



Cove Mountain Kids

**A STORY OF ADVENTURE
AND DISCOVERY**

**From Word to the World Ministries
By Harold A. Lerch, Sr. P.E.-Ret'd**

COVE MOUNTAIN KIDS

A STORY OF ADVENTURE AND DISCOVERY

A family on an adventure discover new things in the mountains, streams, and rivers of God's Special Creation.

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Author and Word to the World Ministries

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The author founded Word to the World Ministries, www.word2world.com, an organization that publishes and distributes complimentary witnessing resources.

Harold and his wife, Jeanne, reside near Middleburg, Pa., USA.

Mission Statement

Know therefore that the LORD thy God, he is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations; (Deuteronomy 7:9).

The author's overall concern is for the salvation of lost souls. God has provided The Way to all to all that will accept His grace and Jesus Christ, the Messiah and LORD. This book has been written to proclaim that the universe as created by God, not by time, chance, struggle, and death.

Because God is Creator, He owns us. He alone has the right to give commandments and judge us. God's master plan was redirected because of our sinful ways. His plan for us into eternity is that we follow His Son, the Messiah, who has already come as the Redeemer of sins for all time. Jesus will return to conquer Satan and all our enemies. We who accept Him as our Redeemer will abide with the Conqueror forever.

Dedication

I dedicate this book to Jeanne, my wife of the past half-century. Jeanne's gifts to me include Harold, Jr., Joanne, and eight grandchildren: Mariah, Rochele, Christian, Drew, Kylee, Alex, Shelly, and Gabriele. Blessings upon blessings! Jeanne is my best friend.

I wish to honor my parents, the late Mrs. Pearl Lerch and Ralph H. Lerch. Without my parents' prayers and direction, my soul might be lost.

Cousin Randy Lerch continues to inspire.

An old man's grandchildren are his crowning glory. A child's glory is his father. (Proverbs 17:6).

Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee. (Exodus 20:12).

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Foreword

The LORD is exalted; for he dwelleth on high: he hath filled Zion with judgment and righteousness. And wisdom and knowledge shall be the stability of thy times, and strength of salvation: the fear of the LORD is his treasure. (Isaiah 33:5-6).

As a youngster, the author was confused by the biblical account of creation and the secular world's view that everything evolved from the chemical soup floating in some past primitive swamp. He had strong faith at that tender age, and believed that the Bible was true. There had to be some explanation! He studied this issue and came to realize that the evidence can be viewed more than one way. In fact, the drawn conclusions are viewed by one's religion: Creation is a religion the facts fit, and evolution is a religion the facts fail. Yes, evolution is a religion: a godless belief system.

If the creation account is not true, which parts of the Bible are true? God's Creation is true, and so are these beautiful words.

²⁸Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. (Matthew 11:28-30).

¹Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. ²In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. ⁴And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know. ⁵Thomas saith unto him, LORD, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way? ⁶Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. (Matthew 14:1-6)

Introduction

The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork. Psalms 19:1

As Christians, it is our duty to provide our children with a sound, scriptural foundation. We need to learn about the major current issue: evolution. There are many Creationist websites providing information you can study in order to prepare your child for the world.

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. 2 Timothy 2:15

Chapter One: The Project

Adventure is where you find it. Adventure is doing something with an uncertain result. Adventure is full of truth, lies, and maybes. Adventure can begin your life, or end it. Adventure is fantastic. Sometimes adventure finds you.

Adventure often is one man's brainstorm and then involves other people. That is what happened in this story. Papa Lewis had an idea and into it the whole family were drawn. It happened at a place called Cove Mountain. The only way to know if it was a good idea is to read the story. My name is Huck Yoder. Some people call me Gramps. I am the local old-timer with all the stories, which is why they asked me to tell you this one.

Cove Mountain is a tall, wide mountain that ends at the Cherokee River. At that juncture, Mingo Creek spills into Lewis Cove. Thus, the name "Cove Mountain." This spot in the center of the state is known for its splendor and rich resources. The cove was named for early explorer Malachi Lewis, the immigrant ancestor of the family in this adventure.

The whole family gathered for New Year's dinner at Mama and Papa's house in Riverton. Papa announced that he had just purchased two hundred acres on Cove Mountain. This is all prime mountain land with a trout stream and waterfall that flows into the Cherokee River along a half-mile river frontage. Papa also mentioned that deer and other wildlife were plentiful on the entirely wooded property, and included mature trees and dense foliage.

Here is the brainstorm: Papa would like Howie, Dennis, the three teenaged boys (Curt, Derek, and Alan), and himself to build a summer home/weekend retreat on the property with their one-dozen own hands. Howie is Papa's son. He is married to Mona. Dennis is married to Papa's daughter, Marie. Papa wanted to start as soon as school was out. They would go there next weekend to determine the best place to construct it. Papa promised these things: an adventure they would never forget; every muscle would ache, and; they would learn they are not as smart as they think.

Along with the six Lewis men, there are eight strong-willed women: Mama Lewis, Mona, Marie, and the five teenaged "Lewis Clan" granddaughters: Ariel, Rebecca, Jane, Anna, and Grace. The project could never be finished without their help.

The next weekend came and all fourteen family members went to look at the property. The women were all excited about having a front porch view of the river and a rear deck view of the waterfall on Mingo Creek. The guys were more interested in fishing from the front porch, and occasional naps on lounge chairs. Although "the men" were to select the building site, they were more than guided by the opinion of the gals.

Once decided, this gave the guys much to discuss and plan. It was now early February, so they only had about four months to come up with a floor plan, foundation plan, list of materials, and plan the logistics of the construction project. Fortunately, they were all excited about this adventure so all the planning went well. It is much easier to do a job when you want to do it in the first place.

They determined that a large cottage design would be incorporated using mountain stone from the site for the fireplace, foundation, and exterior walls. Timber from the site would frame the structure, roof, and interior walls. Commercial insulation, drywall, oak flooring, and trim would finish the interior. Cedar shake shingles would come from a large cedar tree found on the property, and locust for the porches, decks, and boat dock would also be made on site. Locust resists rot and is commonly used by farmers for fencing.

The cabin site would be selected in an area that would best provide the materials and be relatively flat. The family considered the impact of tree removal. It was decided that if the materials came from a lumber supplier, the same number of trees would fall. And, the Lewis family agreed to plant two new trees for every harvested tree.

Howie, Dennis, and Papa had most of the tools necessary to do the work but needed to obtain some specialty equipment. A gasoline-fired generator would provide power to the electric tools. A welder, small crane, backhoe, bulldozer, and skid-steer would be leased to build the lengthy driveway, dig post holes, pickup and haul mountain stone for the walls, etc. All six guys would use chain saws to clear the foundation area and cut the other trees for the cottage construction. A local sawyer would break the logs into boards and kiln dry and mill the finished product. A gas-fired pressure washer would help keep things clean and tidy.

Now, the guys figured that the only way to get this monster job accomplished was to live on the site during the entire project. So, they decided to move onto the site and sleep in a tent as soon as school was completed. They would build other temporary structures to act as storage of food and materials plus a covered eating area.

The design of the building went pretty well despite the fact that there were fourteen people voting and hoping to have their own preferences incorporated. Here is the exterior design:



Howie's pencil sketch of the cabin exterior

The interior includes five master suites, each having a bedroom, bathroom, sitting room, and walk-in closet. These are for Mama and Papa, Howie and Mona, and Marie and Dennis. The boys would share a bunkhouse-style room, and the girls another.

The youngster's bedrooms are all large enough for desks, TV's, and computers. (Computer games at camp? I reckon so!) The first floor includes a large family room in the center that is completely open to a large country kitchen and dining area.

At this point, the guys began preparations for a June 15th start date. Old Huck wants to give you a heads up! These guys need to watch the signs, and you do, too. Sometimes what is an important fact is not obvious.



OLD HUCK

“My pants have pockets so I have a place to put my hands.”

Chapter Two: The Beginning

Everybody, and I mean *everybody*, was anxious to start. June fifteenth finally came. The first chore was to move all the small equipment on site using Howie's truck. It took the better part of a whole day. The rental company delivered all of the large equipment on a low boy trailer, dropping it off at the edge of the property.

The boys spent much of the day shuttling everything down to the building site. It was good practice for them and familiarized them with the controls. Curt already had some practice with big equipment. Derek and Alan caught on fast. Their experiences with remote control models and video games proved adaptable to the big stuff. Who would have thought that playing games would help build a cabin?

It was becoming dark by the time everything was unloaded and neatly arranged. Papa decided they had better go home to spend the night. Tomorrow they would start on preparing temporary quarters.

The next morning, the six explorers returned to the site. A level area was selected and work finally started. First, the area was cleared of small trees and brush, and then raked. A large camping tent, big enough to sleep twelve, went up rapidly. A tent that size for only six guys would provide room for more than just basic comfort. The tent included a floor, window flaps, rain fly, and a small woodstove with vent pipe. Six cots and sleeping bags would make for comfortable sleeping.



The “bathroom” was made next. It was more like a poor-man’s outhouse and consisted of an old toilet seat braced between two trees and a shallow hole. Luckily, guys can stand to do certain things.

Next, they needed a root cellar. They found a rock outcropping near the stream that went back into the slope about six feet, kind of a little cave that maintained cool, dry air. That would work. They placed their potatoes, onions, and carrots into the little cave and rolled a boulder in front to keep animals out.

The stream was running at a chilly 42 degrees F, so it was cool enough for storing milk, sodas, eggs, and other refrigerated items. A large tarp framed with tree limbs was fastened between four poplar trees. A folding tent, folding chairs, and a gas grille made that a cozy dining area. An oversized gun cabinet was set at one end of the tent. It held their dry and canned foods. Remember, this is a very rural area. These guys all grew up hunting, so the cabinet held a couple guns for protection- just in case.

This all took another full day, but since there was now a comfortable place to bed down, they stayed the night. Plus, they were too tired to leave. They were all so hungry that even a skunk might of tasted good. Instead, they downed the large subs that they brought with them plus a few sodas. They soon all hit the hay. It was a tiring day, and there were many more demanding days yet to come.

As they waited to fall asleep, Alan asked Papa to tell them a story or come up with a riddle. Papa said, "OK. Where does the Bible talk about baseball?" Baseball! "The Bible does not talk about baseball," Said Derek. Papa asked Curt to recite the first three words form the Bible. Derek replied, "In the beginning. So what?"

Papa said, "Yep! That's it! In the big inning! Seriously, though, do you know how important the first Bible verse is? It says 'In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.' In that one verse, God created time, space, matter, and energy." The boys moaned in unison that this is just a story. They believe that there is a God, but science tells us how "the beginning" happened.

Papa told the guys that they would discuss this while we live our adventure. I admit, Papa got Old Huck's curiosity up with that.

Chapter Three: First-Night Madness

With sore muscles and full bellies, all six guys were soon fast asleep. Even Papa's snoring did not keep anyone awake. It appeared there would be six dead-to-the-world men and boys lying there like logs until morning.

Before they fell asleep, the young guys wanted to know what kind of foods the old guys were going to be cooking. "Chef Howie" and "Chef Dennis" gave them a rundown on the cache contents. Meats: canned Spam, corned beef, canned chicken, canned fish, and every other canned meat you can imagine. Veggies: canned peas, lima beans, corn, green beans, asparagus, and chickpeas. Fruits: canned pineapple, peaches, pears, and cherries. There sure were a lot of cans. Potatoes: A bushel bag of spuds is in the cave along with a peck of carrots and some cabbages and turnips. Papa likes instant mashed potatoes and gravy mixes like his family ate when he was a boy as they were on camping trips. Spaghetti and jars of sauce rounded out the dry foods. Papa cannot cook, or maybe he just does not want to.

