, but for more than 2000 years! The evaluation 2000 years ago was that there is design in nature which shows a Creator! Today the evidence of design is even more visible with each research discovery. As God told us in Romans 1:20, "For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse!"

The following article gives just a taste of what materialists are finding.

Meet Intelligent Design's Naturalistic Cousin: Assembly Theory

Excerpted and Adapted from Evolution News

From "A New Idea for How to Assemble Life," by evolutionist science writer Philip Ball at Quanta Magazine:

Assembly theory started when evolutionist Lee Cronin asked why, given the astronomical number of ways to combine different atoms, nature makes some molecules and not others. It's one thing to say that an object is possible according to the laws of physics; it's another to say there's an actual pathway for making it from its component parts. "Assembly theory was developed to capture my intuition that complex molecules can't just emerge into existence because the combinatorial space is too vast," Cronin said.

See if you can spot the notion highly similar to Bill Dembski's "specification" in this section:

...for a complex object to be scientifically interesting, there has to be a lot of it. Very complex things can arise from random assembly processes — for example, you can make protein-like molecules by linking any old amino acids into chains. In general, though, these random molecules won't do anything of interest, such as behaving like an enzyme. **And the chances of getting two identical molecules in this way are vanishingly small.**

Functional enzymes, however, are made reliably again and again in biology, because they are assembled not at random, but from genetic instructions that are inherited across generations. So, while finding a single, highly complex molecule doesn't tell you anything about how it was made, finding many identical complex molecules is improbable unless some orchestrated process — perhaps life — is at work.

We should be crystal clear — calling **Assembly Theory** the “naturalistic cousin” of ID is OUR take on the work of Cronin's group. Dr. Cronin himself, and his collaborators, would disavow any connection to intelligent design reasoning, ...

But, when one notices conceptual similarities and parallels, it would be remiss for us not to highlight them. Assembly Theory is fascinating and potentially fruitful, and so, we're over here cheering on the effort.

The Marvel of a Seed by Eric Hedin Professor of Physics & Astronomy at Biola U.



Imagine offering a large cash prize to any research group that can achieve the goal of making a flower grow out of a bucket of dirt. If you wonder what's the challenge in that — “We grow flowers out of dirt all the time!” — you'd better read the fine print. For this challenge allows you to start with nothing more than a bucket of dirt, along with all the water and air you want.

Sometimes, we can take for granted the most commonplace things, when in reality these may be exhibitions of the highest wonder. After a hard winter in the Midwest, the ground is frozen, the trees are bare, the grass is brown, and not a flower can be found. But then something wonderful unfolds as the season cycles towards spring — warmth from the sun thaws the ground and the landscape begins to transform from the shadow of death to life. In the woods near our house, springtime brings forth thousands of bluebells, carpeting the ground that has appeared dead for months. Soon, daffodils blossom around the house, followed by tulips and phlox, and the yard quickly fills with yellow dandelions. (Alas, Dandelions are mostly considered a nuisance weed where I live.)

A Challenge for the Researchers

So, what's so hard about producing a flower from a bucket of well-watered dirt? Naturally, it seems to happen prolifically, but of course it all starts with a seed. So, the challenge for the researchers is to produce a seed that grows into a flower, using the available ingredients of dirt, water, and air. Game on!

From a cursory examination, a seed may seem like a fairly simple little thing, but more analysis reveals layers of functional complexity. The following highlights this:

Seed development is a complex process that requires coordinated integration of many genetic, metabolic, and physiological pathways and environmental cues. Different cell cycle types, such as asymmetric cell division, acytokinetic mitosis, mitotic cell division, and endoreduplication, frequently occur in sequential yet overlapping manner during the development of the embryo and the endosperm, seed structures that are both products of double fertilization.

To claim that researchers in synthetic biochemistry have no idea how to form even a single cell out of prebiotic materials, let alone the complex interactions of many cells within a seed, is no exaggeration. If a well-equipped research facility, staffed by the world's best scientists, couldn't produce a seed or even a single living cell from raw materials, what basis is there for assuming unguided natural processes could do it?

