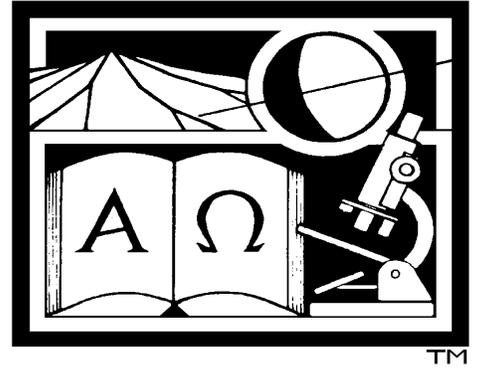


Origins Insights

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE
CREATION SCIENCE FELLOWSHIP



January 2002

WELCOME TO CSF 2002

by Bob Harsh

Happy New Year. This will be a busy year for CSF. In about a year and a half we will be hosting ICC #5. All of the abstracts are in and now the authors will be busy finishing their research and writing their papers. As the papers come in, the Editors will be sending them out to be reviewed. Some will make it through the first time while others will be encouraged to make improvements in their papers.

We will be having meetings each third Tuesday at 7:30 again. Please feel free to make suggestions as to speakers and topics you would like to hear. Many hours of preparation are devoted to each presentation so if you know of any other groups who may like to hear one of our speakers, they would be more than happy to share their programs with other audiences.

I will continue to write articles each month. If you have suggestions for articles, please let me know. I devote many hours developing each article and would be happy with any feedback that you may have. I hear more often from people outside the Pittsburgh area so I know that at least a few people are reading my articles. I continue to write because I believe the Creation Movement is so impor-

MEETING INFORMATION

TOPIC: ICONS OF EVOLUTION

PRESENTER: BOB HARSH

Science: The process of finding out the truth about nature. Science should not be based on subjective story telling but on objective truth. Scientific explanations must be tested against the real natural world.

In 2000 Jonathan Wells wrote a very important book that has greatly irritated evolutionism's adherents. Wells reported on the ten most commonly cited proofs of Darwinian evolution.

On January 15 Bob Harsh will explain four of the ten icons of evolution. These icons are put forth in most Biology textbooks as the strongest evidence for the validity of evolution. There is one major problem. Each icon is based more on wishful hoping rather than on empirical evidence. The first four icons will be discussed at our January meeting and the other six will be Bob Harsh's topic at our February meeting.

FOUR ICONS OF EVOLUTION

#1 A laboratory flask containing a simulation of the earth's primitive atmosphere, in which electric sparks produce the chemical building-blocks of living cells.

#2 The evolutionary tree of life, reconstructed from a large and growing body of fossil and molecular evidence.

#3 Similar bone structures in a bat's wing, a porpoise's flipper, a horse's leg, and a human hand that indicate their evolutionary origin in a common ancestor;

#4 Pictures of similarities in early embryos showing that amphibians, reptiles, birds and human beings are all descended from a fish-like animal.

DATE: Tuesday, January 15, 2002

TIME: 7:30 PM

PLACE: Mars Alliance Church, 997 Route 228, Mars, PA, 16046
Church Phone: (724)776-9400

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tant. We must keep the fire burning. Margaret Hawk will continue to do her excellent job with formatting each issue of *Origins Insights*. She could probably use a thank you from those who appreciate the great job she does. Thanks Marge! Dennis Wert will continue to serve CSF with his hours of thoughtful leadership. Thanks, Dennis. Bob Ivey will continue to maintain our website. Check out our website at www.csfpittsburgh.org. I think you will find it interesting.

You may have a talent or service that you can offer to others through CSF. Please recognize that you need to step up and offer your talents. Our readers could use a break from my articles. Several of you are over-due! Write an interesting article.

Our article this month comes to us through an organization called "Creation Moments" from the state of Minnesota. I want to thank James Mosher for writing such a fine article on the importance of the Bible to our ideas about origins.

I appreciate being able to read good articles by sound scholars of science who believe that the Bible contains no errors concerning nature. Let me suggest several sources of information that you need to look at if you have not done so.

1- ***The Creation Research Society Quarterly***

Contains 4-6 peer-reviewed original research articles, 4-6 other shorter articles, book reviews, Editorials and letters to the Editor. You will also receive an even more interesting newsletter, *Creation Matters*, about four times a year. Check out their informative internet site at www.creationresearch.org, Creation Research Society, P.O. Box 8363, St. Joseph, MO, 64508-8263. Cost = \$29.00

2- **TJ [formerly Technical Journal]**

An equally excellent Journal that comes three times each year. The format is the same as the CRSJ. I would recommend both of these journals for anyone who is seriously interested in Creation Science with the emphasis on science. Answers in Genesis, P.O. Box 6330, Florence, Kentucky, 41022. Cost = \$39.00 They have a website that is very good. Visit them soon. www.answersingenesis.org

3- **Origins & Design**

This is one of my favorite sources of information. The flavor of most of the peer reviewed articles is evidence from an "Intellegent Design" perspective. Some of my favorite regular contributors are Paul Nelson, Nancy Pearcey, William Dembski, and Phillip Johnson. Cost = \$20.00 for 4 issues. Access Research Network, P.O. Box 38069, Colorado Springs, Colorado, 80937-8069. Check out their excellent website at www.arn.org.

