

# Origins Insights

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE  
CREATION SCIENCE FELLOWSHIP



September 2004

## The Creation of Bacteria and Viruses: From God In The Beginning? A Discussion Based on "*The Organosubstrate of Life: A Creationist Perspective of Microbes and Viruses*" as presented by Joe Francis at ICC #5 2003 Part 3 by Bob Harsh

What are microbes and where did they come from? Biblical Creationists have not addressed the question of the origin of microbes to any great extent so far. We believe that all of the baramins [Kinds] of organisms were created during days three through six of creation week. When were microbes created?

Most people view viruses and bacteria as agents of disease, parasites, and invasive competitive species. A more informed would be that perhaps microbes were created to make survival possible for many plants and animals. Many microbes live in a "mutualistic" relationship with other organisms.

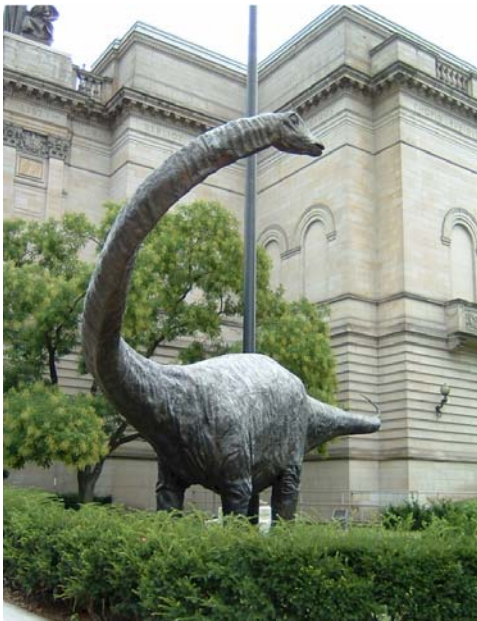
Microbes were created as good and their role in the Creation was as beneficial organisms. After the fall, a few took on negative roles in nature. They became invasive outside of their originally created environment. Their pathogenesis is a secondary state to their original beneficial relationships.

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**CSF Meeting**  
**September 25, 2004**

**11 AM or 1 PM at the Carnegie Museum in Oakland**

**Creation Tour of the Carnegie Museum of Natural  
History**

Led by Phil McCaffrey

Join Phil for an exciting and insightful tour of the many exhibits at the Carnegie Museum. Phil has given this tour many times and you will come away amazed at how a creationist worldview differs from the evolutionary worldview as presented by the museum. See page 4 for more details.

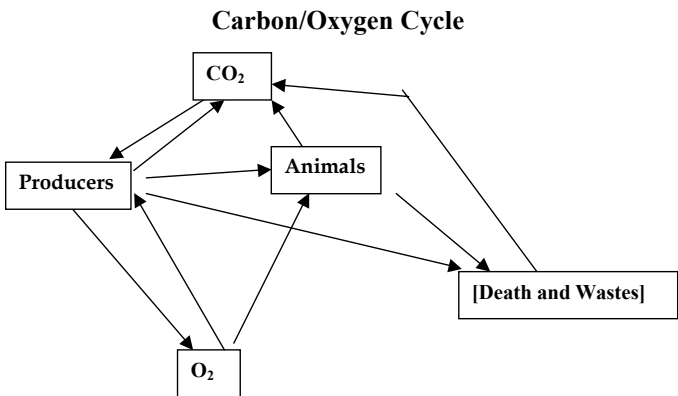
**NOTE:** There will be no regularly scheduled meeting on September 21 at the Mars Alliance Church.

In the previous two issues of *Origins Insights* [March and April, 2004] several beneficial roles for microbes were described and we will now conclude this series with more information about the vital roles microbes play in today's natural environment.

Microbes move minerals among macro-organisms. Mycorrhizae are a type of fungus that lives in association with plant roots. Mycorrhizae not only help individual plants with their absorption of water and minerals, they can preferentially shuttle water and minerals from one plant to another. Scientists have discovered that Mycorrhizae can shuttle carbon and water from trees in the open with plenty of sunlight to trees in the shade.

### Microbes are designed to cycle elements in the biological world

Plants are the primary producers in the terrestrial ecosystems but not in the hydrosphere. Phytoplankton [algae]



covers 75% of the earth's surface and assimilates fifty billion metric tons of carbon each year. Much of Earth's carbon is trapped in microbes. The cell walls found in all plant and algae cells are made of cellulose, a compound that contains an abundance of carbon. Other microbes can digest cellulose. Microbes serve as biological pumps that stabilize atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> levels. They serve the biosphere by recovering carbon from decaying matter.