As Time Goes By

Time is not the golden ticket for nature to succeed at producing a complex, functional arrangement of atoms resulting in a living cell. Our observations of natural processes demonstrate that over time, natural processes degrade all complex, functional systems. New cars gradually turn into rusty wrecks; a newspaper left outside turns to pulp with no legible information; an unfortunate opossum killed on a country road isn't regenerated by sunlight and rain but suffers decomposition. The more time passes, the more such systems dissolve, until they blend with the surrounding environment to become unrecognizable. Nature relentlessly degrades information-rich systems, inexorably moving them towards an equilibrium characterized by homogeneous mixtures, nearly devoid of information (as described in the Law of Entropy).

If nature has shown itself time and time again to be an agent of decay, what has science discovered concerning the development of cells? Just this, that every cell comes from a preexisting cell (Biogenesis). The supposition of materialism, that at some point in the early history of Earth a cell arose from "dirt," is utterly without observational support. To suppose that the unguided effects of some combination of gravity and the electromagnetic force brought together millions of atoms of dirt, water, and air into the phenomenally complex, interdependent, functional structures and mechanisms of a living cell, is not supported by science. Such a belief ignores and defies centuries of scientific observations and study. It is a fantasy requiring an a priori commitment to an idea, akin to believing the Earth is flat. It's a religion and not science!

Far Beyond Human Limits

The marvel of the seed extends beyond its ability to grow into a flower or other type of plant. The design of the seed includes producing myriads of other seeds via successive generations of growth.

Given our observations of nature, and realizing that the intelligence required to produce a seed from the raw materials of Earth far exceeds human limitations, what shall we conclude produced such marvels as the welcome sight of springtime flowers? Ascribing their origin to intelligent design is a rational conclusion consistent with the facts. Thanks be to our Creator!

Who created God? It's an illogical Question by Don Batten, CMI



If a creator God needs to have been made by a creator, that creator would also need a creator who needs a creator ... like an infinite chain of toppling dominos, which is an impossibility.

Atheists frequently pose this question to justify their disbelief. Bertrand Russell (1872–1970), a famous British philosopher, in his influential little essay, *Why I am not a*

Christian, put this forward as his first objection. Today's atheists repeat the objection, including Richard Dawkins (*The God Delusion*) and Australia's own Philip Adams at the 2010 Global Atheists' Congress in Melbourne Australia, who said,

“The great argument for God was that there had to be a Creation, a beginning. ... But my objection was simple. If God was the beginning who began God?”

The universe had a beginning; almost no one disputes that, because the laws of thermodynamics demand it: the universe is running down and it cannot have been running down forever, or it would have already run down. No stars would be still churning out energy and we would not be here.

Some have proposed one universe giving birth to another, but again, there cannot be an infinite series of such births and deaths, as each cycle must have less energy available than the last and if this had been happening for eternity, the death of everything would have already happened.

There must have been a beginning

One of the most established principles of logic / science / reality is the principle of causality: something that has a beginning has a sufficient cause. The principle is not, ‘Everything has a cause’; Bertrand Russell misstated it. No, the principle is, ‘Everything that has a beginning has a sufficient cause’. Just a moment’s thought confirms this—something which had no beginning has no need of a cause. Furthermore, a cause has to be sufficient, or adequate. ‘You were found in a cabbage patch’ is not a sufficient explanation for your existence.

This principle of causation is so fundamental that if I said that the chair you are sitting on, which must have had a beginning, just popped into existence without any cause, you might justifiably think I need a psychiatric assessment!

Today’s atheists, who like to use words like ‘rational’, ‘reasonable’ and ‘scientific’ in describing their beliefs, believe that the greatest beginning of all—that of the universe—had no cause whatsoever! Some admit it is a problem, but they claim that saying ‘God did it’ explains nothing because you then have to explain where God came from. But is this a valid objection?

What must the cause of the universe have been like?

The cause of the universe must have been non-material because if the cause was material / natural, it would be subject to the same laws of decay as the universe. That means it would have to have had a beginning itself and you have the same problem as cycles of births and deaths of universes. So, the cause of the universe’s beginning must have been **super-natural**, i.e., non-material or spirit—a cause outside of space-matter-time. Such a cause would not be subject to the law of decay and so would not have a beginning. That is, the cause had to be eternal spirit.