The boy's thoughts could not help but to think about the girls still being at home: heat; soft beds; running water; flush toilets; electric lights; TV; computers, and; pizza. Some people have the life of Riley!

Eggs, milk, ketchup, mustard, hot sauce, and Papa's secret sandwich sauce were stored in the creek. Papa added that occasionally there would be trips to town for takeout burgers, subs, and pizza. Papa has a short tolerance for waiting for dinner.

I am not one to blab secrets. If I were, I would tell you that Papa's secret sauce is one part each ketchup, mustard, barbecue sauce, and horseradish, plus a little Tabasco sauce and A-1 steak sauce. It is good on hamburgers, hot dogs, and steaks. It probably kills any germs, too.

Some of the tastier items were hung high from a tall tree branch. This is why! No uninvited guests!



The sound sleeping was disturbed by periodic weird noises. There were howls like coyotes, snarls like big cats, huffing like bears, and a loud, piercing yowl that no one recognized. There was comfort in the fact that there were six of them and probably only one big critter, but everyone felt just a wee bit uneasy. By the way, the word “critter” is not in your biology textbook. It is from the way we old timers used to say “creatures.” While on that subject, we old timers sometimes call food “vittles,” a mispronunciation of “victuals,” an archaic word for food and provisions.

Despite the noises, all woke up feeling refreshed and eager to go. After the first breakfast of eggs, home fries, and fried Spam, they got started. Yeah, I know- but Papa likes Spam. Being the first day after the night of strange noises, they decided to arm themselves. The boys cut some wooden clubs- just in case!

Not to emphasize the fact, but just to remember, this family grew up as hunters as they tend to do in this rural, mid-state area: they do have some hunting guns in reach of the grownups just in case.

This chapter of the story that Old Huck is telling you about is a short one. Not much happened during the night, or if it did, the guys did not know it. Another thing I am aware of: I need to try to use good grammar as I relate this here account. I will try to catch myself before I say words like “ain’t, hain’t, tweren’t, y’all,” etc, etc. Did you know that “y’all” came from the Scottish use of “ye all” for addressing a group? Most languages have a word for plural “you,” but modern English does not. The Scotch-Irish brought “ye all” to America. They are the forebears of the “Hillbillies,” which were Scots living in the hills and loyal to King William. (You thought Huck was just a dumb old man, hain’t?)

As for me, my last name is Yoder. That is a German name and it was spelled Joder over there but pronounced the same way. I grew up Pennsylvania Dutch before I moved here. We get teased for saying things funny. It seems like most people laugh when they hear, “Throw the cow over the fence some hay.” In reality, we say things with the same words and word order as if it were German. For example, in German a person would say, “Mach die tür zu.” Substituting English words like we do it would come out, “Make the door open.” And people think that is hilarious.

One more thing, just because guys like me speak strangely and are older than dirt, that should not imply we do not know stuff. Do you know what “fetch me some spuds in a poke” means? (See, maybe you aren’t so smart, either.) It means, “Bring me some potatoes in a bag.” Just no one talks like that anymore.

Chapter Four: First Day, Second Night

The first day of work on the cabin occurred without a hitch. Derek and Alan cut down all the trees along the path and trimmed off the limbs. The next day they would haul them all to the cabin site with the big equipment.

Curt and the others cleared the area and pulled the logs off to the side. Then Curt leveled the building pad with the dozer. He pushed the brush and limbs off to the opposite side of the road where they would be out of the way. On a later day, the big limbs would be cut and stacked for kindling.

Eventually, the brush would be hauled further up the mountain where game could use it for cover. That should lure more wildlife into the area and help protect what is already there. You could do that in your back yard if you have a good place to do it.

It was another full day. Howie made corned beef and cabbage for a real hungry-man lunch. In the evening, Dennis made instant mashed potatoes, corn, wheat flour rolls, and a large can of cubed chicken for dinner. Papa insists on good food but wants them to do things the easy way when possible to save energy for the real work. Well, also because when Papa is hungry he wants to eat “now!”

A little more work (just gathering the tools that were scattered all over) followed dinner. The boys were sent off to wash the pots, pans, and silverware. They use paper plates and plastic cups, but most of the table is set with the real deal.

I love this part. Imagine Howie hollering, “Boys! You cannot wash the pots, pans, and silverware with the pressure washer!” Alan asked if they could just soak them in the creek so the little fish and water critters could eat them clean. That did not fly, either. They finished the job the “right” way.

The guys were all ready for another good night's sleep. They “hit the rack” just before dark, about 20:45 hours. That is Army talk for “went to bed at 8:45 in the evening.” It is early to bed, early to rise to make use of the daylight. Remember, there are no electric lights, although, technically battery powered devices are electric.

Curt asked Papa, while we are laying here awake, “How about a ‘bed-time story’ on what you will be ‘preaching’ to us on Sunday?” Papa said, “Alright, check this out.”

“We are going to discuss ‘origins.’ In school you learn all about evolution, a theory pushed by people. Remember that humans are fallible beings. The Apostle Peter wrote of these people two thousand years ago: *Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation. For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water. Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished: (2 Peter 3:3-6)*”

“Let’s compare what we find in the world around us, and how it can be viewed.”

CLAIMS OF SCIENCE

- Big Bang: Science must explain where the universe came from, but cannot. The only non-biblical solution is to say that there was a big glob of “stuff” that blew up and resulted in all of the galaxies, solar systems, stars, moons, planets, comets, etc. They have not figured where the “stuff” that the Big Bang started with came from or how it started.
- Fossils: Plants and animals died. Over years and centuries it is believed they were covered by earth and fossilized. The notion is that the oldest species are on the bottom, and as we come up the geologic column we find the more recent species that evolved from the earlier ones.
- Dinosaurs: Ancient creatures that dominated the planet until a large meteor, two miles in diameter, landed in the Gulf of Mexico, starting a chain reaction that brought the dinosaurs to extinction.
- Eve: Scientists believe that, based on the study of mitochondrial DNA, we are all ancestors of one woman, “The Real Eve.”
- Millions and Billions of Years: For the Big Bang to occur and “stabilize” (my words), for the entire geologic column to be laid down with the resulting fossil record, for dinosaurs to evolve and then achieve extinction, long ages (including eons of struggle-and-death evolution) would have been necessary.

THE BIBLE

- Big Bang: Which is easier to believe: there always was a God or there always was matter? Is it easier to trust scientists than God?
- One problem with the Big Bang comes from the laws of physics, specifically the Law of Conservation of Angular Momentum. When a figure skater begins to spin in a circle, his or her angular speed increases as he or she tucks more tightly into a spin. Essentially, conservation of angular momentum means a relationship between energy and the distance from the center of the skater must be kept. In the same way, the central objects in solar systems should be spinning at tremendous speeds, but they are not.
- Fossils: How do fossils form? Observe a dead animal. See if it becomes covered by soil before it rots or is eaten by scavengers. There will be nothing remaining to fossilize. It has to be covered quickly, catastrophically.
- The fossil record is most likely the result of Noah’s flood. Plants and animals would have been covered by water quickly, all over the earth. That is also why marine fossils are found on the tops of many tall mountains. The ark was large enough to carry dinosaurs, too. Genesis 6:15-16 indicates the ark had more floor space than two football fields.
- Dinosaurs: There is evidence that dinosaurs lived with man. Some footprints of man and dinosaur have been found together. The Bible indicates that man and land animals (such as dinosaurs) were created on the same day (day 6). Job describes creatures that sound like a sauropod and t. Rex. We will speak more on this later.

- Eve: Science now links us to a single woman ancestor. Scientists call this woman “Eve.” The Bible calls this woman, “Eve.”
- Millions and billions of years- God only took 6 days. What took Him so long? Answer- He had to create time, perhaps His most difficult task. About Six thousand five hundred years ago is when He did it.”

A little side note about the Big Bang theory: Scientists claim they only know what 5% of matter in the universe is. That is not very much knowledge! I think that is why they talk about dark matter, to account for what they do not know. To quote Dr. Jake Hebert of the Institute for Creation Research, “How can they [scientists] sit there with a straight face and say they understand the processes that brought the universe into existence when they don’t know what the universe is made of?”

Old Huck thinks this is going to get mighty interesting before it is over.!

Soon afterward, Papa was snoring, just like the night before. This chased Howie outside. The boys followed. Only Dennis was able to stick it out. It was a pleasant evening so the boys built a little fire for some light.

It was not long before the four around the fire began hearing the same unsettling noises that they heard the night before. You could not see far, but the noises were loud, clear, and a bit spooky. The yowls were plenty unnerving.

Unlike the night before, this night they heard some crashing and stomping noises in the woods. The bear-huffing sound and unknown yowl convinced Howie and the boys to get back in the tent- safety in numbers. Plus, they had the good fortune that Papa finally rolled over and stopped snoring.

The noises from outside were still noticeable inside the tent; but everyone was tired so the “sound noises” gave way to “sound sleep,” an old friend. By the way, sound sleep does not mean making sound while you sleep. D’you feel me, Papa?

Chapter Five: Look at This!

When morning came, Dennis set out to make a cowboy-style breakfast of flapjacks and biscuits, but when he went to the creek for water and milk, he noticed that the spot was all tousled. Even worse, he could see that something broke into the root cellar and stole the onions. Why just the onions? What's more, there were telltale tracks of a bear, or bears, near the tent. One of the bears left huge tracks. It has to be a state-record bear!

Dennis had everything he needed, so the guys eventually ate their breakfast. The only thing missing from this cowboy breakfast was horses and soothing songs accompanied by guitar. At the little clearing for the covered eating area, they spotted more tracks. Some appeared to be from a large cat. Others were from a large canine. It appeared that the animals were nosing around because they could smell yesterday's meals.

The first thing after breakfast, the boys restored and reinforced the root cellar. That was really all the damage, except for the missing onions. Still, who would steal onions when there were so many other things? Now, sometimes Mama hides the onions from Papa so he does not eat onion sandwiches, but that would hardly explain this puzzler.

The day's chores were accomplished before dark. Lots were done: Alan and Derek leveled off the driveway with the dozer and skid steer. They dragged most of the felled trees to the loading site for shipment to the sawmill. Curt used the backhoe to pick mountain stone and stack it near the cabin spot. In the days to follow, the boys would do more of the same.

On this day, when the excavator cut into a bank for the road, it exposed layers of rock like the ones visible along some highways. You probably remember seeing them. Sometimes there is a layer of one color (brown, black, or gray) alternating with layers of other colors.

The boys brought this to Papa's attention. Remember, Papa was a professional engineer involved in administration of large construction projects during most of his career. The boys were quite interested in the geologic history and how long ago the rocks were laid down. Also, in learning what kind of fossils might be found in these rocks.

Papa's answer was surprising. Papa said, "These rocks are the remains of the flood in the Bible, Noah's Flood. It happened perhaps about four or five thousand years ago. There could be absolutely any kind of fossil found in these rocks or in the earth around them."

The boys found this answer quite strange. They had all studied about the millions and billions of years of earth's history, the geologic eras, fossils, and the millions of years of evolution that bring us to the present day. They called Papa out on this one, thinking he was just giving in to religion.