4- **Acts & Facts**

This FREE monthly newsletter is always interesting. Most of the articles are written by the staff from the Institute for Creation Research. This newsletter always contains important articles and the Bible is always an important part of finding the truth about nature. Ask for a subscription at Institute for Creation Research, P.O. Box 2667, El Cajon, CA, 92021. You may also sign up to have Acts & Facts sent by e-mail. They also have an excellent website at www.icr.org.

5- **Think and Believe**

From Alpha Omega Institute, P.O. Box 4343 Grand Junction,

CO, 81502. This bi-monthly newsletter always has interesting articles. My favorite author is Dr. Dan Korow. Check out their website at www.discovercreation.org.

6- I would also like to suggest the Discovery Institute's website at www.discovery.org. This is a great site for information from the Intelligent Design leaders like Dembski, Wells, Johnson, and Behe.

**TEMPLETON PRIZE
AWARDED TO
PSEUDO-CREATIONIST**
Article by James Mosher

Physical biochemist Arthur Peacocke recently won the 2001 Templeton Prize for progress in religion, making this the third year in a row the prize has gone to a scientist. Peacocke, who is also an ordained Anglican priest, encourages cooperation between science and religion and believes questions about ethics and the nature of man are important.

"The search for intelligibility that characterizes science and the search for meaning that characterizes religion are two necessary, intertwined strands of the human enterprise and are not opposed," says Peacocke.

So far, so good. But is Peacocke a wolf in sheep's clothing?

Even as the Christian media trumpeted Peacocke's award, his viewpoints on biblical truth misled audiences nationwide.

During a PBS story on the Templeton Prize, a reporter asked Peacocke a rather simple question: "How do you balance your scientific positions as a scientist with such religious questions like [sic] the miracle of the virgin birth?"

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It was a defining question. It is a question every one of us must ask.

Peacocke didn't hesitate. "I know many of my fellow evangelicals will disagree with me on this," he said, "but I don't happen to believe in a literal virgin birth."

Here we have a dilemma. Are faith in Jesus Christ and science at loggerheads?

At Creation Moments we believe our core values must come from the Word of God! Quite frankly, the principles we choose to live by come from these core values. We cannot change what the Bible says to suit our own lifestyle or personal viewpoint!

A COLLISION OF BELIEFS

"The Church's singular failure in recent decades has been the failure to see Christianity as a life system, a worldview, that governs every area of existence," says Christian commentator Charles Colson.

What we see today is movement away from biblical truth. If you don't believe the Bible is God's inspired word, then it simply serves as a good book. It is nothing more. It holds no power over our lives. It contains merely good thoughts and powerful ideas. Peacocke's comments on PBS illustrate this problem, but the deception is even more widespread and insidious than many of us realize...

In an article titled "Even Christ challenged Scripture," religion columnist Paul Graves claims that the "Scripture is not a single, narrow log we must use to cross a raging river." What does he mean by his statement?

Graves is from the "new school" of "enlightened ministers" who believe the Bible is just a good book. It is full of good ideas, but the stories should not be taken literally.

Graves says Jesus was not

"enslaved to the proscriptions of the Hebrew Bible's demands. Rather, He [Jesus] interpreted them in the historical moment." Do you see the slippery slope below this kind of faulty thinking?

Revisionist theology like Graves' article misinterprets the Bible to suit a personal position—and leads to the quagmire of relativism. Let me give you an illustration...

A friend of mine appeared recently on a talk show. A skeptical interviewer asked him whether he really believed the Ten Commandments were relevant in the twenty-first century. He replied by asking the interviewer several questions of his own: "Which commandment do you think we should get rid of? Should we eliminate the one on property rights? How about the one related to commitment in marriage, or the one about truth?"

The interviewer simply had not looked at God's moral law in this way before. And she acknowledged that the questions my friend asked made plenty of sense. This is precisely the way we must view God's reasonable laws.

If God's good Word was relevant for human beings 3,000 years ago, it is relevant to human beings today. Human nature has not changed! We still need a Savior. We still need redemption.

Graves, who is a Methodist minister, claims we are "afraid to look at those sacred words in our own moments. It is like we will lose our way if we dare think for ourselves, if we dare to use other resources like tradition, reason, experience." Perhaps Reverend Graves needs to be reminded that it is precisely thinking for themselves that got Adam and Eve into trouble in the Garden of Eden!