Furthermore, the cause of the universe had to be incredibly powerful; the sheer size and energy seen in the universe together speak of that power; there had to be a sufficient cause. That sounds like the God of the Bible to me. The Bible reveals the Creator of the universe as:

Eternal

Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. (Psalm 90:2)

All-powerful

Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O LORD, and you are exalted as head above all. Both riches and honor come from you, and you rule overall. In your hand are power and might, and in your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all. (1 Chronicles 29:11–12)

Spirit (non-material)

God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth. (John 4:24)

Note that the Bible says, “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth” (Genesis 1:1). Here God created time itself. Only One who is outside of time, that is, timeless, or eternal, could do this.

Now to ask where someone who is eternal, someone who had no beginning, came from (‘Who created God?’) is like asking, ‘To whom is the bachelor married?’ It is an irrational question.

The Bible matches reality, which is not surprising when we consider that it claims to be from the Creator Himself.

Two ‘great beginnings’—without any cause!

Those who reject the Creator not only have to believe that energy/matter came into being without any cause; they also have to believe that life itself popped into existence without an adequate cause.

Even the simplest single-celled life is stupendously complex. A humble bacterium is full of incredibly sophisticated nano-machines that it needs to live. A cell needs a minimum of over 400 different proteins to make the machines that are absolutely essential for life. How could these protein-based machines make themselves, even if all the right ingredients (20 different amino acids, but many of each) could make themselves? The amino acids, often thousands of them, have to be joined together in the correct order for each protein to function.

Just think about one essential machine that copies the DNA instructions for making each protein. Then let’s take just one protein component of that machine, less than 10% of the total. This protein is 329 amino acids in length. What would be the chance of getting this one protein by chance, assuming that the correct, and only the correct, amino acid ingredients were present? Calculate it this way: $\frac{1}{20} \times \frac{1}{20} \times \frac{1}{20} \dots$ 329 times! This is a probability of 1 in 10^{428} ... a number with 428 zeros after the 1! Even if every atom in the universe (10^{80} —a number with 80 zeros) represented an experiment for every molecular vibration possible (10^{12} per second) for the supposed evolutionary age of the universe (14 billion years = 10^{18} seconds), this would allow ‘only’ 10^{110} experiments—a long, long way short of the number needed to have a ghost of a chance of getting just this one protein to form, let alone the over 400 others needed.

It’s no wonder that Richard Dawkins admits that scientists might never work out how life could arise by natural processes. Nevertheless, he rejects the creation explanation for the fallacious reason above.

Now what sort of cause is sufficient to explain the origin of life? The cause must be incredibly intelligent—far beyond our intelligence. We marvel at the scientists who are discovering the nano-technology in living things—and it is an astonishing enterprise. But what of the One who invented these things? How much more intelligent is He? This reminds me of another characteristic of the God whom the Bible reveals: He is omniscient (all knowing). See Psalm 139:2–6; Isaiah 40:13–14.

We know sufficient about the Creator from His creation to be “without excuse”. Romans 1:18–22 says,

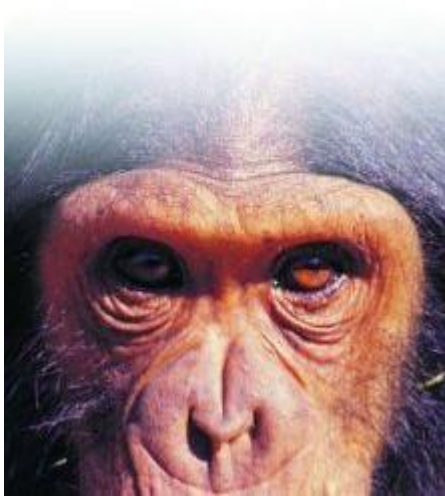
“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools ...”

And here the Bible explains why otherwise intelligent people choose to believe impossible things—that firstly the universe, then life, just popped into existence without any adequate cause. They choose to illogically accept that their two ‘great beginnings’ had no sufficient cause, rather than acknowledge and honor their Creator.

Has an ape learned to talk?

by Carl Wieland CMI

Claims are circulating widely that Kanzi, a bonobo or pygmy chimpanzee, has done just this. In fact, the reality is far more mundane than all the evolutionary excitement would suggest.