Papa replied that there is more than one way to look at the facts. He said, "We all look at fossils and so forth as to how it applies to our religion." Derek answered, "Evolution and science is not a religion." Papa gave the boys a challenge: this Sunday he would conduct a "sermon" to lay out the facts and answer questions. The girls would be there, as well. Old Huck was interested in how this would play out, too.

Now back to work, Howie, Dennis, and Papa laid-out the precise outline of the cabin foundation and dug a trench around it. Then they began laying stone for the foundation. They only got the first layer done the whole way around, but they picked up a good system. It would go faster in the future.

For lunch, Papa had made a stew from potatoes, corned beef, carrots, and cabbage. It was a little bland without onion. Papa does not consider himself a chef but he does admit to being a world-class eater. For dinner, Dennis made spaghetti with sauce, grated cheese, and a salad. Dennis is half Italian on his mother's side. It was delicious!

The boys were somewhat leery of the salad. They had never heard of “poke salad.” Papa knew that in the old days, people made this dish to get fiber in their diets. “Poke” is an archaic word for “bag,” remember “Fetch it in a poke?” The salad was made of things like dandelions and wild tealeaves picked into a bag. The dressing was made out of bacon bits, olive oil, and Papa's special sauce. Very zesty!

At bedtime, Howie was attentive of the night visitors and thought we should set up a watch. It was a great idea. He and Derek would take the first three-hour watch. The second watch was scheduled to be Papa and Alan. The final watch would be Dennis and Curt. This way Dennis could start breakfast, and Curt is always the first one awake, anyway.

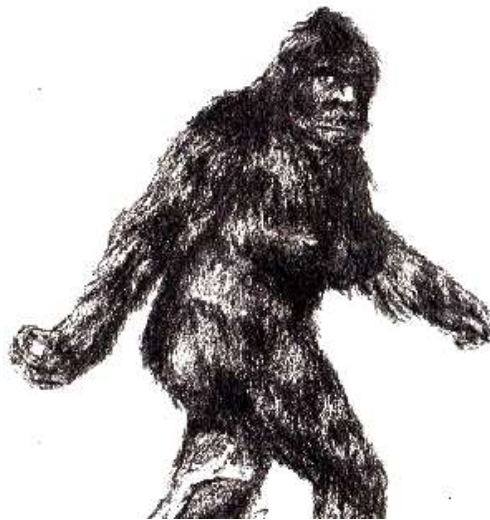
This sounded like a great plan. How well would it work?

Chapter Six: First Watch

At nearly midnight, the first watch was coming to a close. Papa and Alan went out to relieve Howie and Derek. Howie had said the night had been quiet, and Derek said he had not heard so much as an owl hoot. They were just about to go in the tent when the usual noises started. Well, that concerned them all.

Howie reminded the others that the Native American name for this place was "Chumach-uh-way Tu-wach-a," which literally means Mountain of the Big Hunter. Howie once had read up on this and some of the old lore was a bit unsettling. The natives spoke of bears, wolves, coyotes, mountain lions, bobcats, and a big hairy man that ruled over all.

A big, hairy man found in the woods? By the way, other Native American legends say that there is a big hairy man called Sasquatch (Bigfoot), and it lives in the woods and likes onions. It is thought by "Squatchers" that Bigfoot uses onion or garlic to ward off parasites such as fleas, ticks, and mosquitoes. I heard about this, too, even way back when I was Young Huck.



Big Hairy Man?

Back to the watch- all four were now on high alert and it was decided they would all take the next watch. When the final watch would come, the plan was for Papa and Alan to stay up with Dennis and Curt.

The rest of the night went without further incident. In the morning, Dennis and Curt were the only two that were not wiped out because they were only awake for one watch. At breakfast, they all discussed the next night and decided that guard duty would rotate every day to even things out.

The morning, afternoon, and evening were broken up by some great meals. Papa sure missed his onions, though. The foundation stones went up four courses that day, which brought

it to finished-floor level. Some of the big stones had fossil impressions. Papa promised to talk about that on Sunday. The rest of the trees and brush were taken to where they were needed, more stone was gathered, and firewood was cut and chopped.

The girls came by in the evening to check progress. They were thrilled about being able to drive right down to the building site. The important thing is that they brought onions and many of the supplies that were beginning to wane, including milk, eggs, and canned meat. And onions.

The women had many questions, naturally: “Why’d you do that? What goes here? When will you start the dock? Did you buy the pontoon boat yet?” Ugh!

It was good to see the rest of the family, but the guys were glad for the peace and quiet that came with late evening. Papa had invited the girls to the Sunday sermon.

Chapter Seven: Another Night

First shift went to Curt and Uncle Dennis. Again, things were quiet at first. Alan and Papa pulled “the graveyard shift,” second watch. Derek and Howie took morning watch and had breakfast ready by first light.

Curt and Dennis said their shift went without incident. Alan had heard some distant rustling of leaves, and Papa thought he heard a coyote. Howie heard some songbirds and Derek fell asleep. Good job of not watching, Derek!

The breakfast conversation revolved around the night noises. It was decided that, since everyone would be working on the cabin, Howie could run to town and get some game cameras, or “camera traps,” to try to get a better handle of what is out in those woods. Papa insisted that Howie wait till mid-morning so he could bring back three large pizzas. Papa- always thinking!

Meanwhile, work on the cabin consisted of erecting the timber frame. The bark was peeled from medium size poplars, and then a “foot adze” shaped them to fit. Poplars tend to grow very straight and are ideal for the vertical members. After the exterior uprights were stood, they repeated the process on the perimeter at the top. The brackets Derek made held it together. The rafters would bear on the band around the top. Thankfully, the big backhoe could do the heavy lifting. The guys just had to spin the timbers into place.

Howie was back by lunchtime so they took a long break. After lunch, Howie and Alan installed the game cameras toward the top of the mountain. There were lots of rock outcroppings and small caves on the bench near the top, perfect cover for any kind of predator. Alan noticed a natural pathway coming down from there. They put two cameras several hundred yards apart on that trail. The other two cameras went on some lower deer trails. Any of the large predators would chase deer.

Alan and Howie made it back to the cabin site near dinner, so Howie went ahead and began cooking. Alan re-joined the others. They all continued bringing the stone work up to the level of the bottom of the windows. The next step would be to split locust into squared timbers to form the window frames. That phase should be able to start the next day now that everyone was concentrating on the cabin.

Dinner was fried ham (canned), baked potatoes, carrots cooked with a cheese sauce, and homemade biscuits.

After dinner, the clean-up went pretty fast. Now that the work area is concentrated, the tools were pretty well together. The three old men and the three young men thought they would just relax that evening. They had all worked very hard and did not have as much sleep as they should due to the night watches.

The boys were restless, so Papa gave them a challenge. “Howie said he saw a lot of fossil rocks on top of the mountain,” said Papa. “How about you boys taking a walk up there and see if you can bring some back? We will talk about them on Sunday.”

Chapter Eight: The First Sunday on Site

The first Sunday came. The girls came for breakfast cooked by the guys: bacon, eggs, biscuits, and instant hash browns (with ketchup). After “church” they would serve a terrific Sunday meal brought from home.

Between breakfast and the much-anticipated Sunday meal, Papa delivered his “sermon.” He began with prayer, “Heavenly Father, please help us this day to understand the things of Your Creation. In your omniscience, guide us. In your omnipotence, protect us. For your glory, may we comprehend, and may we remember your Son and how He died to save us from our sins. Amen!”

Papa began with scripture:

¹The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork. ²Day unto day utters speech, And night unto night reveals knowledge. ³There is no speech nor language Where their voice is not heard. ⁴Their line has gone out through all the earth, And their words to the end of the world. In them He has set a tabernacle for the sun.
Psalms 19:1-4 NKJ

Many believe the Bible to be myth or allegory. The words in the Bible do not seem that way. They read like literal history, unlike myths. In the creation account in Genesis Chapter 1, we read that God made different things on different days. They sound like literal days, such as “and the evening and the morning were the first day.” Otherwise, why would it say that?

Genesis begins with a Big Bang, does it not? God made everything from nothing. Science agrees, for they cannot imagine a sure-fire way that everything came from nothing. Scientists have developed many theories for the Big Bang, but without proof, nor can they all agree.

Scientists like “Naturalistic” explanations. How did matter begin, how did life begin, how did the mountains form, and so forth, from a “Mother Nature made it happen basis?” That has led to evolution theory. The only way evolution could seem remotely possible is for millions or billions of years to pass while life-forms gradually adapt and change. Out of necessity, long ages are included in evolutionary history.

One of the fallacies of evolution is that science must be observable and repeatable. This does not happen, so evolution must remain a theory. Evolutionists cannot explain the world we find around us. Examples we have found at our property here, just a tiny piece of the world, show issues that science cannot explain or accept concerning fossils and rock strata. The problem for natural science is that a worldwide flood is the best explanation- something they will not accept.

Imagine the world covered by water in the form of rain and bubbling from the ground. The water would be very dirty with soil particles, uprooted trees, and drowned animals. Imagine the water receding over months and months. The soil particles would settle in layers. Dead animals would be covered by mud that has since turned to rock.

We find just that in the world today, which is additional evidence that Noah's Flood was global.

Let us conclude our sermon, and talk about it just a little bit every night until next Sunday. I will write down what we discuss for the girls to read later, since they are not with us most of the week.

Our concluding scripture:

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. John 1:1-3 NKJ

“Let us close in prayer. Dear LORD, thank You for the Scriptures You have given us. You are Truth. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.”

That makes sense to Old Huck, that is, what I heard so far. I would like to hear more about to see if creation makes sense.

The grandsons made the mistake of telling the gals about the strange sounds at night. Ariel teased the boys that maybe it was the bogeyman. Rebecca said, maybe it is Sasquatch. Jane thought it was a leprechaun riding a unicorn. Anna suggested the Jersey Devil. Grace piped in with, “El Chupacabra!” Alan, always with the quick retort said, “Ha ha ha. You girls are idiots!” Before it went further, Derek chimed in with, “Great Grandma would say, ‘be ye kind.’”

The guys did not do any work that day, being Sunday. They made hot dogs over a campfire, discussed the work to be done, and enjoyed some relaxation.



Yikes!

Chapter Nine: What Makes Papa So Smart?

After dinner it was time to begin another night watch. The sleeplessness had been a killer, so they decided to revise the watch operation. Each guy would take a ninety-minute watch by himself. The theory was that a shout by the man on watch would quickly rouse the others.

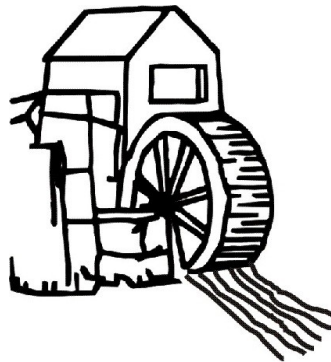
They ran the night watch as described. Not much happened other than the normal distant noises, screams, yowls, and rustling. At breakfast, they discussed why the night goings-on were getting sparser. All they could think of was that the “critters” were used to them being there and so avoided the camp. At first, the activity, campfire, food stores, and new smells must have startled them. By the way, the breakfast Spam, cheese, and onion omelets were mighty tasty.

After breakfast, it was time to resume the hard work. Curt finished the fine grading, and they were able to return all but the backhoe and skid steer to the rental company. A utility supervisor showed up on site with some bad news. They were not going to be able to run power to the cabin for a while due to some environmental issues. That makes sense because some people joke that the government is half “environ” and half “mental!”

Bummer! Work stoppage! Papa told the others not to worry. He believed that he could solve any problem. (He thinks he is so smart for a guy who went to school in the last century. Does he even understand electricity?)