We cannot invent our own definitions of moral truth. Imagine, if you will, a pilot telling the manufacturer of an airplane that he would in-

terpret the flight manual in his own way—taking what he liked and leaving out what he didn't agree with. The consequences would be disastrous!

Yet this is exactly what many people do today in the realm of biblical truth. As Colson puts it, "If we treat morality as subjective feeling, ten moral ideals will be relegated to the private realm, and the public realm will be stripped of all morality."

Christians do not have to check their brains at the door when it comes to science. In fact, it was Christianity that made science possible.

SLIPPING THROUGH THE CRACKS

Did Jesus reinterpret Scripture? This is a serious accusation. As Graves puts it, "It is ordinarily a wise thing to go back to the Bible." Did you catch that? He uses the word "ordinarily." This leaves room for self-interpretation and subjective reasoning on eternal matters. He adds, "I'd want to believe my journey today is one of insight." But what exactly is he talking about?

A close look at Jesus' words clearly shows He did not do anything to change God's moral laws. Of course Jesus was most interested in the heart of man. The Bible tells us the heart is deceitful above all things [Jeremiah 17:9].

Some people point to the way Jesus handled the woman at the well or the woman caught in adultery to try and say the law didn't matter to Him. On the contrary, He says, "Think not that I have come to destroy the law, or the prophets, I am not come to destroy but to fulfill" [Matthew 5:17].

Then, as Graves notes, Jesus "challenges" adultery, anger, hypocrisy and other sins. (Graves also takes the liberty of adding homo-

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sexuality to the list, which he believes needs to be viewed contextually.)

Jesus never questions the *rightness* of what the Pharisees say. Instead, He questions their behavior. Jesus told His followers, “The scribes and Pharisees sit in Moses’ seat: All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their words: for they say and do not” [Matthew 23:2-3].

Jesus is calling the Pharisees hypocrites! Remember what He said to the woman caught in adultery, “go and sin no more.” Unfortunately, today we have abolished the concept of sin. Yet, how can a person be saved if he or she has no notion of what they are being saved from?

Now, here’s what you and I must do. **WE MUST STAND ABSOLUTELY FIRM FOR BIBLICAL TRUTH.** We must not change or try to rewrite what God has said. If we do, the Bible becomes nothing more in our lives than a good book.

Those of us who follow Christ, who believe God is the Creator and Sustainer of all, must speak out in our schools, workplaces, churches, and in the media. We cannot leave the job for someone else to do. We must continue to fight for what is right. We must recognize that our fight is not against individual people, but against wrong ideas and spiritual blindness.

THE PRAYER OF JESUS

Jesus didn’t fret because of evil. He spent time with religious people and was even considered a “friend of sinners.”

The best-selling *The Prayer of Jabez* has caught the attention of both Christians and unbelievers. Unfortunately, some people have taken this simple prayer out of context. To these people, the prayer is simply a way to get healthy and wealthy!

If we read the Prayer of Jesus, the Lord’s Prayer, we see two immediate truths—first, God is our Heavenly Father. And second, we are to hallow (make holy or to set apart) His name.

We also see in this prayer that God is our Source and our Provider. We see that He wants us to practice forgiveness, and that He helps deliver us from evil.

One part of the Prayer of Jesus, however, is often overlooked. Jesus tells us to pray that God’s will be done on earth, just as it is in heaven [see Matthew 6]. The sad truth is that many people are NOT DOING GOD’S WILL because they have hardened their hearts to Him. While hardness of heart develops from many sources, I believe one way we harden our hearts is by trying to rewrite God’s moral laws—in much the same way Paul Graves and Arthur Peacocke have done.

I am firmly convinced that you and I can make a difference. We can do this by standing up and speaking out for the truth and relevance of God’s word. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever [Hebrews 13:8].

WINTER WEATHER SCHEDULE CHANGES:

If the monthly meeting will be cancelled due to any weather related problem—or if you have a question if it will still go on as scheduled, please call the CSF phone number at **412-341-4908** after 12 noon on the day of the meeting date and there will be a message indicating any cancellation or confirmation of the meeting scheduled.

ATTENTION ALL NEWSLETTER RECIPIENTS:

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One other note, the CSF can not survive without your prayer support.

Thanks for your cooperation.

Dennis E. Wert, Chairman

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AIG CD for computer available for all members and friends of CSF.

