

Communique'

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October 2024

Fall is coming! Thank God for that, and for the Earth's design which enable our seasons!

This month's **Communique'** leads off with an excellent article from **CMI's Jonathan Sarfati** who dispels the myth most of us were taught in school that people of Columbus' time believed the earth was flat.

We also have a summary review of a documentary discussion between Eric Metaxas and Dr. John West in how **Darwinian Theory is Racist!**

Next we have an article detailing the **Design Patterns in Biological Cells** which show us not only the intricate designs in living organisms which show a Creator, but also underscores how biological research can be furthered and not hindered by using design-based thinking. This article is a great lead-in to our program at this month's SABBSA meeting showing the "**Miracle of Life**" in every cell!

Finally, we have an article that "fact checks" a recent claim of a "**Monumental**" **Breakthrough in Understanding Life's Origin?**" which turns out to be completely unrealistic and demonstrates that life could never have made itself on this planet.

Our **Genesis Commentary** covers **Genesis 33 - Jacob Meets Esau**. 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.

The Flat Earth Myth by Jonathan Sarfati, CMI

For the last 200 years or so, many anti-Christians have resorted to a scurrilous lie (acting consistently with their worldview): that the early and medieval Christian Church taught that the earth is flat.

One of the most prominent recent examples is probably the most powerful man in the world, the US President Barack Hussein Obama:



“Let me tell you something. If some of these folks [sic] were around when Columbus set sail—[laughter]—they must have been founding members of the Flat Earth Society [laughter]. They would not have believed that the world was round [applause]. We’ve heard these folks in the past.”

Since President Obama also supports infanticide and gay ‘marriage’, which are clearly out of line with biblical teaching, should it be surprising that he would also repeat one of the commonest anti-Christian fables?

What did the early church really teach?

Historian Jeffrey Burton Russell (1934–) thoroughly debunked the flat earth myth over 20 years ago in his definitive study *Inventing the Flat Earth*....

“There never was a period of ‘flat earth darkness’ among scholars (regardless of how the public at large may have conceptualized our planet both then and now). Greek knowledge of sphericity never faded, and all major medieval scholars accepted the earth’s roundness as an established fact of cosmology.”

Russell showed that flat-earth belief was extremely rare in the Church. The flat earth’s two main proponents were obscure figures named Lactantius (c. 240 – c. 320) and Cosmas Indicopleustes (6th century; the last name means “voyager to India”). However, they were hugely outweighed by tens of thousands of Christian theologians, poets, artists, scientists, and rulers who unambiguously affirmed that the earth was round. Russell documents accounts supporting earth’s sphericity from numerous medieval church scholars such as friar Roger Bacon (1220–1292), inventor of spectacles; leading medieval scientists such as John Buridan (1301–1358) and Nicholas Oresme (1320–1382); the monk John of Sacrobosco (c. 1195–c. 1256) who wrote *Treatise on the Sphere*, and many more.

One of the best-known proponents of a globe-shaped earth was the early English monk, theologian and historian, the Venerable Bede (673–735), who popularized the common BC/ AD dating system. Less well known was that he was also a leading astronomer of his day.

In his book *On the Reckoning of Time* (*De temporum ratione*), among other things he calculated the creation of the world to be in 3952 BC, showed how to calculate the date of Easter, and explicitly taught that the earth was round. From this, he showed why the length of days and nights changed with the seasons, and how tides were dragged by the moon. Bede was the first with this insight, while Galileo explained the tides wrongly centuries later.

Here is what Bede said about the shape of the earth—round “like a ball” not “like a shield”:

“We call the earth a globe, not as if the shape of a sphere were expressed in the diversity of plains and mountains, but because, if all things are included in the outline, the earth’s circumference will represent the figure of a perfect globe. ... For truly it is an orb placed in the center of the universe; in its width it is like a circle, and not circular like a shield but rather like a ball, and it extends from its center with perfect roundness on all sides.”

And the leading church theologian and philosopher of the Middle Ages, Thomas Aquinas (1225–1274), wrote in his greatest work *Summa Theologica/Theologiae*:

“The physicist proves the earth to be round by one means, the astronomer by another: for the latter proves this by means of mathematics, e.g. by the shapes of eclipses, or something of the sort; while the former proves it by means of physics, e.g. by the movement of heavy bodies towards the center, and so forth.”

