Communique'

President - Scott Lane 599-7240 Vice President – Ed Salzwedel
Secretary – Clarence Johnson Treasurer – Carl Williams, M.D.
[website – www.sabbsa.org] [P.O. Box 34478, San Antonio, TX 78265]

November 2024

Fall is finally here, and we hope you took the opportunity to witness to some little goblins Halloween night.

Our monthly meeting on November 12 features **Dave and Mary Jo Nutting** from Alpha Omega Institute talking on **"Amazing Design Features of Costa Rica".** This is only one of many creation activities they will be a part of while in San Antonio. Their complete itinerary sponsored by SABBSA is shown in this newsletter.

This month's **Communique'** leads off with an article from **CMI's Jonathan Sarfati** giving a wealth of evidence for life being designed and created by God and not an evolutionary accident.

We then have two articles showing how often supposed evidence for evolutionary origins is found to be forgeries since the actual evidence of evolution is missing!

Next we have an article on **Snake Origins** which shows the actual data coincides with the biblical account.

Finally, we have an article on **The Exquisite Design of Egg Cells** revealing not only God's intricate designs in reproduction but testifying to His existence and awesome intelligence!

Our **Genesis Commentary** covers **Genesis 34 - Dinah and the Shechemites.** As always, we have a rundown of the creation education events coming up in our area. This year will include our **"Answers for Life"** series being presented to the home schoolers at Calvary Chapel Jesus is the Way. We pray these articles help you to evaluate this culture from a biblical perspective.

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15 loopholes in the evolutionary theory of the origin of life: Summary *by Jonathan Sarfati, CMI*

Dr Sarfati, a Ph.D. chemist, explores some of the most-cited 'explanations' of biochemical evolution, and shows how they point to a Creator, not 'time and chance'.

An animation of the basics of a cell's protein synthesis system. Origin-of-life scenarios need to explain how this came into existence without (supernatural) intelligent design (see points 14 and 15).

1. There is almost universal agreement among specialists that earth's primordial atmosphere contained no methane, ammonia or hydrogen — 'reducing' gases. Rather, most evolutionists now believe it contained carbon dioxide and nitrogen. Miller-type sparking experiments will not work with those gases in the absence of reducing gases. See The Primitive Atmosphere.
2. The atmosphere contained free oxygen, which would destroy organic compounds. Oxygen would be produced by photodissociation of water vapor. Oxidized minerals such as hematite are found as early as 3.8 billion years old, almost as old as the earliest rocks, and 300 million older than the earliest life. There is also evidence for organisms complex enough to photosynthesize at 3.7 billion of years ago (Rosing, M.T. and Frei, R., U-rich Archaean sea-floor sediments from Greenland—indications of >3700 Ma oxygenic photosynthesis, *Earth and Planetary Science Letters* 217:237–244, 2004). Also, red jasper or hematite-rich chert cored from layers allegedly 3.46 billion years old showed that 'there had to be as much oxygen in the atmosphere 3.46 billion years ago as there is in today's atmosphere. To have this amount of oxygen, the Earth must have had oxygen producing organisms like cyanobacteria actively producing it, placing these organisms much earlier in Earth's history than previously thought.' (Deep-sea rocks point to early oxygen on Earth, 24 March 2009) NB: these 'dates' are according to the evolutionary/uniformitarian framework, which I strongly reject on both biblical and scientific grounds — see How long were the days mentioned in the Biblical creation account? and Evidence for a Young World).
3. Catch-22: if there was no oxygen there would be no ozone, so ultraviolet light would destroy biochemicals. Also, the hydrogen cyanide polymerization that is alleged to lead to adenine can occur only in the *presence* of oxygen (see Eastman *et al.*, Exploring the Structure of a Hydrogen Cyanide Polymer by Electron Spin Resonance and Scanning Force Microscopy, *Scanning* 2:19–24, p. 20).
4. All energy sources that produce the biochemicals destroy them even faster! The Miller–Urey experiments used strategically designed traps to isolate the biochemicals as soon as they were formed so the sparks/UV did not destroy them. Without the traps, even the tiny amounts obtained would not have been formed.
5. Biochemicals would react with each other or with inorganic chemicals. Sugars (and other carbonyl (>C=O) compounds) react destructively with amino acids (and other amino ($–NH_2$) compounds), but both must be present for a cell to form.