It has been known for some years that Kanzi and others had been trained to use simple symbols to represent concepts like 'banana', 'grapes', 'juice' or 'yes'. And now it has apparently been shown, from analyzing tapes, that this ape has used four distinct sounds to represent those four particular concepts. Whether any other ape or human was meant to 'understand' them is not presently clear.

It should be noted that the sounds are nothing like human speech, not even an imitation of it. An ape's larynx simply does not have that capability. For example, it can't make the fundamental vowels (a, o, i, etc.) of the human language. African Gray Parrots, not thought to be closely related to humans at all, do a much better job of using vocalization to communicate symbolic concepts. One of them at least, as reported in Creation magazine some time ago, has been able to

articulate actual English words and link them to meaningful concepts. But because there is no obvious evolutionary mileage, most people rarely get to hear of this.

More significantly, neither the parrot, nor Kanzi, nor any other animal, has ever actually used real language. Language does not necessarily have to involve spoken words, or any sounds at all—think of sign language, which is real language. But language, whether vocalized or not, is defined by linguists as more than just the use of symbols. It involves things like syntax and grammar. Therefore, although apes can make signs for a few things, this should never be confused with true sign language.

When many deaf children in Nicaragua were raised together in an environment without any spoken language input, they spontaneously developed their own highly complex sign language, complete with rules of grammar and syntax. Human brains carry the intricate programming that makes that possible, even inevitable. Deaf people process sign language in the same areas of the brain in which hearing people process spoken language. But these language areas are unique to humans, and non-existent in non-human creatures.

In short, talking apes do not exist.

What Do We Know about the Origin of Rhinos?

by Wolf-Ekkehard Lönnig

Photo: *Ceratotherium simum*, by Byrdyak, CC BY-SA 4.0 , via Wikimedia Commons.

Some rhinoceroses, including the square-lipped *Ceratotherium simum* of the African savanna, weigh more than three tons and thus represent the largest land mammals after the African elephant. After an extensive revision of the family Rhinocerotidae, presently some 21 genera have been found to be valid. Most of those, however, do not exist anymore. Just four genera are still extant.

Although they are not the handsomest or most graceful creatures in the animal kingdom, the Rhinoceroidea (superfamily) are a fascinating group for research due not only to an extraordinarily rich fossil record, but also to many striking anatomical and physiological characteristics.



Intriguingly, according to the geological timetable, many of the past and present forms have lived contemporaneously for millions of years. Also, all families and genera of the rhinocerotoids appear abruptly in the fossil record. Contrary to Darwinian expectations, none of them is linked to any other by a series of “infinitesimally small changes,” “infinitesimally slight variations,” “insensibly fine steps,” etc. Hence, the fossil record is in full agreement with the statement of the eminent evolutionary biologist Donald R. Prothero, paleontologist and leading rhino researcher, that “the most striking thing about the overall pattern of rhinocerotid evolution is that of stasis.” Even at the species level he notes that “although some limited examples of gradual change can be documented in the rhinocerotids, the overwhelming pattern is one of stable species which show no measurable change over long periods of time, consistent with the predictions of Eldredge and Gould (1972).”

So, what do we really know about their origin and evolution? The entire fossil series of the family of rhinos starts with a rhinoceros (Teletaceras) and ends with rhinoceroses. The viewpoint of natural selection of random or accidental or haphazard DNA mutations can be — except for microevolution (variation) — excluded for many scientific reasons. Intelligent design is definitely the scientifically superior explanation.

Editor’s Note: Eldridge and Gould, mentioned in this article include a curator of the American Museum of Natural history and a late Harvard Paleontologist. These two men more than any other pair of evolutionists in the world have seen and worked with the actual fossils in the fossil record. Their conclusion is that the transitional forms predicted by Darwin are missing!

Genesis Commentary

Isaac and Abimelek

26 Now there was a famine in the land—besides the previous famine in Abraham’s time—and Isaac went to Abimelek king of the Philistines in Gerar. ²The LORD appeared to Isaac and said, “Do not go down to Egypt; live in the land where I tell you to live. ³Stay in this land for a while, and I will be with you and will bless you. For to you and your descendants I will give all these lands and will confirm the oath I swore to your father Abraham. ⁴I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and will give them all these lands, and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, ⁵because Abraham obeyed me and did everything I required of him, keeping my commands, my decrees and my instructions.” ⁶So Isaac stayed in Gerar.