Orbs of medieval rulers



Figure 1: Henry III, Holy Roman Emperor (1017–1056), being presented with the orb of kingship.wikimedia.org

As early as the 5th century, medieval European kings carried a symbol called the globus cruciger, Latin for ‘cross-bearing orb’, as a Christian symbol of royal power. The orb, usually a golden sphere, represented the earth—hang on, a sphere representing a flat earth—something’s wrong here ... oh that’s right, it was a spherical earth. It was topped by a cross to symbolize Christ’s lordship over the earth, and held by the ruler to symbolize that he had been entrusted to rule his lands. In medieval portraits, the scale didn’t indicate physical size but importance, hence the large size of the cross.

Indeed, there are many pictures portraying Christ Himself holding the orb, the classic Salvator Mundi (Savior of the World) theme.

Why did people oppose Columbus?

The above demonstrates that Columbus (1451–1506) was never opposed by flat earthers, simply because there were none to oppose him, among either church or political leaders. So, what was the real issue?

Columbus was trying to reach India by sea, the ‘long way’ around the earth. But to do that, his ships had to carry enough provisions for the length of the journey. He had learned that the 9th-century Persian astronomer Alfraganus had estimated each degree of latitude spanned “56 $\frac{2}{3}$ miles”. But Columbus thought Alfraganus meant the Roman mile (1,480 m, 4,856 ft), whereas he was using the Arabic mile (1,830 m, 6,004 ft). Thus, Columbus thought that the earth’s circumference was only about $\frac{3}{4}$ of its actual length of about 40,000 km (25,000 miles). Columbus also greatly underestimated the distance between Japan and the Canary Islands as 3,000 Italian miles (3,700 km or 2,300 miles), whereas the distance by sea is more like 19,600 km (12,200 miles).

It was thus the size of the earth, not the shape, that was under dispute. His critics argued that ships of his day (1492) could not carry enough fresh water and food for such a huge journey. And they were right! Columbus was just lucky that an enormous continent was in the way. He knew nothing of previous Viking discoveries centuries earlier. And he still thought he had landed in the East Indies, the then-current name for the Indian subcontinent. The results of his mistake persist today, in the common name for the Native Americans—‘Indians’, a translation of Columbus’ Spanish term ‘indios’.

Sailors

An example of the misinformation in the 'education' system comes from the 20th-century high-school history textbook *The American Pageant* by Thomas Bailey. Many of its editions claimed, "The superstitious sailors [of Columbus' crew] ... grew increasingly mutinous ... because they were fearful of sailing over the edge of the world."

However, sailors were well aware of the shape of the earth. One myth states that people realized that the earth was round because they saw ships slowly sinking below the horizon. But before telescopes, it was more likely the other way round: sailors returning to land saw high mountains before lowlands.

Also, sailors from the northern hemisphere crossed the equator well before Christ, and reported that in the South, the sun shone from the north. They also knew how to measure their latitude from the angle of the sun at noon, which works only with a spherical earth.

The rise of the Flat Earth lie

The above are the facts about Columbus. The much-parroted flat-earth myth about him comes not from history but from the tales of Washington Irving (1783–1859), *The Life and Voyages of Christopher Columbus* (1828). Irving was probably America's first genuine best-selling writer, but he admitted that he was "apt to indulge in the imagination." Flat-earth belief was certainly a figment of his imagination.

It was bad enough that this myth entered the public perception thanks to Irving's wide readership. But it became worse when it acquired the veneer of scholarship, so it could be used as a club with which to bash Christianity. The main propagandists for this cause were the notorious 19th century anti-Christian bigots John William Draper (1811–1882) and Andrew Dickson White (1832–1918). Draper, a fine chemist and photographer—first president of the American Chemical Society—but a lousy historian, wrote *History of the Conflict between Religion and Science* (1874) as a poorly informed polemic against the Church. White was a disgruntled ex-Episcopalian and the founder of Cornell University as the first explicitly secular university in the United States. He also published the two-volume work *History of the Warfare of Science with Theology in Christendom* (1896).

Both authors relied heavily on the work of Cosmas, portraying his flat-earth teaching as typical rather than the almost forgotten, extreme minority view that it was. And they are the ones most responsible for the discredited 'conflict thesis' between Christianity and science, instead of the real history that the Christian worldview was responsible for science in the first place, while it was still-born in other places like ancient Greece and China.