A bright idea! The stream was only 100 feet from the cabin and had good flow, good enough to support the trout and crayfish that swam in it. Papa asked the boys if they could split some locust into slats to make a sluice. Below this, they would construct a water wheel, which, in turn, would generate power. Free power! Locust shafts from the wheel would turn an electric generator. Large batteries could be placed in a shed near the cabin to store the necessary amperage for operating the cabin.

The boys accepted the challenge. They decided to design and build the whole set-up. They had their meeting, then took off in Howie's truck to get the materials- a generator and steel pieces for brackets. They also ordered large batteries through Home Depot. These are the type that power electric cars and are called “deep cycle batteries.” The batteries were expensive, but the free electricity would pay for them in no time.



Water wheel with battery shed

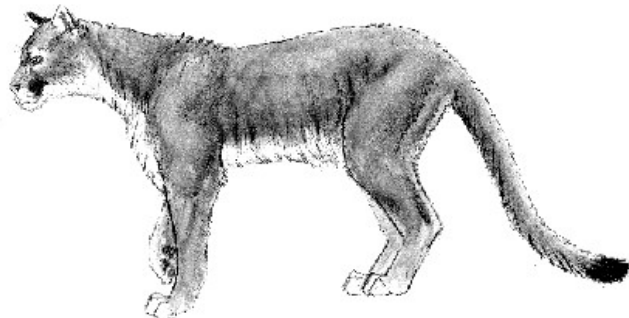
It was a long day, but they made good progress, again! They were functioning well as a team. That attitude would help get the job done, sooner or later.

Back to the scary stuff: Howie sent Alan and Derek off to collect the game cameras. The six guys would review the contents after dinner.

Meanwhile, work on the cabin continued at a good pace. The window frames were installed, and the stone exterior was brought up a few more courses. The sawmill brought the oak flooring joists and boards, so that started, as well.

After another dinner of hearty stew made by Papa, the “six Musketeers” sat around the table to review the photos from the game cameras. Here is what they found:

- Six different does and two fawns.
- Two bucks, one an eight-pointer.
- Three bobcats- one male, one female with cub.
- Six coyotes.
- One female mountain lion with two half-grown cubs.
- A she bear with one cub.
- And one large, unknown dark gray-brown blur.

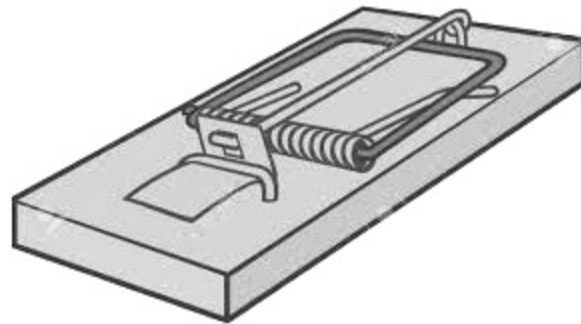


Mountain Lion image captured on game cam

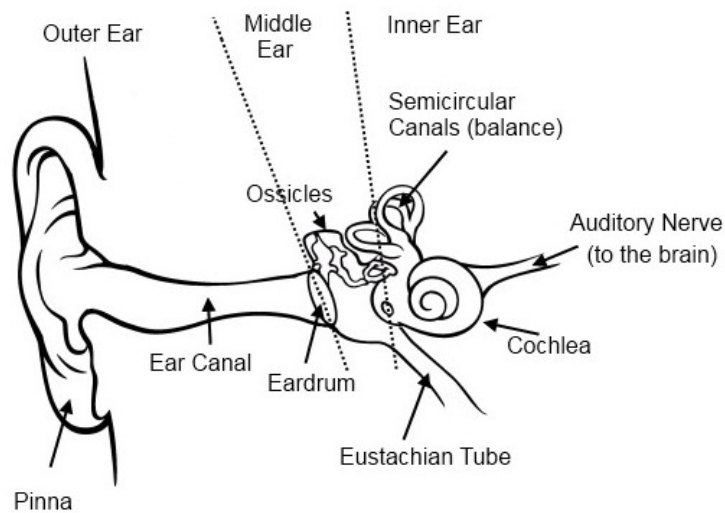
Most of it made sense. There are most likely many more of the same on the tract of land. What wandered in front of the cameras would just be the “tip of the iceberg.” But, what was the large, dark gray-brown blur? The yowls? What explains the missing onions? It seemed as though everyone had an idea, but they kept it to themselves. They all hoped that the girls’ suggestions of Sasquatch, and so forth, were just scare tactics.

They finished off the day by listening to Papa recount more about creation. Papa told them that college professor Dr. Michael Behe of Lehigh University is one of the more famous scientists in the camp of evolution doubters. He studies cells and observes that many different cell components must be in place for the cell to work- to be viable as a living cell. He calls his theory “Irreducible Complexity.” That is, that all the parts have to be there for it to work. He concludes that then it must have been designed by an intelligent being. (Some call that intelligent being “space aliens,” some call Him God.)

Dr Behe uses the simple mousetrap as an example.



There are only six or so parts to a mousetrap, depending on the manufacturer. The mousetrap will not work if any part is missing. What this means is that, if a mousetrap was a living thing and evolved, it would have needed to evolve all the parts at once to exist and reproduce. It could not first be a piece of wood, reproduce for eons before evolving a spring, and so forth. It would not work. Imagine applying the same concept to a human ear.



Like a mousetrap, the ear could not and would not work unless all parts are present. Naturalism cannot explain how such a living structure could evolve in bits and pieces. This logic can apply to any body part. Naturalists “rescue device” for this question is, “Given enough time...” Well, “enough time” simply will not make it work.

Now Old Huck wonders “what makes papa so smart!”

Chapter Ten: Another Sunday on Site

Another week of getting things done was over. Another Sunday, another day of rest, another visit by the girls, and another good meal from home!

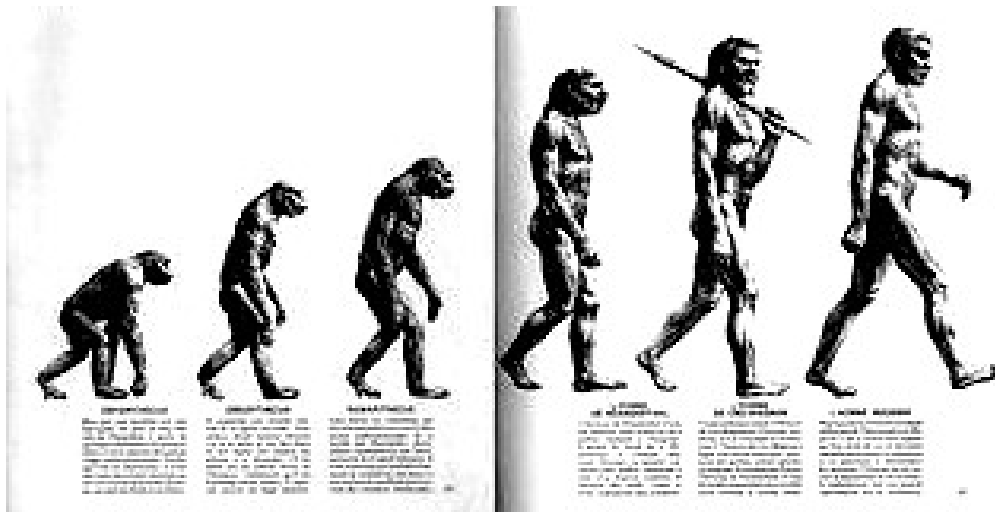
The guys prepared breakfast: fried Spam and egg sandwiches with thin-sliced, fried potatoes. Just add ketchup and a little hot sauce. Yum!!!

Before the cooked dinner would be served, they all had to listen to Papa give another tale of creation. Papa revisited the biblical creation account and made the point that the Bible says that every animal reproduced after its “kind.” A horse is a kind. A dog is a kind. Cats make baby cats. Deer make baby deer. The Bible does not say that some ancient ancestor reproduced into both cats and dogs.

Evolutionary theory requires all life to come from a single ancestor. If that happened, the fossil record should be full of fossils changing from one thing to another. That simply is not what is found. Any questions so far?

“Yes, I have some questions,” said Curt. “What about that drawing in all of our textbooks that shows how monkeys turned into man?”

“Oh, you mean “Zallinger’s March of Progress.”



Papa explained that the problem with this illustration is that all of the representative characters are either monkeys or people. There are no transitional representatives. Creationists are not the only scientists who see the fallacy of this thinking. From secular magazine *American Scientist*, “Thinking about prehistoric human behavioral variability in terms of various adaptive strategies offers an attractive way to explain these differences. But first, we need to discard an incorrect and outdated idea about human evolution, the belief that prehistoric *Homo sapiens* can be divided into ‘archaic’ and ‘modern’ humans.”

Keep in mind that scientists include competitive people who would like to make the “big discovery.” Unfortunately, that has led to some fraud and poor science. Some of the examples are Piltdown Man and Nebraska Man.

Piltdown Man was a hoax in which bone fragments were presented as the fossilized remains of an unknown early human. In 1912, an archaeologist claimed that he had discovered the “missing link” between ape and man. After finding a piece of a human-like skull in gravel beds near Piltdown, England, other bones were found and connected to the same individual. A reconstructed skull was claimed to belong to a human ancestor from 500,000 years ago. The fraud was exposed in 1953 as a forgery, 41 years after its alleged discovery.

Nebraska Man was another supposed “human ancestor.” Nebraska man was entirely imagined after the discovery of a pig tooth.

The most famous “early human” discovery is Lucy, which endures as a supposed human ancestor from 3.2 million years ago. Donald Johanson and others found her in 1974 in Ethiopia. The name of her species was given to be *Australopithecus afarensis*.

The image at the right illustrates the bones that were actually found. There are no complete portions of the human body. It is beyond me how anything about whatever this was can be concluded, although there is plenty of room for imagination. Some of the bones in this image were found as very small pieces, painstakingly glued together. This, of course, leaves more room for error.

Lucy's discoverers believe that she walked upright. Some scientists say that her wrists and neck indicate she would have walked on all fours.

Lucy was dated by argon-argon technology of the volcanic ash in which she was buried. It is believed that she was a mature but young adult when she died, about 12 years old.

Papa's favorite Lucy “fact” is that in 2016 researchers at the University of Texas at Austin suggested that Lucy died after falling from a tall tree. Could Lucy be a Monkey?



Dr. Dan Biddle, president of Genesis Apologetics, has useful information on our supposed early human and pre-human ancestors. Geneticist Dr. Georgia Perdum of Answers in Genesis calls to our attention the myth that chimpanzees and humans have nearly the same DNA. The high percentage is determined only by the percentage of genes that line up between the two, and only in a given portion of the genome. (The genome is the complete set of genes or genetic material present in a cell or organism.) When comparing the entire human and chimpanzee genomes, there is only about a 20% match! Scientists often distort facts. You need to ask them, “Why?” This misleading tidbit appears in many school textbooks.

Papa concluded his presentation by asking a few questions:

- ✓ Are you beginning to wonder if evolutionary scientists have an agenda?
- ✓ Do the known facts fit with the Bible?
- ✓ Does it seem likely that there is a Creator?
- ✓ Can evolution explain the genetic code of all life?
- ✓ Where are the missing “transitional” fossils?
- ✓ Why is evolution, a theory, taught as if it is the same as operational science?