CSF is making available a great resource to answer the NOVA propaganda of its “Evolution Series” that aired in September of 2001 and will be distributed to schools nationwide for use by them in indoctrinating their students in the “fact of evolution”. This is a great resource to give to students, teachers, libraries etc. It includes 350 pages of creation information including responses by Dr. Jonathan Sarfati to each of the seven “Evolution” programs. It also contains 40 minutes of video content, including the complete video, “From Frog to a Prince”. The complete book “Refuting Evolution” by Dr. Jonathan Sarfati in PDF format and 13 audio interviews and messages (totaling over 3 hours) by creation scientists and speakers. All of this for \$2.00 each for members or \$5.00 each for non members. Shipping is \$2.00 for first disc and additional \$0.50 for each additional disc in a single shipment. Or, you can obtain them at the CSF monthly meeting and pay no shipping charges, another reason to attend :).

‘Hanging Loose’: What should we defend?

Carl Wieland

From Editorial

Creation Ex Nihilo 11(2):4,
March–May 1989

One of the most common caricatures made of creation science is that, because it begins with the Bible, it has nothing to do with investigative science. Science asks questions, they say, then looks for answers. So if you start with answers, how can you be doing science?

However, we are obviously not claiming that God has revealed all possible knowledge in His Word. We do claim, though, that where He *has* clearly revealed certain facts relating to reality (science, history) these are true as opposed to untrue. This has nothing to do, incidentally, with ‘wooden-headed literalism’, ‘bibliolatry’ or a ‘failure to appreciate the nature of the literature’.

Creation magazine and this website have already published evidence that virtually all top Hebrew-language scholars at world-class universities (even, perhaps especially, the nonbelievers among them) understand that the *meaning* of Genesis (i.e. the obvious intention of the writer) is to give us a simple yet factual account of the origins and history of man and the universe, just as is obvious to any straightforward reading by even a child. Thus, holding to recent fiat creation in six earth-days, a globe-covering Flood, etc., is not some peculiar invention of any twentieth century movement but inevitably results from an honest, scholarly dealing with the text itself. See Q&A: Genesis

But such matters merely give us the outline, the corner-posts as it were, for a framework of understanding within which to interpret and correlate the facts of the real world. They do *not* give us all the answers. Rather, they prevent us wasting time looking in the wrong direction while trying to establish the details of the fascinating subjects of the history of man and his world.

‘Aha!’, say the anticreationists, ‘You see? They admit that their investigation is limited by their biblical framework. Evolution-science is open-minded and objectively searching for the truth.’ **Not so.** There are rigid rules in evolution-science too — see Sci-

ence: The Rules of the Game. You may open-mindedly discuss and consider all possible mechanisms of evolution, but you are only allowed to contemplate explanations which conclude that matter is responsible for its own order and complexity — that is, that there has never been any supernatural creation. And in all of this, we must remember that origin-science of whatever flavour is inherently different from operation science (how the universe *presently* works — gravity, physics, chemistry, etc.) because we can’t directly test or observe stories about the past.

Because of these sorts of misunderstanding, it is vital that we consider carefully which are the fundamentals of the biblical origins framework. The clear, unmistakable issues on which honesty demands no compromise (e.g. global Flood) must be carefully separated from those issues which are a ‘secondary construct’, and on which we must be prepared to ‘hang loose’, if necessary.

For instance, the venerable pre-Flood vapour canopy model. This is an excellent concept which appears to be implied in the Bible and answers a lot of problems.¹ But it is not and never can be regarded as a direct teaching of Scripture.

In the heady and fascinating search for the best explanation in such areas of origin-science as the mechanisms of the ‘mammoth deep-freeze’, for example, let us always hold our ideas lightly, in a tentative fashion.² Is the sun shrinking?³ What about the moon dust?⁴ New evidence is always coming in — sometimes this will strengthen an existing idea, sometimes it will have to be abandoned, just as evolutionists have been forced to abandon nearly all the evidences which were used in the earlier part of this century to condition generations of schoolchildren (useless leftover [[‘vestigial’](#)] [organs](#), gill-slits in human embryos based on [Haeckel’s forged embryo diagrams](#), Neanderthals, ‘Piltdown man’, etc.).

Standing firm on the basics, yet holding lightly to secondary theories and models as the years go by will prevent Bible-believing Christians having anywhere near as much egg on their faces in this area as the disciples of Darwin have had to endure.

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MEETING TOPICS FOR 2002

FEBRUARY 19, 2002
ICONS OF EVOLUTION,
PART II- BOB HARSH

MARCH 19, 2002
"I WANT TO KNOW":
MEMBER Q&A -
DENNIS WERT et. Al

APRIL 16, 2002
"THE STATE OF THE
CREATION MODEL:
WHERE ARE WE" -
ROBERT WALSH

MAY 21, 2002
"MACRO - MICRO:
IS IT EVOLUTION OR
CHANGE WITHIN KINDS?" -
AMANDA PINKNEY

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CREATION/EVOLUTION
QUESTIONS VIA EMAIL
OR TO THE ADDRESS
ABOVE FOR THE
"I WANT TO KNOW"
MEETING IN MARCH!***

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