Colin Archibald Russell (1928–2013), Emeritus Professor of History of Science and Technology at the Open University, writes:

"Draper takes such liberty with history, perpetuating legends as fact that he is rightly avoided today in serious historical study. The same is nearly as true of White, though his prominent apparatus of prolific footnotes may create a misleading impression of meticulous scholarship."

Both J.B. Russell and Gould argue that Draper and White had an agenda to discredit Christians who opposed the then-new theories of Darwin as 'flat earthers'. Nothing much has changed!

Flat earth leader is an evolutionist

Although hardly anyone in the Church has ever believed the flat earth myth, “Incredibly, some people still do,” wrote Natalie Wolchover in Live Science last year:

“The Flat Earth Society is an active organization currently led by a Virginian man named Daniel Shenton. Though Shenton believes in evolution and global warming, he and his hundreds, if not thousands, of followers worldwide also believe that the Earth is a disc that you can fall off of.”

So next time an evolutionist calls you a ‘flat-earther’, point out that the leading flat-earther is one of his fellow evolutionists!

Lunar eclipse

Ancient proof of round earth

6257time-lapse-photos-of-the-moon



Figure 2: Time-lapse photos of the moon during a lunar eclipse, clearly showing the circular shadow produced by the ball-shaped earth.

The ancient Greeks well before Christ, had realized that the earth is a globe by observing lunar eclipses. They realized that at such times, the earth was between the moon and the sun, and it always cast a circular shadow, regardless of the direction, which proves that it’s a globe (see Fig. 2). For example, the famous philosopher Aristotle (384–322 BC) said:

“Either then the earth is spherical, or it is at least naturally spherical. And it is right to call anything that which nature intends it to be, and which belongs to it, rather than which it is by constraint and contrary to nature. The evidence of the senses further corroborates this. How else would eclipses of the moon show segments shaped as we see them? As it is, the shapes which the moon itself each month shows are of every kind—straight, gibbous, and concave—but in eclipses the outline is always curved: and, since it is the interposition of the earth that makes the eclipse, the form of this line will be caused by the form of the earth’s surface, which is therefore spherical.”

This lines up with the Bible: Isaiah 40:22 tells us that God “sits above the circle of the earth”. Indeed, the Hebrew word כִּוּן (khûg) implies ball-shaped, just as Bede taught about 1,400 years after Isaiah.¹⁴

Summary

Almost all the early and medieval church scholars who commented on the earth’s shape explicitly said it was round.

Medieval European rulers used a golden sphere, or orb called the globus cruciger to represent the earth under Christ’s rule.

Columbus’s opponents never disputed the shape of the earth, but only its size—and they were right!

The flat earth myth began with a fictional account of Columbus in the 19th century by Washington Irving. Then it was aggressively pushed in influential anti-Christian polemics by Draper and White.

A final irony: the leading flat-earther today is an evolutionist...

[Ed. note: Several atheopaths have attacked both Isaiah and Bede because the earth is not a perfect sphere, although even Bede understood that it has irregularities “similar to a potato” such as mountains and deep-sea trenches. But he realized that this tiny deviation from sphericity that it was reasonable to call the earth a sphere. Also, long after Bede, it was predicted then discovered that the earth is an oblate spheroid, i.e. flattened at the poles. In reality, ‘sphere’ is a very good approximation for the shape of the earth, not an error. Most astronomers today are OK with calling the earth a ‘globe’ or ‘sphere’, knowing full well that it’s an approximation. So, the same allowance should be made for the Bible. Actually, Sir Isaac Newton, a creationist, was the one who first predicted oblateness from the earth’s rotation.

Simple arithmetic should demonstrate how vacuous and desperate this objection is. The earth’s equatorial radius is 6,378.1 km, while its polar radius is 6,356.8 km. The deepest point in the ocean, Challenger Deep, is 10,916 m deep— <0.2% deviation from sphericity. Ever seen a potato, or even a rubber ball, this spherical? Also, the oblateness, given that the difference between polar and equatorial radii is only 21.3 km, is only 0.3% deviation from a sphere.

In most usages, there are degrees of perfection or accuracy. The earth is a perfect sphere down to about 0.3%, which is perfect enough for most people. Scale this down to the size of some playing balls: if a ball were 63.781 mm in one radius and 63.568 mm in a perpendicular radius, one could safely call its shape a ‘globe’ or ‘sphere’. It would take a sharp eye indeed to notice that a ~6½-cm ball bulged a bit in the middle, by merely a fifth of a millimeter.]