In addition to Dr. Michael Behe, other evolutionary scientists have questions. Karl Popper, famous philosopher of science, said “Darwinism is not a testable scientific theory, but a metaphysical [religious] research programme ...” Michael Ruse, evolutionist science philosopher admitted, “Evolution is a religion. This was true of evolution in the beginning, and it is true of evolution still today.” If “you can’t teach religion in science classes”, why is evolution taught?

Keep that in mind as we continue with our daily lives.

Papa concluded with some scripture. Did you know that the Bible said the world was round, thousands of years before Christopher Columbus?

It is he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers; that stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain, and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in: (Isaiah 40:22).

He stretcheth out the north over the empty place, and hangeth the earth upon nothing. (Job 26:7).

Old Huck thinks that was a pretty good morning of information. After a good dinner, the family enjoyed each other's company. They relived old stories, roasted marshmallows over the fire, and r-e-l-a-x-e-d. The girls could not help themselves but to tease the boys again about the nighttime noises.

The girls left, the guys ate supper, the guys relaxed some more, and went to bed early. There was a night of “standing on watch” ahead of them as well as six days of hard work.

Chapter Eleven: Let's Get Done!

The next morning started off with a meeting called by Howie. They all felt that too many resources were being spent on these night noises. Howie guaranteed the group they need not be afraid of the predators. He reminded everyone that the large deer population provides plenty of protein for the big animals. They are not going to come after people when they have deer.

They dispensed with the exhausting night watches from that point forward and concentrated on the work at hand. With six pairs of hands pitched in, they finished the cabin, detached garage, the generator system, septic system, water tank (sourced from the creek), and boat dock. The generator was inadequate to operate an entire home filled with appliances, so fingers were crossed that the electric company could hook them up before winter. Brrr! Depending solely on wood burning fireplaces is a lot of work and not practical.

The women were so very happy that they could finally move in furniture and decorate. Of course, the women's moving of furniture means that the guys carried it and the women pointed to where it should go. Later, the women would change their minds and show the men where to relocate it- several times!

Finally, the guys were able to construct the boat pier. The last sub-project would bring countless good times. The pier would jut out into the river fifty feet so the houseboat could be docked in the deep water. The bass boat would anchor closer to shore, and the canoes and kayaks near the riverbank.

Being late summer, the bass fishing was just getting hot and heavy. What's more, trout fishing would reopen September first. Also, deer season was fast approaching. There were plenty of bass, walleye, and musky in the river. The creek was full of large native brook trout. Eating would be great!

On one particular evening, Papa asked his grandchildren, "Do you hear that woodpecker? How does it do what it does?" He told them that woodpeckers need a hard beak and shock-absorbing skull. They need a long, sticky tongue plus a sheath that wraps around the skull so they can put their tongues away when not in use. Woodpeckers need feet that will climb trees. To protect their eyes, woodpeckers need the reflex to blink their eyes shut as they strike the tree. Papa reminded them of "Irreducible Complexity," and that woodpeckers, like everything else, appear to have been designed. A caring Creator sounds more likely. They could not evolve all of these features simultaneously.

Old Huck is really learning! Papa taught us some things about cats and dogs. Papa said that all dogs came from the same original dog, the wolf. Both evolutionists and creationists believe this. Evolutionists call it "microevolution," that is small "evolutionary" changes. Microevolution refers to varieties within a given type. Change happens within a group, but the descendant is clearly of the same type as the ancestor. This might better be called variation, or adaptation. Such changes might be accomplished by "natural selection," in which a trait within the present variety is selected as the best for a given set of conditions, or accomplished by "artificial selection," such as when dog breeders produce a new breed of dog.

Although called “evolution” by some, it is simply the variety within “kind” as used in the biblical creation account.

Macroevolution refers to major changes over time, the origin of new types of organisms from previously existing, but different, ancestral types. Examples of this would be fish descending from an invertebrate animal, or whales descending from a land mammal. The evolutionary concept demands these bizarre changes. Scientists find no evidence of this in the environment, although that is their dream.

Cats are a bit different. Secular scientists believe that all small cats come from an ancient breed in Southeast Asia. (“Secular” indicates attitudes, activities, or other things that have no religious or spiritual basis.) Creationists have no problem agreeing, except that most would probably include the big cats with the small cats as having a common ancestor, created by God.

On another evening, the boys wondered if Papa could explain how all the animals could possibly fit on Noah’s Ark. Papa explained that Noah had to take two of every kind (or seven of every clean animal) onto the ark. This did not include animals that live in water, nor did it include insects. (Insects could survive on floating vegetation masses.) Two of every kind means Noah could have taken one pair of wolves. He would not need all the different varieties of foxes, coyotes, or the many wild dogs. So, the list gets shorter when you think of it this way.

Papa could not resist another tricky question. He asked the boys if dinosaurs would have been on the ark. The boys said “no” because:

- The ark was not big enough for all the animals.
- Dinosaurs are too big for the ark.
- Dinosaurs were extinct by then.

Papa’s answers surprised them, of course!

- The ark is larger than you think. Way larger! A full-scale ark has been built in Kentucky. Look at the images on line. <https://arkencounter.com/>
- Most dinosaurs were not huge. The largest would have fit, but who is to say they did not take baby or “teenaged” dinosaurs?
- The book of Job describes two animals living in Job’s time named Behemoth and Leviathan (Job 39 and 40). Check out Old Huck’s notes and additional scripture at the end of this book.

Chapter Twelve: A World of Fun

By now, Fall approached and school resumed. They all moved back to their homes and only returned to the cabin on weekends. The fishing was great. Eating the fish was even better.



85 hp bass boat

As expected, visits to the “back yard” by forest animals were plentiful and marvelous. Such beauty could only be the result of a Designer.

When the full fury of winter came, it was wonderful to just sit around the cabin with a roaring fire. There was a great place for the girls to sled ride. The boys could go into the woods on all sorts of adventures. They built a “clubhouse” high on the mountain.

One day when all of the family was together, Grace mentioned a problem at school. She said that there were a few bullies in class and a person who was “not white” that was frequently picked on. The bullying was being addressed to a certain extent because the kids decided as a group that they were not going to take it. They formed a committee to work with the principal and teachers to identify bullies and take appropriate actions.

The only issue not resolved was the teasing of the “not white” student. Papa sensed another teaching opportunity. He had everyone “gather ‘round” for another lesson. He said, “Let’s discuss skin colors: how many are there?” Well, everyone came up with a different number. Papa asked Mama to give them the answer. “One,” she proclaimed. There were puzzled faces all around the room. Papa asked Mama to explain it to them. Old Huck heard her give the following account.

The secret is in this Bible passage: *God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is LORD of Heaven and earth, hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation.* (Acts 17:24a, 26)

The Bible contains no scripture that would point toward racism, which is simply “hate.” The biblical creation account supports that all mankind descends from one original couple, Adam and Eve. Further, the account of Noah’s flood supports that we all are descendents of Noah, his wife, their three sons, and three daughters-in-law. The curse of Ham has nothing to do with skin “color” as is claimed by racists.

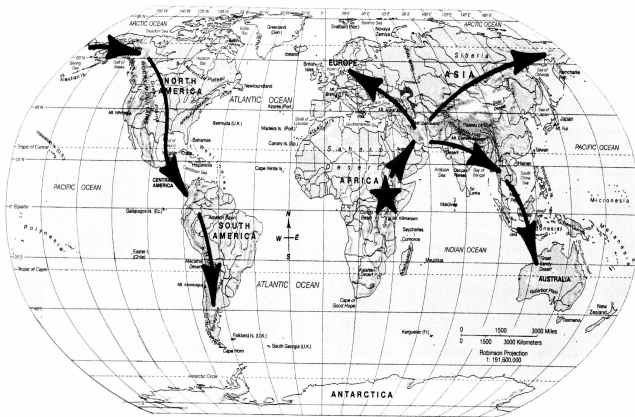
We all have the same skin “color,” determined by pigmentation called “melanin.” Our genes cause some of us to have more melanin than others, so some are darker, some lighter, in varying “shades.” The exceptions are albinos, who have no melanin. Four genes, two from each parent, determine our skin “shade,” represented by upper and lower case A and B on the chart to the right. AABB would be darkest and aabb lightest. This sixteen-square chart shows five possible shades, but skin thickness and the fat beneath the skin can cause further variation.

	AB	Ab	aB	ab
AB	AABB	AABb	AaBB	AaBb
Ab	AABb	AAbb	AaBb	Aabb
aB	AaBB	AaBb	aaBB	aaBb
ab	AaBb	Aabb	aaBb	aabb

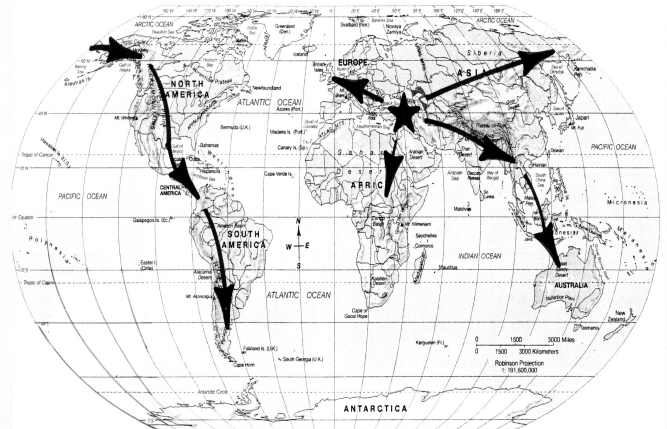
Many believe that Ham was cursed, and that because of this curse, when Noah said “Cursed be Canaan; a servant of servants shall he be unto his brethren,” that Canaan’s descendents were dark skinned. Nowhere is skin color or anything else physical mentioned. The answer to this Genesis 9 reference is answered in the next chapter: Canaan’s descendants occupied Sodom and Gomorrah! One’s descendants being destined to die by a rain of fire is a pretty bad curse!

The Discovery Channel presented DNA research pointing toward a single female ancestor of all humans in 2002 titled “Real Eve.” The program explains how the descendents of their “Eve,” believed to be from Africa, traveled to the rest of the world. The first migrations were into what are now Yemen and the Middle East, then to Asia, Malaysia, and Australia. Also, some to China and eventually the Americas. Later, descendents living in the Middle East migrated North and West to the Balkans and Europe.

As the migration routes were mapped, one could notice the similarity to how a Bible scholar could map the spreading of civilization from Ararat, the “dock” of Noah’s ark. The mere difference would be the direction of one arrow from Africa to the Middle East. (See maps.)



“Eve” or “Out-of-Africa” migration route. From Africa to present day Yemen, then to all points from there.



Possible Biblical migration route from Mount Ararat into all the world.

This is quite imaginable because all of the people groups around the world come from Mrs. Noah or one of her three daughters-in-law. The writers of Real Eve considered the Africans

older, because of more variations. Could these granddaughters instead be the wives of Noah's sons?

An interesting point made on Real Eve was, "Under the skin we are all very much the same," and "If we look at the DNA of all of us...we show less variation than we would find in a small group of (apes)." The Bible certainly agrees that we all came from the real, Real Eve.

Mama had the answer to racism, but she could not or would not answer, after seeing scores of bears, mountain lions, bobcats, deer, and coyotes, what was the thing that made the large, dark gray-brown blur; and the strange yowls?

Chapter Thirteen: Happily Ever After

The boys, Howie, and Dennis discussed among themselves what Papa had been telling them about the Bible. Two issues bothered them; if God made a perfect creation, what is wrong with it and why is their death, and; why would God make animals that would eventually die out, like the dinosaurs?