Without enzymes from a living cell, formaldehyde (HCHO) reactions with hydrogen cyanide (HCN) are necessary for the formation of DNA and RNA bases, condensing agents, etc. But HCHO and especially HCN are *deadly poisons* — HCN was used in the Nazi gas chambers! They destroy vital proteins.

Abundant Ca^{2+} ions would precipitate fatty acids (necessary for cell membranes) and phosphate (necessary for such vital compounds as DNA, RNA, ATP, etc.). Metal ions readily form complexes with amino acids, hindering them from more important reactions.

6. No geological evidence has been found *anywhere* on earth for the alleged primordial soup. See Primeval soup — failed paradigm
7. Depolymerization is much faster than polymerization. Water is a poor medium for condensation polymerization. Polymers will hydrolyze in water over geological time. Condensing agents (water absorbing chemicals) require acid conditions, and they could not

accumulate in water. Heating to evaporate water tends to destroy some vital amino acids, racemize all the amino acids, and requires geologically unrealistic conditions. Besides, heating amino acids with other gunk produced by Miller experiments would destroy them. See Origin of Life: The Polymerization Problem. (i.e. Biochemicals are destroyed faster than they are formed.)

8. Polymerization requires *bifunctional* molecules (can combine with two others) and is stopped by a small fraction of *unifunctional* molecules (can combine with only one other, thus blocking one end of the growing chain). Miller experiments produce five times more unifunctional molecules than bifunctional molecules. See Origin of Life: The Polymerization Problem.
9. Sugars are destroyed quickly after the formose (or Butlerov) reaction that is supposed to have formed them. This reaction involves formaldehyde and alkali, but the very same alkaline conditions destroy aldose sugars—including ribose and glucose—via the Cannizzaro reaction, which converts two molecules of an aldehyde to an alcohol and an acid. Also, the alkaline conditions needed to form sugars are incompatible with acid conditions required to form polypeptides with condensing agents. See Can nucleobases and self-replication arise from non-living chemicals?.
10. Long time periods do *not* help the evolutionary theory if biochemicals are destroyed faster than they are formed (cf. points 4, 7, and 9).
11. Not all of the necessary 'building blocks' are formed, e.g. ribose and cytosine are hard to form and are very unstable. See Origin of life: Instability of building blocks.
12. Life requires homochiral polymers (all the same 'handedness') — proteins have only 'left-handed' amino acids, while DNA and RNA have only 'right-handed' sugars. Miller experiments produce *racemates* — equal mixtures of left and right handed molecules. A small fraction of wrong handed molecules terminates RNA replication, shortens polypeptides, and ruins enzymes. See Origin of Life: The Chirality Problem and Homochirality an unsolved problem (quote).
13. Life requires catalysts which are specific for a single type of molecule. This requires *specific* amino acid sequences, which have extremely low probabilities (~10^{-5000} for all the enzymes required). Prebiotic polymerization simulations yield *random* sequences, not functional proteins or enzymes. See World record enzymes, New DNA repair enzyme discovered, and Answering another uninformed atheist: Galileo, Miller–Urey, probability.
14. The origin of coding system of proteins on DNA is an enigma. So is the origin of the *message* encoded, which is extraneous to the chemistry, as a printed message is to ink molecules. Code translation apparatus and replicating machinery are *themselves* encoded — a *vicious circle*. A code cannot self-organize. See Self-Replicating Enzymes? and Can nucleobases and self-replication arise from non-living chemicals?
15. The origin of machines requires design, not random energy. E.g: the Nobel prize-winning biochemist Robert Bruce Merrifield (1921–2006) designed an automatic protein synthesizer. Each amino acid added to the polymer requires 90 steps. The amino acid sequence is determined by a program. A living cell is like a *self-replicating* Merrifield machine.

Fossil Friday: Fake Amber and the Piltdown Fly

adapted from an article by

Günter Bechly

Pictured is an apparent fossil wasp in Mexican amber. What it actually shows is a crude forgery, where a modern wasp has been embedded in artificial resin. Such simple forgeries are commonly sold to tourists in Mexico, the Dominican Republic, Eastern Europe, and Eastern Asia. They can be easily recognized and hardly any real expert would fall for them (Poinar 1982, Ross 1998, Gröhn 2013). However, there exist much more sophisticated forgeries of amber inclusions that even fooled famous scientists (Grimaldi et al. 1994, Eriksson & Poinar 2015). They are crafted by using real pieces of amber.