Here we have a continuation of God looking after and directing the line of Abraham in Isaac and confirming his covenant with them. God here introduces to them the area which will become the promised land and theirs in the future. The second half of verse 4 is especially important in that the promise to make “your offspring a blessing to all nations” shows that it was the plan for salvation to be extended to the whole world (including the gentiles) in the future. This shows a continuity with the New Testament. The Old Testament is so dominated by God’s dealing with His chosen people, the Hebrew, that we lose sight of the fact that it was within God’s plan from the start to bring salvation to all people through the lineage of Abraham and Israel, His covenant people.

⁷When the men of that place asked him about his wife, he said, “She is my sister,” because he was afraid to say, “She is my wife.” He thought, “The men of this place might kill me on account of Rebekah, because she is beautiful.”

This is the same lie Abraham had told to Pharaoh and reveals the fleshly weakness and weak faith of a man who otherwise did follow God. This weak faith will cause problems as it always does.

⁸ When Isaac had been there a long time, Abimelek king of the Philistines looked down from a window and saw Isaac caressing his wife Rebekah. ⁹ So Abimelek summoned Isaac and said, "She is really your wife! Why did you say, 'She is my sister'?"

Isaac answered him, "Because I thought I might lose my life on account of her."

¹⁰ Then Abimelek said, "What is this you have done to us? One of the men might well have slept with your wife, and you would have brought guilt upon us." ¹¹ So Abimelek gave orders to all the people: "Anyone who harms this man or his wife shall surely be put to death."

This shows that Isaac's lie was found out, but God covered his problems since Abimelek was a God-fearing man and reacted to protect both Isaac and Rebekah his wife.

¹² Isaac planted crops in that land and the same year reaped a hundredfold, because the LORD blessed him. ¹³ The man became rich, and his wealth continued to grow until he became very wealthy. ¹⁴ He had so many flocks and herds and servants that the Philistines envied him. ¹⁵ So all the wells that his father's servants had dug in the time of his father Abraham, the Philistines stopped up, filling them with earth.

¹⁶ Then Abimelek said to Isaac, "Move away from us; you have become too powerful for us."

In spite of his one transgression, God blessed Isaac's time in the future promised land as God said He would since Isaac did stay in the land for a time as directed. The result of his being so blessed was the natural envy of the surrounding Philistines who filled and stopped up his water wells. Eventually Abimelek directs Isaac to move away from them to keep the peace.

¹⁷ So Isaac moved away from there and encamped in the Valley of Gerar, where he settled. ¹⁸ Isaac reopened the wells that had been dug in the time of his father Abraham, which the Philistines had stopped up after Abraham died, and he gave them the same names his father had given them.

This shows not only Isaac's knowledge of his history, but also his respect for that history and belief in God's covenant with his family.

¹⁹ Isaac's servants dug in the valley and discovered a well of fresh water there. ²⁰ But the herders of Gerar quarreled with those of Isaac and said, "The water is ours!" So he named the well Esek, (means "dispute") because they disputed with him. ²¹ Then they dug another well, but they quarreled over that one also; so he named it Sitnah. (means "opposition") ²² He moved on from there and dug another well, and no one quarreled over it. He named it Rehoboth, (meaning "room") saying, "Now the LORD has given us room and we will flourish in the land."

Note how Isaac does not go to war over what most would. He is powerful, but seeks peace at all times. We should emulate that ideal.

²³ From there he went up to Beersheba. ²⁴ That night the LORD appeared to him and said, "I am the God of your father Abraham. Do not be afraid, for I am with you; I will bless you and will increase the number of your descendants for the sake of my servant Abraham."

²⁵ Isaac built an altar there and called on the name of the LORD. There he pitched his tent, and there his servants dug a well.

God again encourages Isaac by reminding him that He still honors His covenant with Isaac's lineage. This dream validates his moving from place to place until he found a place where they could live in peace. In response Isaac honors God by building an altar, praising God, and pitching his tent showing a more permanent residence on the land God had provided.

Prayer Needs and Praises!