Papa answered that, yes, God did make a perfect creation, and God said so. God also gave mankind the gift of “free will.” With this free will, Adam and Eve decided to disobey God. They ate the forbidden fruit. That is called “sin,” and brought death into the world and caused us to have to work hard to stay alive. It is why His Son Jesus died on the cross, to save us from our sins.

As far as animals that died, remember that God made the whole world with only two people, Adam and Eve. All the vegetation would have grown fast, all over the world. God probably made very large animals to eat the vegetation. The Bible tells us that at first every animal ate vegetation. After death entered the world, and after Noah’s flood, God commanded Noah to eat meat. Some animals would start eating meat, too. That gave the new earth (for the world was changed) biological balance. Some very large animals as well as very small animals continued to eat vegetation. So that those animals would not overgraze and strip too much vegetation, meat eaters would keep them under control. There were large carnivores like dire wolves, Tyrannosaurus Rex, saber tooth tigers, and all sorts of big things to eat big animals.

As man replenished the earth as God commanded, the need for the largest vegetation eaters was decreasing. They began to die out. That reduced the need for some of the largest meat eaters, so they began to die out. God simply wound everything up in the beginning, and now it is winding down until someday, all believers will live with Him in Heaven on a New Earth.

Papa seemed to make sense, again. There was some concern over how to be one of the people that get to live forever with God. Papa told them another story. He reminded them that there was a door on Noah’s ark. Whoever entered that door was saved. So we just had to enter a doorway to Heaven. How?

It would be wonderful if there were a door to Heaven that we could open at will. This door could eliminate all of our troubles and sorrows by allowing us to unbolt it and enter God’s domain. Actually, “the door” is at our fingertips. Jesus said, “Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if any one hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.” (Revelation 3:20 RSV.) Jesus added, “He who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I myself conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne.” (Revelation 3:21 RSV.)

Jesus is the doorway to heaven. We cannot enter as we are. We are sinners with sinful, mortal bodies. We must be changed before we can cross the threshold to Heaven. The apostle Paul tells us, “For this perishable nature must put on the imperishable, and this mortal nature must put on immortality. When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: ‘Death is swallowed up in victory.

O death, where is thy victory? O death, where is thy sting?’ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our LORD Jesus Christ.” (1 Corinthians 15:53-57 RSV.)

The aging door in this picture was once the beautiful entrance to my Mother’s childhood home. It is testimony to the fact that in the beginning, God wound-up His creation, which is now winding down. By three steps one could enter Mom’s home, and by three steps one can enter Heaven:

1. Confess your sins. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9)
2. Believe in Christ. Believe on the LORD Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house. (Acts 16:31b)
3. Ask Jesus into your Heart. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: (John 1:12)



Jesus can and will save you from your sins, and make a place for you in Heaven. He said, “In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And when I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.” (John 14:2-3 RSV.) If you would like to enter the door to Heaven, pray, “Dear Father in Heaven, I know I am a sinner and have sinned against you. I am sorry for my sins and sinful nature, and ask that you will forgive me. I accept Jesus now as my Savior, who shed His blood for me. I give my life to you and will strive to live for you. Thank you, LORD, for saving my soul. In Jesus name I pray, Amen.”

Chapter Fourteen: Old Huck's Mini Bible

It occurs to this old codger that we never solved the mystery of the noises. We will do that at the end of this chapter. Meanwhile, here is Old Huck's mini version of the Bible.

THE OLD TESTAMENT

The Bible begins with a group of five books called "The Law." They are also called "The Books of Moses." Jesus attribute the books to Moses during His ministry on earth.

The beginning of the Bible is also the beginning of the Universe and all that is in it. God created matter, time, space, light, and all life in Genesis chapter 1, including mankind. God declares that all is good: a perfect creation. God gives man free will. Man disobeys God (sins) and brings death and destruction. This is called "Original Sin" and is why redemption by the birth, death, and resurrection of the Messiah are needed. "Creation vs. Science" is reviewed in Section IV.

A familiar pattern of sin and destruction, followed by forgiveness develops. This pattern is established in Genesis and continues to the last page of the Bible. Genesis continues with rampant sin to a point that causes God to choose to destroy life. He finds a righteous man, Noah, and opts to save this man, his family, and other plant and animal life. God causes a worldwide flood, saving Noah's family and animals by placing air-breathing fauna onto the ark.

After the flood, God commands the people to spread all over the earth. They did not listen. In fact, they united in an attempt to build the first "skyscraper" so they could get closer to God. God confounded their language so they could only communicate within groups. This caused them to separate by language and disperse to all the corners of the earth. Some Bible scholars believe that, after this dispersion, God caused the tectonic plates to shift from the single continent of Pangea into the present configuration.

A man named Abraham enters the picture and becomes the father of the people to be called "Israelites." (He also becomes the father of Ishmael and the Arabs.) His descendants, the Israelites, end up in Egypt as slaves to Pharaoh. This is the familiar scenario of "sin, punishment, and redemption." God selects a reluctant hero named "Moses" to lead "God's People" out of Egypt.

The Israelites flee to a promised land. On the long journey, they repeat "sin, punishment, and redemption" a number of times. God gives them the Law (the Ten Commandments and other laws), and leads them to victory over Pharaoh's army as well as the armies of the people living in the land God promised to the Israelites.

Israel enters the Promised Land. They select a king and judges to rule the people. Over a number of centuries they repeat "sin, punishment, and redemption." This is recorded in the second group of scriptures, a group of twelve books called "History."

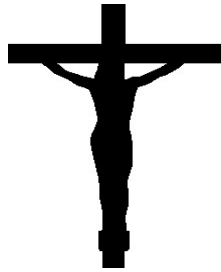
During this same period, Famous kings David, his son Solomon, and others record books of songs, poems, and wisdom. These five books are called "Poetry and Wisdom," and include the well-known and cherished titles of Psalms and Proverbs.

The next scripture section concludes the “Old Testament,” or “Hebrew Bible.” This collection of seventeen prophetic books foretells the future: bad news and good news for all the old kingdoms. They also foretell of a coming Messiah who will arrive to save His people. We call this man Jesus, or the Christ.

THE NEW TESTAMENT

Synonyms for “Testament” include “evidence, witness, proof, and authentication.” The Bible is to be accepted as the infallible (truthful, factual) Word of God. The Old Testament prepares the way for the New Testament. The New Testament begins with four books called “Gospels,” scriptures that narrate the life of a “new” Bible character prophesied in the Old Testament, Jesus, the Christ, the Messiah. Jesus is born in Bethlehem and grows to adulthood in Galilee. He withstands temptation by Satan, serves as a teacher and healer, and in order to fulfill prophecy, dies on the cross as an innocent lamb.

Jesus then is resurrected on the third day, continues teaching for forty days, and ascends into Heaven to reign at the right hand of God the Father. Jesus Christ’s death on the cross and resurrection is to atone for sin and give Eternal Life to anyone who accepts Him as LORD and Savior.



The second section of the New Testament begins with one book, Acts, or the Acts of the Apostles. Acts explains the history of the labors of the apostles and the foundation of the Christian Church.

The next 21 scriptures are letters: books of explanation:

- We are justified by faith, by divine grace, and not by performing rites (works).
- Paul warns his disciples against errors, and exhorts them to certain duties.
- Instructions to continue in faith and in holy conversation.
- The duty of a pastor.
- A discourse on the efficacy of faith united with good works.
- Exhortations to a Christian life.
- The beauty of Christian kindness.
- Respecting the person of our LORD, and an exhortation to Christian love and conduct.
- Warnings against false teachers and deceivers.

The final section of the Bible is one book named The Revelation. This divinely inspired scripture foretells the future of the Church. Also foretold are the end of days, the Resurrection of the dead and Rapture of living saints (believers). Next, a seven-year time of tribulation followed by the Millennium (thousand-year period). Finally, the casting of Satan and death into Hell is foretold. Eternity for believers and the splendor of Heaven are described.

We promised an answer to the scary noises. This is going to surprise you. Those noises always came at night. They always came when the women were not around. The gals teased the guys about the scary noises. Do you see where this is going?

The scary noises were recorded from a TV show about Bigfoot. The girls would sneak up there at night and play the spooky noises to scare the guys. It worked! These big, tough guys who were supposed to do all the he-man work of building the place were scared by noises from a TV show. Since there is no proof that Bigfoot exists, then these scary noises were most likely just fake!

Final Score: Women 1, Men 0.



Read on to Old Huck's notes. Some of you younger readers might need some help from an older brother, sister, or n adult.

Chapter Fifteen: Old Huck Yoder's Notes

Here are some of Old Huck's notes from other "Papa lessons." Some of it is hard to understand, so ask someone older than you for help if you need it. Some of it was discussed earlier in the book, but here it is again with a bit more detail. Enjoy and learn!

THE BIBLE AND SCIENCE

Many if not nearly all modern scientists call themselves "Naturalists," a philosophical viewpoint according to which everything arises from natural properties and causes, and supernatural or spiritual explanations are excluded or discounted. (Note: By definition, naturalism is a belief system, a religion. Leading scientists become PhD's, or Doctors of Philosophy.) The Creation-Evolution disagreement is really the conflict between two religions.

Science is defined as the intellectual and practical activity encompassing the systematic study of the structure and behavior of the physical and natural world through observation and experiment. The observations and experiments must be repeatable. Evolution is a theory. It is the philosophical viewpoint of persons, fallible human beings, who do not believe in God. Also, it is "accepted" by those who are "bullied" by a majority who would make them feel like they were out of touch with reality. Following are some of the points of contention:

THE BIG BANG THEORY

It is just a theory. Rather, a number of theories. The biblical "equivalent" of this is interesting: In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth (Genesis 1:1); in one day, God made space, time, and matter. Naturalists can say that it "just happened," that from nothing came something. Creationists believe that an all-knowing, all-powerful being made everything from nothing: God. None of this can be observed or tested. Let us look at more tangible arguments.

First, all non-believing scientists do not subscribe to evolution. Yes, most PhD holders believe in evolution, but some believe that a designer started all this, although they cannot answer who that would be. Dr. Michael Behe of Lehigh University is one of the more famous scientists in the camp refuting Darwinism. Most famous for the principle of "irreducible complexity," Behe says, "I am interested in the evolution of complex biochemical systems. Many molecular systems in the cell require multiple components in order to function. I have dubbed such systems "irreducibly complex." (Behe 1996, 2001) "Irreducibly complex systems appear to me to be very difficult to explain within a traditional, gradualistic Darwinian framework, because the function of the system only appears when the system is essentially complete." Behe cites the mousetrap as an example: a mousetrap needs all its parts to work.) Web: <https://www.lehigh.edu/~inbios/Faculty/Behe.html>

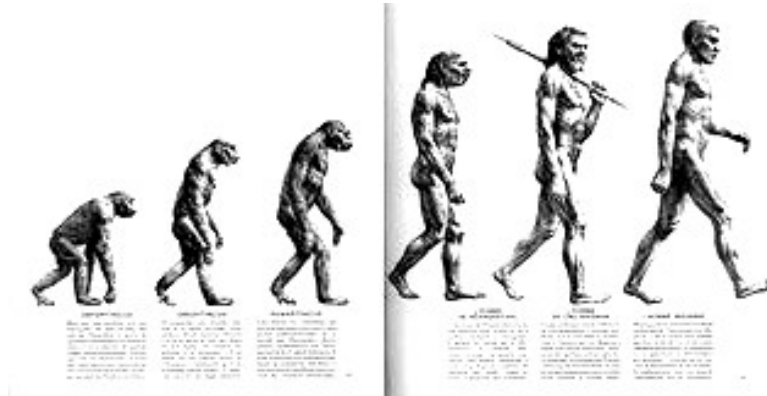
FOSSILS

Naturalists dig up fossilized bones all over the place and then develop stories and timelines based on their views. Others see the fossil record just screaming "God." Why? A worldwide flood that killed almost all life on earth would leave billions of dead things buried in rock layers laid down by water all over the earth. That is exactly what we see. Also, a worldwide flood would deposit marine fossils on top of mountains. That, too, is

what exists. Naturalists believe that animals die; are gradually covered by earth, and eventually fossilize. Try this experiment: find a dead animal, let it lay in your back yard, and see if it remains there long enough to fossilize.