Fossiliferous amber pieces usually were formed by several successive flows of tree resin and therefore have a layered composition that is called “Schlauben.” Cunning forgers split a piece of amber along these natural surfaces, carve a cavity in which they place a dead recent insect, fill the cavity with resin or Canada balsam, glue the two halves together again, and polish the piece to hide the fissure. Such sophisticated forgeries are hard to detect, because any test of the amber substance only confirms its authenticity. The considerable effort of course only makes sense to a forger in case of very rare inclusions that achieve a high market price among collectors, unless somebody only wants to play a trick on a scientist. Here is an interesting example (McAlister 2012).

The Modern Latrine Fly

Professor Willi Hennig was one of the most famous entomologists and biologists of the 20th century: founder of modern phylogenetic systematics (cladistics), one of the world’s leading experts on Dipteran systematics of his time, and a predecessor of mine as curator for the amber collection of the State Museum of Natural History in Stuttgart (Germany). In 1966 he described an inclusion of the modern latrine fly species *Fannia scalaris* in Baltic amber (Hennig 1966). The specimen had already been briefly mentioned by the German collector and dipteran researcher Herrmann Loew in 1850, but was now studied for the first time in detail by Hennig. His discovery seemed quite important because it featured one of the very few fossil representatives of the dipteran family Muscidae, with large implications for the phylogenetic and biogeographic history of flies. It also contributed to the textbook wisdom (e.g., Carpenter 1992) that some species apparently survived unchanged since the Oligocene.

In 1993 the young scientist Andrew Ross, who later became a well-known expert for amber fossils, studied the remarkable specimen at the Natural History Museum in London, where it had been deposited since 1922, after being acquired with other parts of the Loew amber collection. Ross was shocked when the amber piece overheated by the suboptimal microscope lighting and recognized a strange crack appearing above the fly. The supposed mishap turned out to be a lucky circumstance. A closer examination of the crack revealed to his big surprise that the apparent fossil fly was nothing but a clever forgery using a common recent latrine fly (Grimaldi et al. 1994, Ross 1998, Eriksson & Poinar 2015). Ross gave this forged fossil the fitting nickname “Piltdown fly” in his very first scientific publication (Ross 1993), alluding to the infamous Piltdown man hoax. The discovery of this forgery even made headlines in the tabloids (Anonymous 1993, Highfield 1993, Kellaway 1993) as well as popular science media (Palmer 1993).

Piltdown Lizard Was Too Good to Check

adapted from an article by *Günter Bechly*

Piltdown Man is not the only forgery manufactured to prop up evolution. *Tridentinosaurus antiquus*, which was discovered in 1931 and described by Leonardi (1959) from the Early Permian (ca. 280 million years old) sandstone of the Italian Alps. The 10-inch-long fossil animal looks like a dark imprint of an *Anolis* lizard. It was attributed by Dalla Veccia (1997) to the extinct Protorosauria and considered to be "one of the oldest fossil reptiles and one of the very few skeletal specimens with evidence of soft tissue preservation" (Rossi et al. 2024), interpreted as carbonized skin showing the whole body outline like a photograph. Only the bones of the hind limbs were clearly visible.

The 90-year-old fossil find remained unique, as nothing similar was ever discovered again in the Permian of the Italian Alps (Starr 2024). This should have raised some red flags. However, why question a fossil that was "thought to be an important specimen for understanding early reptile evolution" (University College Cork 2024)? As journalists would say, it was too good to check. Instead the find was "celebrated in articles and books but never studied in detail" (University College Cork 2024).

Bombshell and Headlines

Now a new study (Rossi et al. 2024) of the famous fossil has turned out to be a bombshell, making global media headlines (University College Cork 2024). The scientists used sophisticated methods including ultraviolet light photography, 3D surface modeling, scanning electronic microscopy, and Fourier transformed infrared spectroscopy to analyze the apparent soft tissue of the fossil reptile. To their great surprise they discovered that "the material forming the body outline is not fossilized soft tissues but a manufactured pigment indicating that the body outline is a forgery," which of course also throws into doubt the "validity of this enigmatic taxon."