- **Pray for spiritual healing in our nation.**
 - **Pray for SABBSA's Public Seminars**
 - **Pray for our Radio Ministry**
 - **Pray for our effectiveness of monthly meetings and speakers**
 - **Pray for how we can get the gospel out better**
 - **Please pray for Mrs. Cindy Williams who is battling cancer.**
-



Coming to SABBSA on the second Tuesday of each month in 2023

September – **Supposed Contradictions in the Bible?**

October – **“The Rocks Cry Out” #7 – “Science is a Tool”**

November – **“Discovering Dinosaurs” with Dr. Brian Thomas ICR**

December – **“The Rocks Cry Out” #8 – “Grand Canyon”**



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 13-million people across the U.S. in thirteen major markets and internationally in 120 countries on WWCR.

Here is our schedule of upcoming program topics

9/2 Youth Questions



9/10 **What are the Darwinists Afraid of?**
 (6:45am Sunday due to Baylor football)
 9/17 **Science in the Bible?** (6:45am Sun.)
 9/23 **Whale Evolution**
 9/30 **Young Moons**
 10/7 **Quotes from Evolutionists #1**
 10/14 **Quotes from Evolutionists #2**
 10/21 **Is the Earth Special?**
 10/28 **We came from Ape-men?**
 11/4 **Reformation Day**
 11/11 **Distant Starlight**
 11/18 **Jay Seegert, Creation Edu. Center**
 11/25 **Jay Seegert, part II**
 12/2 **Virginity Is Patriarchal?**

12/9 **Boring Sections of the Bible**
 12/16 **No Junk DNA**
 12/23 **Christmas Star: Astronomical or a Miracle?**
 12/30 **Dr. Doyle Holbird, Worldview Conf.**
 1/6 **Dr. Doyle Holbird, part II**
 1/13 **Why does Creation Science matter?**
 1/20 **Evolutions changing Paradigms**
 1/27 **Bacterial Flagellum**
 2/3 **Living Fossils**

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 (kslr.com). 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](#)

Cartoon Corner

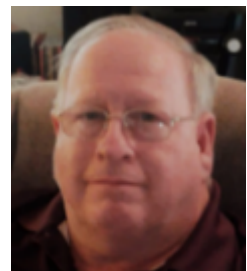
Thanks to Answers in Genesis, who provides many of these cartoons each month for our newsletter and our presentations. Please think about donating to them in gratitude for this and all the ministries they give us.



Creation Seminar this Fall 2023 at Cibolo Valley Baptist

Scott Lane will present his **"Creation Series"** at Cibolo Valley Baptist Church each Sunday this fall at 3:30 pm starting on September 10th. The seminar schedule is shown below.

September 10 - Introduction to Creation Theories
September 17 - What if God Wrote the Bible?



September 24 - Darwin and Radiometric Dating

October 1 - Underpinnings: Fossils, Physics, Genetics and Babel

October 8 - Young Earth Evidences

October 15 - Biology and Missing Links

October 22 - Dinosaurs and the Bible

Cibolo Valley Baptist Church is at **5500 FM 1103, Schertz, TX 78108**

If you miss one of the seminar programs this fall, or wish to preview each week's material, they are on **YouTube** and linked on SABBSA's website at www.sabbsa.org

SABBSA Missouri Creation tour in November 2023

Thursday November 16th at **Eagle Ridge Christian** in Cape Girardeau, MO. Multimedia presentations to both the upper school and lower school students.

Scott Lane will be presenting "**What if God Wrote the Bible?**" to members of the South East Missouri Bible Science Fellowship (SEMO) on Thursday, November 16 at 7 pm at the Cape Girardeau Public Library, 711 N. Clark St., Cape Girardeau, MO.



Friday, November 17th at **Lynwood Academy** in Cape Girardeau, MO. Two presentations of Animals that defy Evolution to the lower school and then upper school students during their chapel times.

"The Rocks Cry Out" series at Calvary Chapel Jesus is the Way

We are happy to announce a 6-part seminar this year on the southside of S.A., featuring "**The Rocks Cry Out**" series from Search for the Truth Ministries. This seminar was set up by the new home school group forming on the southside called the Homeschool Resource Center, but all are invited to attend at 10 am on the fourth Friday in the months of **September and October** this year (We will continue this series in 2024 at Calvary Chapel in the first four months of '24). The schedule for this fall is shown below.