For the full article with references go to

https://creation.com/flat-earth-myth?utm_campaign=infobytes_us&utm_content=%5BDigest%5D%20It%20all%20points%20back%20to%20God&utm_medium=email&utm_source=mailing.creation.com&utm_term=Fortnightly%20Digest%20-%202024.08.23

West, Metaxas: Face It, Darwinian Theory Is Itself Racist

By David Klinghoffer

Let’s be candid. It’s not just that Darwinian theory has had racists among its proponents. The theory itself is racist, with many evil stains on its conscience that follow straight from that fact, as any honest evolutionist would have to admit. You could cite the writing of Darwin himself, the disturbing illustrations of human evolution offered by his German disciple Ernst Haeckel, the “human zoos” of the early-20th-century United States, leading right up to the theory’s complicity in justifying the Final Solution.

But it’s more than that. As John West and Eric Metaxas emphasize in a new Socrates in the Studio episode, this malign record is no mere inexplicable aberration from an otherwise innocent scientific theory. The legacy is not a mistake, or a byproduct of the unenlightened past. It is quite explicable. It follows logically from Darwinian thinking itself, especially as reflected in *The Descent of Man*.



[Ota Benga](#), a human exhibit, in 1906. Age, 23 years. Height, 4 feet 11 inches (150 cm). Weight, 103 pounds (47 kg). Brought from the Kasai River, Congo Free State, South Central Africa, by Dr. Samuel P. Verner. Exhibited each afternoon during September. — *according to a sign outside the primate house at the [Bronx Zoo](#), September 1906.*^[27]

A Straightforward Reading

As Dr. West notes, a straightforward reading of that book indicates “you should expect dramatic differences” among races. After all, natural selection operates differently in different environments — say, in Africa as opposed to Scandinavia. It’s an inevitable prediction of evolution (very different from Judeo-Christian tradition, or from intelligent design) that the human races would be unequal. And given that, why wouldn’t you also expect that one race is closest of all to our ape cousins? What would be surprising is if there weren’t such a race. Darwin and the Darwinists saw that clearly, and the notorious human zoos at the St. Louis World’s Fair and the Bronx Zoo, in 1904 and 1906 respectively, were simply seeking to educate the public about the implications of evolutionary biology.

In the midst of this video Metaxas asks a very good question: Today’s evolutionists (or most of them, beyond those on the demented far right) dismiss racist views. But in keeping with their Darwinism, how can they do this? What is their rationale? Do they have one that makes any sense? Metaxas mentions that he’s familiar with how Hitler’s Nazis applied an evolutionary lens in their ideology. He covers that in his book *Bonhoeffer*, For still more background, watch John West’s awarding-winning documentary **Human Zoos**. It’s an in-depth look at this disturbing and typically covered-up thread from the history of “consensus science”.

Review Article Explores Design Patterns in Biological Cells

by Emily Reeves, Center for Science and Culture

An excellent review article, “Design Patterns of Biological Cells,” published earlier this year in *BioEssays*, shows that design patterns are “generalized solutions to recurring problems.” (Andrews, Wiley, and Sauro 2024) The theory of intelligent design (ID), which suggests that certain aspects of nature are better explained by intelligent agency than by law-like regularities and chance events, predicts design patterns in nature. This is because design patterns are technically derived solutions — derived by designers — to challenges encountered within the design space.

The authors review three types of design patterns. For each, I’ll pick one subcategory and flesh it out in a bit more detail. I will then turn to discussing how each design pattern requires direct actions of an intelligent agent. Here are the three categories:

“Creational” describes recurring patterns for building components of the cell.

“Structural” describes interconnections or relationships between objects in the cell.

“Behavioral” describes the behavior of cellular objects through time.

Creational Design Patterns

Andrews et al. identify five subcategories for creational design patterns. The first of these subcategories is templating. Cells need to maintain the information in DNA and prevent it from being corrupted by time and chance. The solution to this problem is templating where the original information is faithfully templated or copied. Templating in the cell includes DNA replication, transcription, and translation. Templating points to an intelligent agent behind its design because it requires comprehension of the forces imposed by the laws of physics and chemistry that would need to be overcome to preserve information. Templating also requires foresight to imagine a solution, inventing irreducibly complex molecular machines like DNA polymerase, RNA polymerase, and the ribosome. Finally, templating requires creation of the information itself, the physical DNA code for the polymerases and ribosomes.