The study concludes that "The putative soft tissues of *T. antiquus*, one of the oldest known reptiles from the Alps, are fake and thus this specimen is not an exceptionally preserved fossil. Despite this, the poorly preserved long bones of the hindlimbs seem to be genuine." But in the absence of novel information about the preserved skeleton, the authors "suggest caution in using *T. antiquus* in phylogenetic studies."

Who Did It, and Why?

It is not known who perpetrated the forgery or why, but probably it was just a way to embellish the poor remains of the leg bones with some fancy painting (Starr 2024), coating it with varnish as a protective layer to hide the forgery from easy discovery (University College Cork 2024).

Italian paleontologist Valentina Rossi, the lead scientist of the study that uncovered the forgery, said in an article at *The Conversation* (Rossi 2024a) that “fake fossils are among us, passing almost undetected under the eye of experts all over the world. This is a serious problem — counterfeited specimens can mislead paleontologists into studying an ancient past that never existed.” The reprinted article in *Scientific American* (Rossi 2024b) even admits in the subtitle, “Paleontology is rife with fake fossils that are made to cash in on illegal trade but end up interfering with science.” Let that sink in and remember it when Darwinists try to ridicule Darwin critics, who bring up forgeries such as Piltdown Man or *Archaeoraptor.* Don’t let them get away with (despite knowing better) claiming that such forgeries are not a real problem in evolutionary biology.

Therefore, in loving memory of the Piltdown Man forgery, and the Piltdown Fly (Bechly 2022), we may in the future call this specimen the Piltdown Lizard.

Snake Origins —Yet Another Biological Big Bang

adapted from an article by *Günter Bechly*

The “legged” snake Najash rionegrina from the Late Cretaceous of Patagonia, which is one of the oldest fossil snakes known to science. It was found in terrestrial sediments and shows a well-defined sacrum with pelvis connected to the spine and functional hind legs. Therefore, it was considered as supporting an origin of snakes from burrowing rather than aquatic ancestors (Groshong 2006). I had reported about the highly controversial and hotly debated topic of snake origins in a previous article (Bechly 2023), where you can find links to all the relevant scientific literature.

Another Open Question

But there was another open question concerning the origin of snakes: Did their distinct body plan evolve gradually as predicted by Darwinian evolution, or did snakes appear abruptly on the scene as predicted by intelligent design theory? Earlier this year a seminal new study was published by a team of researchers from the University of Michigan and Stony Brook University in the prestigious journal Science (Title et al. 2024). This study brought important new insights with the mathematical and statistical modelling of the most comprehensive evolutionary tree of snakes and lizards, based on a comparative analysis of the traits of 60,000 museum specimens and the partial sequencing of the genomes of 1,000 species (SBU 2024, Osborne 2024). The study found that all the characteristic traits of the snake body plan, such as the flexible skull with articulated jaws, the loss of limbs, and the elongated body with hundreds of vertebrae, all appeared in a short window of time about 100-110 million years ago (Rapp Learn 2024).

The authors commented in the press releases that this burst of biological novelty suggests that “snakes are like the Big Bang ‘singularity’ in cosmology” (SBU 2024; also see Cosmos 2024,Osborne 2024, Sivasubbu & Scaria 2024, Wilcox 2024). This arguably would imply that snakes became “evolutionary winners” because they evolved “in breakneck pace” (Wilcox 2024), which the senior author of the study explained with the ad hoc hypothesis that “snakes have an evolutionary clock that ticks a lot faster than many other groups of animals, allowing them to diversify and evolve at super quick speeds” (Osborne 2024). Well, that is not an explanation at all, but just a rephrasing of the problem. How could such a super quick evolution be accommodated within the framework of Darwinian population genetics and thus overcome the waiting time problem? After all, the complex re-engineering of a body plan requires coordinated mutations that need time to occur and spread in an ancestral population. Did anybody bother to do the actual math to check if such a proposed supercharged evolution is even feasible, given the available window of time and reasonable parameters for mutation rates, effective population sizes, and generation turnover rates? Of course not. We just have the usual sweeping generalizations and fancy just-so stories.