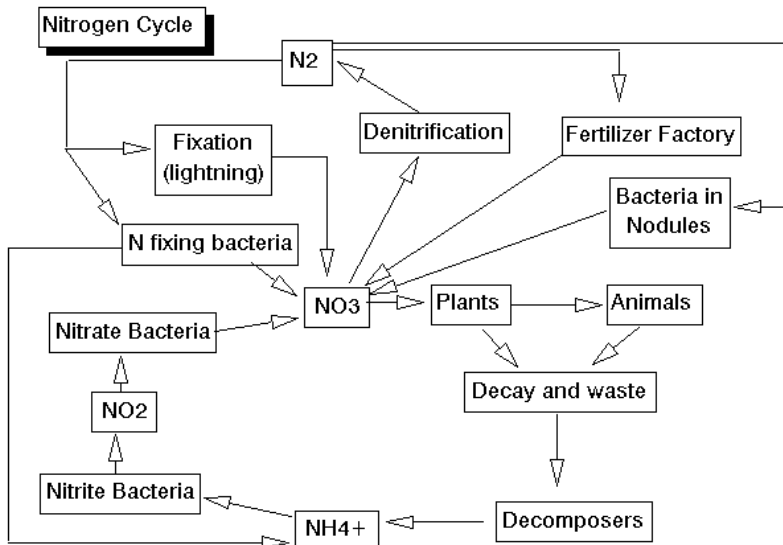
Here is an amazing discovery. Viruses (bacteriophages) destroy 40% of bacteria in earth's ocean daily. "If we've got 40% of bacterial cells dying each day, that's certainly going to be important to carbon cycling. Viruses are major players in the global exchange of carbon between organisms and the environment." [microbiologist Curtis Suttle, University of British Columbia <http://www.sciencenews.org/20030712/bob9.asp>]

Half of the total nitrogen input into farmland occurs with the help of nitrogen-fixing bacteria. [Smith, B Nitrogenase reveals its inner secrets, Science 297:1654, 2002]

Many other elements and molecules cycled by microbes. They include: sulfur, iron, water, phosphate, calcium, nickel, manganese, potassium, and magnesium.

Microbes are designed for bioremediation. Over 250 microbe strains have been identified which degrade toxic substances. The degradation of over 150 toxic substances has been documented.

The organosubstrate concept places all bacteria and viruses as created as mutualistic symbionts. Pathogenic characteristics found in some microbes today came about after creation as a result of the Adam's Fall. Few bacteria and viruses are pathogenic. Less than 1% of bacteria and viruses are pathogenic. Non-pathogenic microbes are commonly associated with the human body and all other living creatures. Microbes living on and in



our bodies fight off pathogens and inhibit their growth.

There is evidence that pathological *E. coli* have become dangerous because they have received DNA from viruses and other DNA. *E. coli* OH157:H7 contains a larger genome than non-pathogenic *E. coli*. Disease causing genes appear to be clustered and bear the marks of gene transfer from viruses.

Perhaps pathological behavior grew as modifications of symbiotic design.

Polydnavirus is a beneficial symbiont in several wasp species. This virus aids in the growth of wasp eggs by promoting the secretion of a protein known as EP-1. **Interesting “coincidence”?! EP-1 is almost identical to wasp venom. Could wasp venom have arisen from genetic exchange from polydnavirus?**

Human endogenous retroviruses [HERV viruses] are interesting. These are genes in our DNA that were transferred to us by viruses. Human chromosome #22 contains genes coding for more than 2000 HERVs! Placental trophoblasts express extremely large quantities of HERV genes.

### **It doesn't get any better!**

“Placental embryos make an extra-embryonic tissue, the trophoblast, which produces endogenous retrovirus at high levels. This retrovirus, however, is not fully competent to replicate, but instead it can only infect local immune cells (such as macrophages) of the uterus, thereby ... preventing them from initiating an immune response. Thus, the mother's immune system will thus remain competent to respond to other infections but is specifically prevented from mounting an immune response to the embryo. Only the presence of the embryo itself prevents an immune reaction.”

[model proposed by Luis Villarreal] <http://darwin.bio.uci.edu/~faculty/villarreal/new1/host-virus.html>

### **Conclusion**

Microbes and viruses are unique organisms originally created for beneficial purposes. Remnants of their beneficial activities can be observed in nature and can be categorized into four main categories: modulation of mineral cycles, nutritional benefits, modulation of immunity, and reproduction control. Design aspects of microbial and viral physiology and ecology support the idea that microbes and viruses were created to interact with themselves and macro-organisms to form an organosubstrate which provides vital life-supporting functions to all organisms within the biosphere.