Structural Design Patterns

Structural patterns are design patterns based on object-to-object relationships. For structural patterns, Andrews et al. identify six subcategories. Of these, the third is common currency.

Across cells, there are many common metabolites, including common storage forms of energy, such as ATP. Traditionally, this has been attributed to common ancestry, but there is a critical design-based reason for it. Using a common currency simplifies interactions between objects. For example, it's easier to fill up your car with gasoline when gasoline is a common currency because no matter where you travel, other people need gasoline for their cars, and so chances are you will find it for sale. Here's another example: It is easier to buy groceries with a common currency, such as the U.S. dollar, because you don't have to stop and exchange your money before making a purchase, likely paying a fee for doing so.

Cells face similar constraints. They rely on certain producers of energy at certain times and incur a cost for energy interconversions. Thus, ATP is likely a designed solution to the aforementioned requirements. Andrews et al. point out that the topological pattern of common currency has a “bow tie” architecture. In this type of architecture, many nutrients are turned into a common currency (the knot) which can then expand to accomplish many different things. This design motif requires an intelligent agent because the goals of the ecosystem and organisms must be evaluated before coming up with a currency that can work between lower-level objects. This entails an understanding of how everything will interrelate and what is possible in the design space of physics and chemistry, followed by planning and implementation. Only an intelligent agent has these capabilities, which are not accessible to random processes.

Behavioral Design Patterns

Behavioral design patterns focus on the dynamics of reaction networks. Andrews et al. identify eight such patterns. For example, there is switching, which occurs when a continuum of input needs to be converted into a discrete output. The most common ways of accomplishing this are by using ultrasensitivity or bistability.

Ultrasensitive switches facilitate a sharp threshold response, ensuring that the system is fully in one state or the other, rather than in an intermediate state. This can be accomplished in different ways. A classic example of ultrasensitivity in biology is the necessary switch of hemoglobin from binding oxygen in the lungs to releasing it in the muscles. This is performed through the allosteric design of hemoglobin. When the partial pressure of oxygen is high (in the lungs), binding of one molecule of oxygen makes binding of the next oxygen molecule easier. Importantly, when one plots the percentage of hemoglobin bound to oxygen versus the partial pressure of oxygen, the curve is sigmoidal, not hyperbolic. The sigmoidal shape tells us that in the lungs, binding of oxygen is easier after the first molecule binds and release of oxygen becomes easier in the muscle after the first molecule is let go.

Ultrasensitivity, represented by that sigmoidal curve, can be accomplished in another way. Suppose there is a phosphorylation-dephosphorylation cycle where the kinase and phosphatase are working at saturation levels and have rate constants that are independent of the concentration of their substrates. Although it isn't abundantly clear until this is plotted graphically, the response is also ultrasensitive, i.e., sigmoidal. Given those conditions, the cycle can switch sharply between being almost entirely in one state to being almost entirely in the other state. (Ferrell and Ha 2014b)

Another way ultrasensitivity works is by having multiple phosphorylation sites on a kinase where the kinase isn't active until the final phosphorylation, and each successive phosphorylation is a little bit easier than the prior one. (Ferrell and Ha 2014a)

Yet another example is concentration-based inhibition. Here, a tightly bound inhibitor might prevent enzyme activity, up until the enzyme concentration surpasses that of the inhibitor. At that point the enzyme is no longer inhibited, leading to a sudden switch.

A final and somewhat different example is positive feedback. This occurs more frequently in developmental networks than in sensory networks. Why is that the case? Positive feedback slows response time, which is advantageous for multistage processes that are time-consuming or include delays. Slower response times can also help reduce noise, which is critical when making irreversible decisions. However, positive regulation can accomplish more than just that. Positive regulation can make sharp decisions between two states and remembering those decisions for a long time, a phenomenon known as bistability. Consider positive feedback in gene regulation: once a gene is activated by positive autoregulation, it is locked ON. The gene will remain elevated even after the input has disappeared, providing long-term memory that the input existed. This type of switching is employed during development to make irreversible decisions that commit a cell to a specific fate. (Alon 2019)

Why does the switching design motif point to intelligence? Designing an effective switch requires understanding the system and what needs to be controlled — what needs to be turned on or off at what time? Considering whether control should be manual or automated is needed. Additionally, building appropriate switches requires knowledge about safety. Switching is also often necessary in sequential operations. The type of switch, the sensitivity of the switch, the construction of the switch, and the switch's compatibility must all be thought through ahead of time. Each switch functions a certain way in the system such that it appears to “know” or “anticipate” other switch behavior so that more complex behavior can be produced.