The Fatal Waiting Time Problem

My prediction is that this will prove to be another good example of the fatal waiting time problem for neo-Darwinism. In any case we can add the origin of snakes to the large number of abrupt appearances in the history of life (Bechly 2024), and I am happy to embrace the name coined by the authors of the new study for this remarkable event: The macroevolutionary singularity of snakes. This does not sound very Darwinian, does it? So, what do the authors suggest as causal explanation? They have none and the press release from Stony Brook University (SBU 2024) therefore concludes with this remarkable admission: “The authors note that the ultimate causes, or triggers, of adaptive radiations is a major mystery in biology. In the case of snakes, it’s likely there were multiple contributing factors, and it may never be possible to fully define each factor and their role in this unique evolutionary process.” It other words, it was a biological Big Bang, and they have no clue what caused it. But of course, it must have been unguided evolution, no intelligence allowed!

Editor’s Note: The evidence shown by snake body form simply appearing fully formed seemingly out of nowhere in the past not only screams creation and not evolution, but is also exactly what we would predict to find from the biblical narrative.

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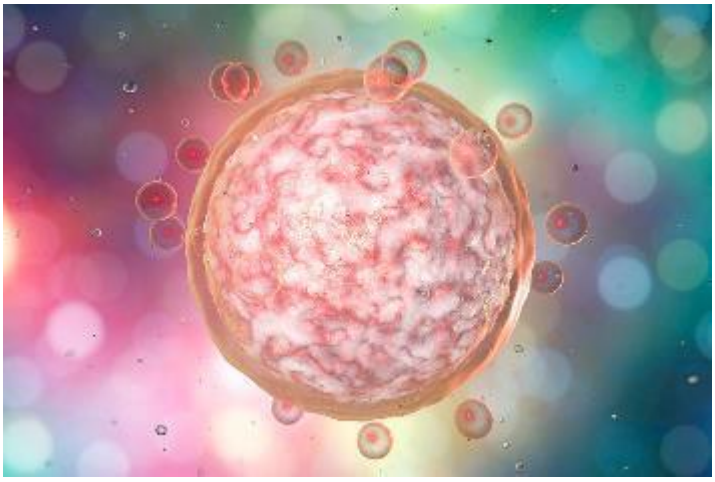


The Exquisite Design of Egg Cells

Jonathan McLatchie, in Evolution News

In two previous articles, I discussed the irreducible complexity of sperm cells and the seminal fluid for successful fertilization. Now, I will review the exquisite design features of a female egg cell (also called an ovum, plural ova)…

Oogenesis
Oogenesis (the process of egg cell formation) begins during embryonic development when the primordial germ cells are specified. These cells migrate to the genital ridges, which later develop into

the female ovaries. Prior to birth, the primordial germ cells undergo mitotic divisions to form oogonia, the precursor cells for eggs. These oogonia transform into primary oocytes, which are diploid cells arrested in prophase I of meiosis. This arrest typically occurs before or shortly following birth.

Primary oocytes are surrounded by somatic cells to form primordial follicles, which go through a process called folliculogenesis, where they develop into primary, secondary and eventually tertiary follicles. As a female reaches sexual maturity, some primary oocytes are activated each menstrual cycle. The activated primary oocyte completes meiotic division I, resulting in the formation of a secondary oocyte and a smaller cell called a polar body (the primary purpose of the polar body is to discard the extra genetic material that is produced during meiosis). However, the secondary oocyte is arrested in metaphase II.

The mature follicle ruptures during ovulation, releasing the secondary oocyte into the fallopian tube. If fertilized by a sperm cell, the secondary oocyte completes meiotic division II, resulting in a mature egg (ovum) and another polar body. If fertilization does not occur, meiosis II is not completed. After ovulation, the remaining follicle transforms into the corpus luteum, which secretes hormones like progesterone to prepare the uterus for a potential pregnancy. If fertilization doesn't happen, the corpus luteum degenerates, resulting in a drop in hormone levels. This triggers menstruation, and the cycle resets.