I want to congratulate Dr. Joseph Francis for his insight into a common aspect of living organisms. The vital roles microbes have played since the creation has been overlooked by creationists. It is my belief that much more research needs to be done on this area of biology, now that Dr. Francis has opened the door of understanding.



## The CLM Was a Great Success!!!!



It was standing room only as we had over 200 in attendance to hear Ken Ham at the AIG Christian Leaders Meeting on August 5. Jerry O'Neill introduced Ken who was as humorous as ever as he used his wit to demonstrate that there is genetic change within the Biblical kind of animal (such as different dogs) and that all people are really the same but just different shades of skin color.



The attendees were from very diverse backgrounds and locations: Baptists, Reformed Presbyterian, Independent Evangelical Ministries and many others. Several members of the media including The Pittsburgh Christian were also in attendance.



At the close of the meeting the attendees were given a set of AIG books and DVDs. Some 65,000 brochures were given out for churches to include in their bulletins along with posters.



Everyone also received a DVD that contains a promotional message for churches to use and video of Ken's presentation.



The success of the CLM was the result of the hard work of the volunteers many of whom gave up their seats and breakfast to accommodate the overflow crowd.



It is now up to us to keep that momentum going, contact those churches to share the message of teaching the truth of the Bible in the face of an unbelieving and increasingly hostile world and fill the David L. Lawrence Convention Center on November 19-20 for the AIG Seminar. For details check out the AIG web site at [www.answersingenesis.org/pittsburgh](http://www.answersingenesis.org/pittsburgh)



## Creation Tour of the Carnegie Museum of Natural History



**When:** Saturday, September 25, 2004, 11 AM or 1 PM

**Where:** Carnegie Museum in Oakland. Meet Phil at the Forbes Avenue entrance closest to the library (toward the music hall) in front of the hall of architecture.

**Cost:** Regular museum entrance fee of \$10 per adult, \$7 senior, \$6 ages 3 - 18 and full-time student with ID

**Registration:** Group size is limited and we are asking that you let Phil know if you will be participating. You can call him at 412-855-5535 or register on the web at [www.csfpittsburgh.org](http://www.csfpittsburgh.org)



## Cornerstone TeleVision, Ch. 40, Creates a New Origins Program Series

The Origins program was started by Russ Bixler in 1985 and was discontinued with his passing several years ago. Russ, as many of you know, was the founder of CTV and a long time supporter of CSF. His son Paul is now producing a new Origins program currently being advertised to begin airing in October.

In the first program Norma Bixler and Ron Hembree , president of CTV, introduce Dr. Donn Chapman, Senior Pastor of Cornerstone Ministries in Murrysville, and host of the new show. Together they introduce the new program and dedicate the exciting new set.

The attractive new set is constructed to look like rocks. In the center between two blue-green marble columns are panels with the Genesis 1:1 verse, a 9-foot DNA model and a panel containing a SmartBoard. The state-of-the-art SmartBoard technology is used to display PowerPoint presentations on a plasma screen and allows presenters to draw and mark up their presentations electronically similar to what you see in a TV weather forecast.

Shows have been taped with Brad Harrub, Ralph Muncaster, Dr. Terry Mortenson and Dr. Jerry Bergman. Brad, Terry and Jerry, you will recall, were presenters at ICC 2003. It is expected that CTV plans to make the presentation materials available on their web site.

Watch your local TV listings or checkout their web site, [www.ctvn.org](http://www.ctvn.org), for show dates and times.

### CSF Dues: Are You Current?

**Check the date on the mailing label of this issue.** This date shows the last time your dues were paid. If you are behind in your dues, sending in one years payment of \$15 will bring your dues up-to-date regardless of your past due status.

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Many thanks to those of you who have already responded.

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\$15 annual dues can be paid by personal check or money order

### CSF Board of Directors Elections

Phil McCaffrey and Jim Hawk will be up for election to fill the open positions on the board at the October 19,

**CSF 2004 Calendar**

- **September 25 – Carnegie Museum of Natural History**  
**Tour** with Phil McCaffrey
- **October 19 – Dr. Lionel Dahmer**  
*New Evidence That The Decay of Radioactive Materials Has Not Been Constant At Certain Times In The Past.*
- **November 19 and 20 – Ken Ham**  
*Answers in Genesis Seminar*  
*David L. Lawrence Convention Center*

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