THE MARCH OF PROGRESS

Rudolph Zallinger came up with an image we have all seen that is found in all the textbooks. It is meant to show “The March of Progress” of evolution from monkey to human.



The problem with this illustration is that all of the representative characters are either monkeys or people. There are no transitional representatives. Creationists are not the only scientists who see the fallacy of this thinking. From secular magazine *American Scientist*, “Thinking about prehistoric human behavioral variability in terms of various adaptive strategies offers an attractive way to explain these differences. But first, we need to discard an incorrect and outdated idea about human evolution, the belief that prehistoric *Homo sapiens* can be divided into ‘archaic’ and ‘modern’ humans.” Web: <https://www.americanscientist.org/article/refuting-a-myth-about-human-origins>

DNA

The DNA “program” that all life possesses can only be described as design. Here is an opinion from a naturalist:

Dr. Stephen C. Meyer directs the Center for Science and Culture at Discovery Institute, a non-partisan public think tank with offices in Seattle, Washington and Arlington, Virginia. Meyer has devoted over two decades of his career to the curious case he calls “the DNA Enigma.” His 2009 book, *Signature in the Cell, DNA and the Evidence for Intelligent Design*, released in June, 2009, chronicles his personal and professional investigation into the cause responsible for the origin of biological information in the cell.

While working as an exploration geophysicist in 1985, Meyer attended a conference in Dallas addressing the origin of the universe, the origin of life and the nature of human consciousness.

“It was an arresting discussion of what scientists knew they didn’t know,” says Meyer. “I was surprised to learn—contrary to what I had read in many textbooks—that the leading scientific

experts on the origin of life had no satisfactory explanation for how life had first arisen. These experts, many of whom were present that weekend in Dallas, openly acknowledged that they did not have an adequate theory of what they called ‘chemical evolution,’ that is, a theory of how the first living cell arose from simpler chemicals in the primordial ocean. And from their discussions it was clear that DNA—with its mysterious arrangements of chemical characters—was a key reason for this impasse.” Web: <http://www.vision.org/visionmedia/reviews/intelligent-design-signature-in-the-cell/17451.aspx>

CARBON 14

Creationists and Young-Earth scientists often refer to C14 radiocarbon dating as a “faulty dating method.” Carbon 14 does decay at a given rate. But using this decay rate to determine the age of something is tenuous. One must make assumptions on what the atmospheric make-up was in “prehistory,” for example. Again: assumption.

Here are two big problems with radiometric carbon dating:

1. Dinosaur soft tissue has been found which contains Carbon 14. The decay rate of C14 is such that it cannot be more than 100,000 years old. If dinosaurs died 75 million years ago, that is a pretty large gap to try to explain.

“Researchers at Imperial College in London had low expectations when they began analyzing eight dinosaur fossils unearthed at the Dinosaur Park Formation in Alberta, Canada, some 100 years ago. Most of the bones, which dated to the Cretaceous period, were in fragments; the pieces that remained were of below-average quality. To the scientists’ astonishment, however, analysis with an electron microscope revealed what appeared to be red blood cells and collagen fibers that had remained intact over some 75 million years of fossilization.”

“Unlike bones and teeth, which can survive for hundreds of millions of years, soft tissues are among the first materials to disappear during the fossilization process. Even so, scientists have found intact soft tissue in dinosaur bones before. The most famous case dates to 2005, when Mary Schweitzer of North Carolina State University found collagen fibers in the fossilized leg bone of a Tyrannosaurus rex. But such discoveries are rare, and have previously occurred only with extremely well preserved fossils. The most extraordinary thing about the new find, which scientists from Imperial College London reported this week in the journal *Nature Communications*, is that the fossils they examined are of relatively poor condition (to put it kindly).” Web: <https://www.history.com/news/scientists-find-soft-tissue-in-75-million-year-old-dinosaur-bones>

2. Diamonds have been found containing C14. Again, scientists believe that diamonds, the hardest substance on earth, formed hundreds of millions of years ago. And, once more, C14 should decay in no more than 100,000 years. C14 has also been found in coal.

Radiocarbon dating is generally limited to dating samples no more than 50,000 years old, as samples older than that have insufficient C14 to be measurable. Older dates have been obtained by using special sample preparation techniques, large samples, and very long measurement times. These techniques can allow measurement of dates up to 60,000 and in some cases up to 75,000

years before the present (Walker, Mike (2005). Quaternary Dating Methods (PDF). P. 23
Chichester: John Wiley & Sons. ISBN 978-0-470-86927-7.

Clearly there are many “causes of disagreement” between Creationist and Naturalistic views. We cannot do enough here but possibly pique your interest. Numerous organizations of scientists who are also Christians have formed institutions of research and to publish articles, books, DVDs, etc. supporting their views. Check out “resources” in the Appendix.

THE BREATH OF LIFE

And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul. (Genesis 2:7)

I once had the experience of assisting Ken Ham, executive director of Answers in Genesis Ministries, with a series of programs at a Bible college, seminary, and high school. I was familiar with biblical creation science beforehand. After hearing most of the presentations, I had the occasion to speak with Ken during a rare break. I shared with him that four indistinct words from the biblical creation account convince me of the truth of special creation: “the breath of life.”

The biblical creation sequence might at first seem illogical to us: light was created before the sun; reptiles were created the same day as mammals and man (evolutionists believe that dinosaurs lived earlier than man), and; birds created before dinosaurs (evolutionists believe birds evolved from dinosaurs). How does a Bible-believing Christian explain this? If the Bible is true and infallible, it should be easy to prove these “inconsistencies.” So, what evidence do we have, one way or the other? Let us start with the “breath of life.”

The moment after a living being dies, the body still contains every essential DNA strand, molecule, organ, and body fluid it possessed while alive moments before. Why did it die? What is the fundamental essence missing that prevent the organized materials from living? Ken Ham is a scientist. He agrees that this “breath of life” is outside of our human comprehension and perception. This reason alone would allow me to accept intelligent design by a supreme being (God), but there are many other reasons.

EARLY MAN

The Discovery Channel aired The Last Neanderthal, which was about our supposed brutish ancestor. Evolutionists must make Neanderthal fit into their long ages time frame, so they depict Neanderthal as apish. I believe that any man from any age was just “Man.” Following is the evolutionist claim, and the creationist response:

- Neanderthals perhaps had complex language (from The Last Neanderthal). The Bible teaches that there are only God’s People, not Neanderthals, Cro-Magnons, Homo Africanus, etc. They all spoke from the day of the creation of Adam (creationist position). So, we agree.
- Neanderthals lived in Europe and the Middle East hundreds of thousands of years ago. We agree with the location for early man as indicated by the Bible.
- Lived in small groups. Cared for one another. Hunters/gatherers. Crude tools. Buried their dead. Of course. We descended from 2 people. We were families from the day Adam and Eve had their first son. God gave us every herb for food. We did not eat meat until after the flood.

- Disappeared suddenly. Several possibilities. Those living prior to Noah’s flood were buried in the flood. Others scattered quickly after the confusion at Babel. Others picked up and moved from time to time.
- Neanderthals had large bones, large brains, were muscular. Compare Eskimos to Native Americans to Europeans to Asians. All humans can be built differently including skull shapes.
- A new “predecessor,” Cro Magnon, was found in France. His skull was different than Neanderthal, he was taller, lighter boned, ate a better diet, and made jewelry. Sounds like the USA.
- A second group came “out-of-Africa” and either displaced all others including Neanderthal, or mixed and merged with the others. We mix and merge all the time these days and use the hateful name “half-breed.”

Here is a great quote on evolution: Is evolution so delicate a flower that it must be protected? If it is, then there must be something wrong with it. Andrew Wert, Creation Science Fellowship.

Creation is a faith the facts fit. You can believe that the Bible is God’s infallible word. It contains truth and it is truth. The Bible is not fairy tales or just stories to channel our morals. If you are not a Christian, you might not be aware of the very best news from the Bible; that is, Salvation and eternal life in Heaven with God according to His promises:

THE BIBLE AND HISTORY

Modern archaeology began in the last few centuries. These scientists have dug numerous old sites, giving us insight into how the old world operated and about their capabilities. The prime example is Egypt and the times of the pharaohs. Incredible discoveries have been made in this North African Nation: what about biblical sites? Here is a listing of people and places, thought by secularists to be invented by people that created a religion and wrote a book of “myths.”

A GLOBAL FLOOD

Evolutionists do not accept that there was a global flood. They state that the prime reasons Creationists accept the flood are incorrect. Evolutionists believe that there is no evidence to support such a flood. Most Creationists accept that the Grand Canyon is evidence of stratified deposits laid down by water, and that after the flood, a catastrophic event carved the canyon.

PBS presented a Nova episode on November 11, 2017 titled “Killer Floods.” This is a quotation from the broadcast: “Across the world, three far-flung locations share an eerie similarity. In the United States, 16,000 miles of dry canyons and bizarre rock formations cover the northwest; in Iceland, a 300-foot-deep gorge appears to have been ripped out in an instant; and off the coast of Britain, a network of mysterious canyons carved deep into the seabed could reveal how this channel first separated what is now Britain from France. Far from eroding gradually, there is evidence that vast deluges tore out these landscapes in the geological blink of an eye. But what could have triggered such killer floods? And could one strike again?” The Nova program concluded that lots of water in a short time caused these events. They compared some of them to the Grand Canyon, but (I think) carefully ignored details of the Grand Canyon event.

Scientists who are Creationists view evidence from the Grand Canyon as a sudden and recent event. Dr. Walter Brown suggests in his book *In the Beginning* that huge amounts of sedimentary layers were produced by the global catastrophe, and covered the earth like a blanket. Dr. Brown has theorized that the drainage from the flood produced some huge, post-flood lakes. “Because of local conditions, many of these lakes eventually dried up. Others remain to this day, but still others grew. Eventually, the natural dams holding these large lakes gave way, and water began to pour through the gap. The more this happened, the wider the gap grew, until the entire lake surged through catastrophically, and carved the canyon rapidly.” These positions hold up to scientific models. Web:

https://www.missionimperative.org/uploads/4/7/7/0/47708539/how_did_the_grand_canyon_actually_form.pdf

SODOM AND GOMORRAH

Is the Bible’s account of the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah just a myth? Not likely, says an archaeologist who believes, following 12 years of sifting sand near the Dead Sea in Jordan, that he has found the ruins of the largest twin cities in the area, one that fits all the criteria of the Bible account. Steven Collins, a professor of biblical studies and Apologetics at Trinity Southwest University, says a “monstrous” site in Tall el-Hammam in the southern Jordan Valley, which lies eight miles northeast of the Dead Sea, perfectly matches the biblical descriptions of the “city of sin” destroyed in a single day by fire and brimstone. Collins began exploring the rubble in 2005 and eventually concluded that it is indeed the site inhabited by Lot who was saved by Abraham from judgment of the dominant city-state of the era. “When we explored the area, the choice of Tall el-Hammam as the site of Sodom was virtually a no-brainer since it was at least five to 10 times larger than all the other Bronze Age sites in the entire region.” The site is a large mound, or tel, that he believes represents the ruins of the two cities. The team of researchers has since found high and thick defensive walls, gates, towers, plazas and ramparts as well as a palace in the upper city.