Fertilization

As I discussed previously, sperm cells swim through the female reproductive tract, directed by the cilia, in addition to chemical signals. Chemicals called chemoattractants are released by the egg cell, and these serve as signaling molecules that generate a concentration gradient. The sperm cell is capable of chemotaxis, a process that results in the sperm cell moving up the concentration gradient, towards higher chemoattractant concentrations. Changes in chemoattractant concentration are detected by specialized receptors on the surface of sperm cells. When an increase in concentration is detected, a signaling cascade is triggered within the cell, which influences the flagellum's beating pattern. Thus, the sperm moves progressively in the direction of the egg — that is, the source of the chemoattractants. As the sperm swims towards the egg, the concentration of chemoattractants is continuously being measured, which allows it to adjust its course in order to fine-tune its movements. Once the sperm gets within close proximity of the egg, it encounters other signaling molecules that further guide the sperm cells and direct it towards the egg's plasma membrane, the site of fertilization.

Upon reaching the egg, the sperm cell encounters the zona pellucida, a glycoprotein rich matrix that surrounds the egg. Sperm-egg recognition begins with the interaction between glycoproteins on both the sperm surface and zona pellucida, thereby guiding the sperm cell towards the egg cell's surface.

In a previous article, I wrote about the acrosome, a specialized structure possessed by sperm cells, which contains enzymes that aid in penetrating the egg's protective barriers. Contact between the sperm and the zona pellucida results in the acrosome undergoing exocytosis, releasing these enzymes. These enzymes help to create a pathway for the sperm to arrive at the plasma membrane of the egg. Once through, fusion occurs between the egg and the sperm's plasma membrane, thereby allowing the sperm's genetic material to come into proximity with the egg's cytoplasm.

Egg Activation

Upon fusion of the plasma membranes of the sperm and egg, various changes are triggered in the egg, collectively referred to as "egg activation." First, the egg's membrane becomes less permeable to other sperm, in order to prevent a single egg from being fertilized by more than one sperm cell. The

fast block to polyspermy involves a change in the electrical properties of the egg's plasma membrane. When the sperm's outer layers are successfully penetrated by the sperm cell, it triggers the release of calcium ions (Ca2+) from intracellular stores in the egg.

The influx of calcium ions serves as a signal to initiate changes in the egg's membrane potential. Ion channels on the egg's membrane are opened, and facilitate the entry of sodium ions (Na+). The consequence is that the egg's plasma membrane depolarizes. Normally, the egg's membrane is maintained at a negative resting potential. However, the influx of positive sodium ions neutralizes this negative potential, making the membrane potential less negative. The altered membrane potential makes it more difficult for other sperm to initiate the fusion process, and thereby creates a temporary electrical barrier that inhibits additional sperm from fusing with the egg. Depolarization is a temporary phenomenon. After a brief period, the egg membrane potential is restored to its normal resting state (often referred to as "resetting" the egg).

A secondary defense against polyspermy is known as the slow block, or the "cortical reaction." As calcium ions are released upon fertilization, this triggers the exocytosis of cortical granules, located just beneath the egg's plasma membrane, containing enzymes. The glycoproteins in the zona pellucida are cross-linked by these enzymes, and this results in the hardening of the zona pellucida, reducing its permeability. The modified zona pellucida forms a structure called the "fertilization envelope," which surrounds the egg, forming a barrier that physically blocks additional sperm from gaining access to the egg's surface.

Changes also take place in the egg cell that promote the completion of meiosis and initiate early embryonic development. The genetic material of the sperm and egg, consisting of a single set of chromosomes each (23 chromosomes in humans), combine to form a diploid cell called the zygote, which contains the full set of chromosomes needed to develop a new individual. This instantly determines gender, eye and hair color, and many other traits.

After fertilization has occurred, the zygote begins to undergo a series of rapid cell divisions through a process called cleavage. This results in the development of a multicellular embryo, which travels through the fallopian tube towards the uterus. Eventually, it arrives at the uterus and attaches to the uterine lining in a process called implantation.

An Exquisite Design

As one can see from the foregoing discussion, the development of an egg cell and its activation in response to encountering a sperm cell exhibit exquisite design, being contingent upon multiple mutually dependent processes, all of which are needed for successful reproduction. When considered in conjunction with the incredible engineering features of the sperm cell and the seminal fluid (discussed in previous articles), it would seem to put the thesis of design almost beyond question.

JONATHAN MCLATCHIE, RESIDENT BIOLOGIST & FELLOW, CENTER FOR SCIENCE AND CULTURE

“Answers for Life” series at Calvary Chapel this coming year.