Why Study These Design Patterns?

It is useful to compile a list of solutions that cells utilize to solve specific problems. Design patterns abstract a broad range of cell functions into a manageable set of distinct patterns connected to the functions they serve by showing how they solve certain problems. Looking at these, as we did with the example of the different ways ultrasensitivity is currently known to be accomplished, provides a deeper understanding of why cellular mechanisms operate the way that they do. Accordingly, design patterns in cells also provide an outstanding illustration of how design-based thinking can further our understanding of biology.

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Fact Check: A “Monumental” Breakthrough in Understanding Life’s Origin?

Excerpted from an article by Brian

Miller

Leading origin-of-life researcher Gerald Joyce recently published a scientific paper in PNAS, “RNA-catalyzed evolution of catalytic RNA,” that purportedly showcases a breakthrough that he and his team achieved in understanding how life could have originated through natural processes. The Washington Post describes the research in an article titled “**“Monumental” experiment suggests how life on Earth may have started.**”

Unfortunately, the lauding of Joyce’s research in this and similar puff pieces is pure hype. Joyce’s results only further demonstrate the absolute necessity of intelligent agency in life’s origin.

RNA World Hypothesis

The investigators generated the polymerases at each step by linking nucleotides using the machinery of modern cells. The latest polymerase is 182 nucleotides in length. Yet RNA composed of even a few dozen nucleotides could not have emerged on the early Earth since nucleotides would far more likely have bound to other molecules than to each other (here, here).

Joyce's team, not nature, selected after each round of modifications the polymerases that best performed the target function.

The replication process required careful orchestration of the experimental conditions including adjustments in temperature and the addition of the right supporting molecules at the right time. All such experiments require precise protocols.

Gerald Joyce's latest research conclusively overturns the RNA World hypothesis. It demonstrates that the origin of RNA that can copy other RNA requires starting with conditions that could never have occurred on the early Earth and enacting carefully orchestrated experimental procedures that would have no parallel in nature. His team had to employ the molecular machinery of modern cells to constantly create new RNA, and they had to select and copy those RNA that performed target functions. Even after over ten years of carefully engineering an RNA that could copy other RNAs, that RNA could only effectively copy RNAs that broke apart other RNAs. It could not copy itself with sufficient accuracy for functional copiers to persist for more than a few generations. Joyce's results demonstrate that no evolving systems of RNAs could ever have existed. Leading origins researcher Lee Cronin would likely classify any claim that such research could help explain life's origin as a "scam."

"Answers for Life" series at Calvary Chapel this coming year.

We thank all of those who joined us for the "Rocks Cry Out" Series at Calvary Chapel Jesus is the Way this past year.

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

Below is the schedule of live multimedia programs for 2024-2025



September 24, 2024 - **"Is there a God and Do I have a purpose?"**

October 29, 2024 (note 5th Tuesday this month only) - **"Why is there Pain and Suffering and Why Do bad Things happen to Good People?"**

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

Jacob Meets Esau

Genesis 33 Jacob looked up and there was Esau, coming with his four hundred men; so he divided the children among Leah, Rachel and the two female servants. ² He put the female servants and their children in front, Leah and her children next, and Rachel and Joseph in the rear. ³ He himself went on ahead and bowed down to the ground seven times as he approached his brother. **(He was scared to death for himself and his family).**

⁴ But Esau ran to meet Jacob and embraced him; he threw his arms around his neck and kissed him. And they wept. ⁵ Then Esau looked up and saw the women and children. “Who are these with you?” he asked.

Jacob answered, “They are the children God has graciously given your servant.”

⁶ Then the female servants and their children approached and bowed down. ⁷ Next, Leah and her children came and bowed down. Last of all came Joseph and Rachel, and they too bowed down.

⁸ Esau asked, “What’s the meaning of all these flocks and herds I met?”

“To find favor in your eyes, my lord,” he said.

⁹ But Esau said, “I already have plenty, my brother. Keep what you have for yourself.”

¹⁰ “No, please!” said Jacob. “If I have found favor in your eyes, accept this gift from me. For to see your face is like seeing the face of God, now that you have received me favorably. ¹¹ Please accept the present that was brought to you, for God has been gracious to me and I have all I need.” And because Jacob insisted, Esau accepted it.

¹² Then Esau said, “Let us be on our way; I’ll accompany you.”