9/22/23, **Lesson 1 – Science Testifies to Creation** (All major scientific disciplines are filled with evidence that confirms we have a Creator)

10/27/23 **Lesson 2 – The Red Record** (Even ancient cultures confirm the historical accuracy of God's Word)

Calvary Chapel Jesus is the Way is located at 6615 S. Flores St. SA TX 78214

Around Texas

Houston:

The **Greater Houston Creation Association (GHCA)** meet at Houston's First Baptist Church at 7 pm every first Thursday, in Room 143. Their meetings can be streamed live by going to www.ghcaonline.com.

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/>

Greater San Antonio area: Listen to **Answers with Ken Ham** online at the address below.

<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.

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

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/>

ICR in Dallas:

Of course, the **ICR Discovery Center for Science and Earth History** is the foremost creation history museum in the Southwest. They are open from 10am to 5 pm Tuesdays through Saturdays. For more information on this exceptional facility go to <https://discoverycenter.icr.org/>

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:

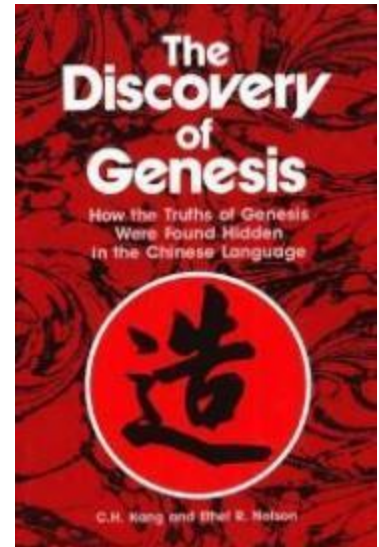
The Discovery Center is a creation museum/emporium that exists primarily to provide scientific and historic evidence for the truthfulness of God’s word, especially as it relates to the creation/evolution issue. It also features some fascinating “Titanic Disaster” exhibits. <https://evidences.org/>

Last Month at SABBSA

The Discovery of Genesis in Chinese

Based on the book **"The Discovery of Genesis"** by Reverend C. H. Kang and Dr. Ethel Nelson. We present 118 examples of Chinese pictographs which give unmistakable evidence the ancient Chinese had extensive knowledge of Genesis some 4500 years ago when the Chinese written language was invented. This was 1100 years before Moses penned Genesis!

It showed how the development of this language fits well within the biblical history of the dispersion after Babel. We also showed the Chinese were once a monotheistic people who knew of the God of the Bible, and had intimate and detailed knowledge of His Word.



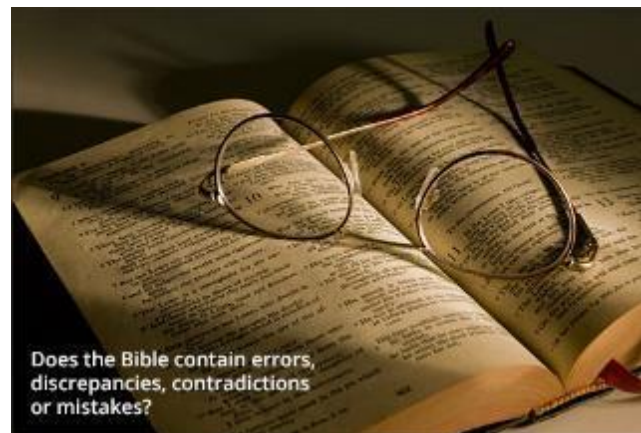
If you missed our last meeting its on YouTube at https://youtu.be/LpqYTS_WGdk

Next SABBSA Meeting:
Tuesday, September 12, 2023, at 7 pm

Coming to SABBSA in September

Supposed Contradictions and Errors in the Bible?

Where did Cain's wife come from? Jacob and the Speckled Sheep? Can God not do math? Is biblical history in error? Does the Bible really say the earth is flat?



Skeptics have been making claims that the Bible is full of errors for hundreds of years. We examine these claims and show that the Bible is error free, means what it says and can be counted on 100% of the time as God's Word and divine guidance for us.

Please join us in September for creation science and biblical apologetics teaching you will find nowhere else in Bexar County. We meet at **Faith Lutheran Church just south of the corner of Jones Maltsberger and Thousand Oaks**. The address is 14819 Jones Maltsberger Rd., San Antonio, Texas 78247.