We thank all of those who joined us in the fall at Calvary Chapel Jesus is the Way.

We will be back starting the fourth Tuesday in January with our **"Answers for Life"** series.

Below is the schedule of live multimedia programs for 2025

January 2025 - **"Where did Cain get his Wife?; Races, Racism, & Babel”**
February 2025 - “**Did we Evolve from Apes?"**
March 2025 - **"Doesn't Distant Starlight prove the Bible Wrong?"**
April 2025 - **"What about Contradictions in the Bible?"**

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

Genesis Commentary

Dinah and the Shechemites

Genesis 34 Now Dinah, the daughter Leah had borne to Jacob, went out to visit the women of the land. [2] When Shechem son of Hamor the Hivite, the ruler of that area, saw her, he took her and raped her. [3] His heart was drawn to Dinah daughter of Jacob; he loved the young woman and spoke tenderly to her. [4] And Shechem said to his father Hamor, “Get me this girl as my wife.” Not the way to court a girl!

[5] When Jacob heard that his daughter Dinah had been defiled, his sons were in the fields with his livestock; so he did nothing about it until they came home. Is he being circumspect and wise here or afraid and overly cautious?

[6] Then Shechem’s father Hamor went out to talk with Jacob. [7] Meanwhile, Jacob’s sons had come in from the fields as soon as they heard what had happened. They were shocked and furious, because Shechem had done an outrageous thing in (or against) Israel (Jacob) by sleeping with Jacob’s daughter—a thing that should not be done.

[8] But Hamor said to them, “My son Shechem has his heart set on your daughter. Please give her to him as his wife. [9] Intermarry with us; give us your daughters and take our daughters for yourselves. [10] You can settle among us; the land is open to you. Live in it, trade[b] in it, and acquire property in it.”

[11] Then Shechem said to Dinah’s father and brothers, “Let me find favor in your eyes, and I will give you whatever you ask. [12] Make the price for the bride and the gift I am to bring as great as you like, and I’ll pay whatever you ask me. Only give me the young woman as my wife.”

[13] Because their sister Dinah had been defiled, Jacob’s sons replied deceitfully as they spoke to Shechem and his father Hamor. [14] They said to them, “We can’t do such a thing; we can’t give our sister to a man who is not circumcised. That would be a disgrace to us. [15] We will enter into an agreement with you on one condition only: that you become like us by circumcising all your

males. [16] Then we will give you our daughters and take your daughters for ourselves. We'll settle among you and become one people with you. [17] But if you will not agree to be circumcised, we'll take our sister and go."

[18] Their proposal seemed good to Hamor and his son Shechem. [19] The young man, who was the most honored of all his father's family, lost no time in doing what they said, because he was delighted with Jacob's daughter. [20] So Hamor and his son Shechem went to the gate of their city to speak to the men of their city. [21] "These men are friendly toward us," they said. "Let them live in our land and trade in it; the land has plenty of room for them. We can marry their daughters and they can marry ours. [22] But the men will agree to live with us as one people only on the condition that our males be circumcised, as they themselves are. [23] Won't their livestock, their property and all their other animals become ours? So let us agree to their terms, and they will settle among us."

[24] All the men who went out of the city gate agreed with Hamor and his son Shechem, and every male in the city was circumcised.

[25] Three days later, while all of them were still in pain, two of Jacob's sons, Simeon and Levi, Dinah's brothers, took their swords and attacked the unsuspecting city, killing every male. [26] They put Hamor and his son Shechem to the sword and took Dinah from Shechem's house and left. [27] The sons of Jacob came upon the dead bodies and looted the city where their sister had been defiled. [28] They seized their flocks and herds and donkeys and everything else of theirs in the city and out in the fields. [29] They carried off all their wealth and all their women and children, taking as plunder everything in the houses.

The agreement to circumcision was a ruse to disable the men of Hamor so they could be easily killed, and vengeance taken. This whole episode gives us a dark look into men's souls.

[30] Then Jacob said to Simeon and Levi, "You have brought trouble on me by making me obnoxious to the Canaanites and Perizzites, the people living in this land. We are few in number, and if they join forces against me and attack me, I and my household will be destroyed."

[31] But they replied, "Should he have treated our sister like a prostitute?"