¹³ But Jacob said to him, “My lord knows that the children are tender and that I must care for the ewes and cows that are nursing their young. If they are driven hard just one day, all the animals will die. ¹⁴ So let my lord go on ahead of his servant, while I move along slowly at the pace of the flocks and herds before me and the pace of the children, until I come to my lord in Seir.”

¹⁵ Esau said, “Then let me leave some of my men with you.”

“But why do that?” Jacob asked. “Just let me find favor in the eyes of my lord.”

Notice how suspicious and afraid Jacob, now Israel, is of his brother because of all the intrigue and bad blood between them in the past. Esau responded with loving and brotherly kindness as we all should and much to the surprise of Israel.

¹⁶ So that day Esau started on his way back to Seir. ¹⁷ Jacob, however, went to Sukkoth, where he built a place for himself and made shelters for his livestock. That is why the place is called Sukkoth (means “shelters”).

¹⁸ After Jacob came from Paddan Aram, he arrived safely at the city of Shechem in Canaan and camped within sight of the city. ¹⁹ For a hundred pieces of silver, **(Hebrew= hundred kesitahs; a kesitah was a unit of money of unknown weight and value)** he bought from the sons of Hamor, the father of Shechem, the plot of ground where he pitched his tent. ²⁰ There he set up

an altar and called it **El Elohe Israel**. (El Elohe Israel can mean El is the God of Israel or mighty is the God of Israel.)

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.**

Here is our schedule of upcoming program topics

10/5 **Dr. Joe DeWeese #1**
10/12 **Dr. Joe DeWeese #2**
10/19 **Squid Octopus Alien DNA**
10/26 **Halloween Origin**
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**](#)

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.

CREATIONWISE



Prayer Needs and Praises!

- Pray for spiritual healing in our nation and the upcoming elections.
- 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

October 2024 - "Lesson 16: The Miracle of Life"

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:

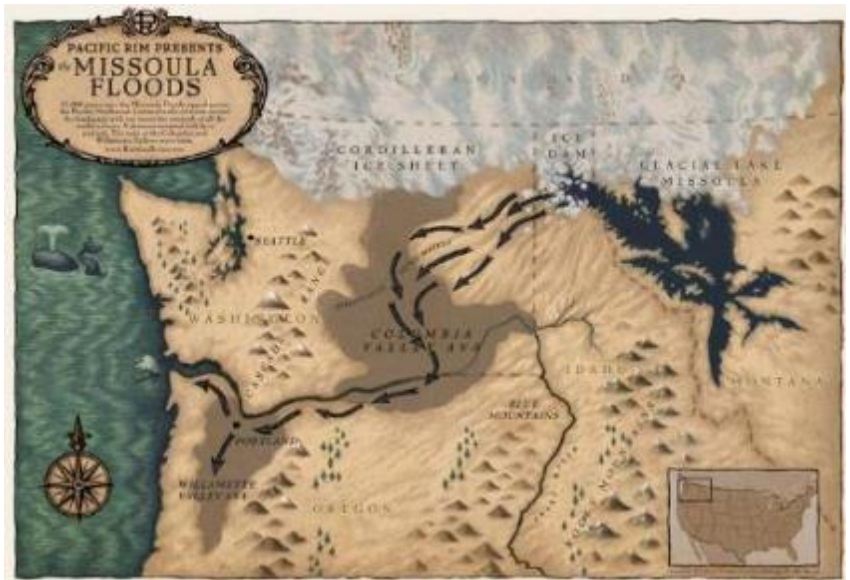
Of course, the **ICR Discovery Center for Science and Earth History** is the foremost creation history museum in the Southwest. They are open from 10am to 5 pm Tuesdays through Saturdays. For more information on this exceptional facility go to <https://discoverycenter.icr.org/>

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 - The Missoula Flood"

In September we saw how this enormous flood restructured Eastern Washington and rapidly carved the Columbia River valley. This remnant flood was a result of the worldwide deluge. It gave us a glimpse of the awesome magnitude and power of that world changing event as well as evidence of the deluge as real history.



Next SABBSA Meeting: Tuesday, October 8, 2024, at 7 pm

Coming to SABBSA in October

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

The simplest cell is far too complex to have made itself. Join us in October as we see the amazing intricacies of God's creation in every cell.

Please join us in October 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 Maltzberger and Thousand Oaks**. The address is 14819 Jones Maltzberger Rd., San Antonio, TX 78247.