Again Jacob's (Israel's) heart is to be questioned here as to whether he was making deals with devils to save his own hide. Should the brothers have forgiven and moved on as Jacob seemed to be able to do? Or was Jacob's response one compromised to the situation and devoid of following God's morality?

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

630KSLR
The Word In South Texas

Here is our schedule of upcoming program topics

11/2 **Climate Change from a Christian Perspective**
11/9 **Mt. St. Helen's Creation Center**
11/16 **Biblical Inerrancy**
11/23 **Biblical Archaeology**
11/30 **Meteorite and Comet Impacts**
12/7 **Am I made Out of Stardust?**
12/14 **Biblical Prophecies of Christ**
12/21 **Is Christmas a Pagan Holiday?**
12/28 **Angels in Scripture**
1/4/25 **Dr. Jan Lohmeyer - Teaching Apologetics**
1/11/25 **Dr. Jan Lohmeyer- Unaware Church**

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

Alpha Omega Institute on Texas Tour

Dave and Mary Jo Nutting who founded the Alpha Omega Institute 40 years ago will be doing a tour of Texas with presentations in Houston, San Antonio and Dallas November 7 -15. Here is their itinerary.

Thursday, Nov 7: Live Streamed Presentation for the **Greater Houston Creation Association**

Sunday, Nov 10: Cibolo Valley Baptist, Schertz, TX – Speaking at both their 9 am and 11:30 services as well as to their Youth in Sunday School at 10:15.

Monday, Nov 11: Three separate presentations at **The Christian School at Castle Hills.**

Tuesday, Nov 12: SABBSA at Faith Lutheran Church (see our last page for details)

Thursday, Nov 14: 9:00 AM: Speak for **ICR Chapel in Dallas**. 7:00 PM: Speak at **MIOS**

Friday, Nov 15: Visit the **ICR Discovery Center** and staff

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.

Prayer Needs and Praises!

- Pray for spiritual healing in our nation and our elected officials.
- Pray for SABBSA's Public Seminars
- Pray for our Radio Ministry and its expansion
- Pray for our effectiveness of monthly meetings and speakers
- Pray for the reconstruction of our hacked website.
- Please pray for Mrs. Cindy Williams who is battling cancer.

Coming to SABBSA on the second Tuesday of each month in 2024

November 2024 - **Dave Nutting, Alpha Omega Institute**
December 2024 - **Spike Psarris – Creation Astronomy**
January 2025 - **Gioacchino Cascione - Linguistic Evidence of the Bible as a Self-proving Document**

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 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

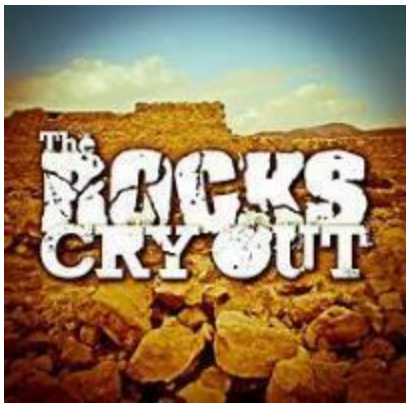
Dallas:

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/

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 Rocks Cry Out - "Lesson 16: The Miracle of Life"



The simplest cell is far too complex to have made itself. In October we saw the amazing intricacies of God's creation in every cell. If you missed our October meeting you can view the video at

https://youtu.be/B4yMCtjFnTE

Next SABBSA Meeting: Tuesday, November 12, 2024, at 7 pm

Coming to SABBSA in November

"Amazing Design Features of Costa Rica" - Dave and Mary Jo Nutting, AOI

Dave and Mary Jo Nutting are the founders of the Alpha Omega Institute in Grand Junction, Colorado. They have spoken internationally on God's creation for more than 40 years.

Costa Rica, with its huge biodiversity, is on the international "travel bucket list." God has placed an amazing, intensely-colored assemblage of plants, insects, and creature features into this small country. They shout out DESIGNED and give us reasons to praise our Creator God! This beautifully-illustrated PowerPoint presentation gives a number of those designed features and explains how the country's unique location, its volcanic activity, and active plate tectonics contribute to the amazing diversity.

This program is appropriate for elementary-aged students through adults, so bring your family and friends to our November meeting!

Please join us in November 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, TX 78247.