Web: <http://mobile.wnd.com/2018/03/have-sodom-and-gomorrah-been-found/>

ISRAELITES IN EGYPT AND THE EXODUS

Some modern historians deny that the Israelites were enslaved in Egypt. According to the article “Exodus Evidence: An Egyptologist Looks at Biblical History” from the May/June 2016 issue of *Biblical Archaeology Review* wrestles with both of these questions—“Did the Exodus happen?” and “When did the Exodus happen?” In the article, evidence is presented that generally supports a 13th-century B.C.E. Exodus during the Ramesside Period, when Egypt’s 19th Dynasty ruled. The article examines Egyptian texts, artifacts and archaeological sites, which demonstrate that the Bible recounts accurate memories from the 13th century B.C.E. For instance, the names of three places that appear in the Biblical account of Israel’s Exodus from Egypt correspond to Egyptian place names from the Ramesside Period (13th–11th centuries B.C.E.). The Bible recounts that, as slaves, the Israelites were forced to build the store-cities of Pithom and Ramses. After the ten plagues, the Israelites left Egypt and famously crossed the Yam Suph (translated Red Sea or Reed Sea), whose waters were miraculously parted for them. The Biblical names Pithom, Ramses and Yam Suph correspond to the Egyptian place names Pi-Ramesse, Pi-Atum and (Pa-)Tjuf. These three place names appear together in Egyptian texts only from the Ramesside Period. The name Pi-Ramesse went out of use by the beginning of Egypt’s Third Intermediate Period, which began around 1085 B.C.E., and does not reappear until much later.

Web: <https://www.biblicalarchaeology.org/daily/biblical-topics/exodus/exodus-fact-or-fiction/>

KING DAVID

David is a Bible figure who has been controversially denied as having ever existed. But, an archaeological find called The Tel Dan Stele was discovered in an archaeological dig in the ruin ("tel") of the ancient city of Dan in northern Israel. It was made of basalt, which was a very expensive stone in antiquity. Since it would have been costly to produce, the monument could not have been erected by just anybody. It was most likely the work of a king. There were thirteen lines of writing preserved in an early form of the alphabet. The letters were clear and elegantly inscribed and recognized as Aramaic, the mother tongue of ancient Syria. The ninth line caught the collective eye of the first readers. There were the consonants that spelled out the name of David: DWD. But the name did not stand alone. It was part of a larger word rendered "house of David."

Web: <https://archive.nytimes.com/www.nytimes.com/books/first/m/mckenzie-david.html?mcubz=1>

SOLOMON

Like his father, David, many reject Solomon as a fictionalized character. Some think a recent excavation at Biblical Tamar Park in southern Israel has unearthed the entrance to one of Solomon's store cities. Paul Lago, one of the archeological workers at the site, believes the gates he helped uncover in this recent dig led to one of the fortified cities described in the Book of First Kings. "The Bible says that Solomon built a fortress in the desert," Lago told Breaking Israel News. "The archeological evidence is consistent with 1 King 9:19, where it says Solomon built Tamar in the wilderness."

Web: <http://patternsofevidence.com/blog/2018/01/26/have-solomons-gates-been-found/>

JESUS

The Old Testament contains a myriad of prophecies about the coming of the LORD, the Messiah, Jesus. Claims have been made that early Christians went back into the scriptures and altered them to show that Jesus fulfilled these prophecies. Proof that this did not occur was found among the Dead Sea Scrolls, which are ancient Jewish religious, mostly Hebrew, manuscripts found in the Qumran Caves near the Dead Sea. Written before the time of Jesus, they show that the modern Old Testament (Hebrew Bible) is just the same as the current versions. There was no hoax by early Christians.

OTHER BIBLE PERSONALITIES

Modern historians have questioned that a king named Nebuchadnezzar existed. He was the king that captured the Jews and destroyed the first temple. Recently, archaeologists have unearthed many thousands of bricks that have his name stamped on them. Evidence has surfaced that many Bible figures really existed. More and more the historicity of the Bible is being confirmed.

Web: <https://www.biblicalarchaeology.org/daily/people-cultures-in-the-bible/people-in-the-bible/50-people-in-the-bible-confirmed-archaeologically/>

The remains of the First and Second Temple are known, as well as many New Testament locations and places associated with Jesus. One can take a virtual tour and visit these places "from home."

Web video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4IIJ4YUjSY>

Appendix

ADDITIONAL BIBLE REFERENCES

EVOLUTIONISTS & THE BIBLE

³Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, ⁴And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation. ⁵For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: ⁶Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished: ⁷But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. (2 Peter 3:3-7).

THE CREATION ACCOUNT FROM THE BIBLE

¹In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ²The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. ⁴And God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. So the evening and the morning were the first day.

⁶Then God said, "Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters." ⁷Thus God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament; and it was so. ⁸And God called the firmament Heaven. So the evening and the morning were the second day.

⁹Then God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear"; and it was so. ¹⁰And God called the dry land Earth, and the gathering together of the waters He called Seas. And God saw that it was good. ¹¹Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb that yields seed, and the fruit tree that yields fruit according to its kind, whose seed is in itself, on the earth"; and it was so. ¹²And the earth brought forth grass, the herb that yields seed according to its kind, and the tree that yields fruit, whose seed is in itself according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. ¹³So the evening and the morning were the third day.

¹⁴Then God said, "Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years; ¹⁵and let them be for lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth"; and it was so. ¹⁶Then God made two great lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night. He made the stars also. ¹⁷God set them in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth, ¹⁸and to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹So the evening and the morning were the fourth day.

²⁰Then God said, "Let the waters abound with an abundance of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the face of the firmament of the heavens." ²¹So God created great sea creatures and every living thing that moves, with which the waters abounded, according to their kind, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. ²²And God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." ²³So the evening and the morning were the fifth day.

²⁴Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth the living creature according to its kind: cattle and creeping thing and beast of the earth, each according to its kind"; and it was so. ²⁵And God made the beast of the earth according to its kind, cattle according to its kind, and everything that creeps on the earth according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. ²⁶Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." ²⁷So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. ²⁸Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth." ²⁹And God said, "See, I have given you every herb that yields seed which is on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food. ³⁰Also, to every beast of the earth, to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, in

which there is life, I have given every green herb for food"; and it was so. ³¹Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day. (Genesis 1:1-31 NKJ)

¹Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished. ²And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. ³Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made. ⁴This is the history of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens ⁵before any plant of the field was in the earth and before any herb of the field had grown. For the Lord God had not caused it to rain on the earth, and there was no man to till the ground; ⁶but a mist went up from the earth and watered the whole face of the ground.

⁷And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being. ⁸The Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed. ⁹And out of the ground the Lord God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. ¹⁵Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to tend and keep it. ¹⁶And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; ¹⁷"but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

¹⁸And the Lord God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him." ¹⁹Out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to Adam to see what he would call them. And whatever Adam called each living creature, that was its name. ²⁰So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him. ²¹And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. ²²Then the rib which the Lord God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man. ²³And Adam said: "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man." ²⁴Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. (Genesis 2:1-9, 15-24)

HUMAN ORIGINS & FILLING THE EARTH

I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well. Psalms 13:14 NKJ

I have made the earth, and created man on it. It was I My hands that stretched out the heavens, and all their host I have commanded. Isaiah 45:12 NKJ

And the days of Adam after he had begotten Seth were eight hundred years: and he begat sons and daughters. (Cain's wife was most likely his sister.) (Genesis 5:4).

PRE-FLOOD WORLD

And Cain knew his wife; and she conceived, and bare Enoch: and he builded a city, and called the name of the city, after the name of his son, Enoch...And Adah bare Jabal: he was the father of such as dwell in tents, and of such as have cattle. And his brother's name was Jubal: he was the father of all such as handle the harp and organ. And Zillah, she also bare Tubalcain, an instructor of every artificer in brass and iron: and the sister of Tubalcain was Naamah. (Gen. 4:17, 20-22).

LOGISTICS OF NOAH'S FLOOD

And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters. And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament: and it was so. Gen. 1:6-7. In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, the same day were all the fountains of the great deep broken up, and the windows of Heaven were opened. (Genesis 7:11).

Make thee an ark of gopher wood; rooms shalt thou make in the ark, and shalt pitch it within and without with pitch. And this is the fashion which thou shalt make it of: The length of the ark shall be three hundred cubits (*450 feet*), the breadth of it fifty cubits (*75 feet*), and the height of it thirty cubits (*45 feet*). A window shalt thou make to the ark, and in a cubit shalt thou finish it above; and the door of the ark shalt thou set in the side thereof; with lower, second, and third stories (*3 stories high*) shalt thou make it. (Genesis 6:14-16).

You clothed the earth with floods of waters covering up the mountains. You spoke, and at the sound of your shout the water collected into its vast ocean beds, and mountains rose and valleys sank to the levels you decreed. And then you set a boundary for the seas, so that they would never again cover the earth. Psalms 104:6-9 LVB

THE REASON FOR A FLOOD

So God looked upon the earth, and indeed it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth. And God said to Noah, "The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with violence through them; and behold, I will destroy them with the earth. (Genesis 6:12-13 NKJ)

WATER AND ANIMALS

¹⁷And behold, I Myself am bringing floodwaters on the earth, to destroy from under Heaven all flesh in which is the breath of life; everything that is on the earth shall die. ¹⁸But I will establish My covenant with you; and you shall go into the ark you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you. ¹⁹And of every living thing of all flesh you shall bring two of every sort into the ark, to keep them alive with you; they shall be male and female. ²⁰Of the birds after their kind, of animals after their kind, and of every creeping thing of the earth after its kind, two of every kind will come to you to keep them alive. ²¹And you shall take for yourself of all food that is eaten, and you shall gather it to yourself; and it shall be food for you and for them." ²²Thus Noah did; according to all that God commanded him, so he did. (Gen 6:17-22 NKJ)

WHO WAS INVITED

⁵And Noah did according to all that the LORD commanded him. ⁶Noah was six hundred years old when the floodwaters were on the earth. ⁷So Noah, with his sons, his wife, and his sons' wives, went into the ark because of the waters of the flood. ⁸Of clean animals, of animals that are unclean, of birds, and of everything that creeps on the earth, ⁹Two by two they went into the ark to Noah, male and female, as God had commanded Noah. ¹⁰And it came to pass after seven days that the waters of the flood were on the earth. ¹¹In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep were broken up, and the windows of Heaven were opened. ¹²And the rain was on the earth forty days and forty nights. (Gen 7: 5-12 NKJ)

WHAT HAPPENED

¹⁷Now the flood was on the earth forty days. The waters increased and lifted up the ark, and it rose high above the earth. ¹⁸The waters prevailed and greatly increased on the earth, and the ark moved about on the surface of the waters. ¹⁹And the waters prevailed exceedingly on the earth, and all the high hills under the whole Heaven were covered. ²⁰The waters prevailed fifteen cubits upward, and the mountains were covered. ²¹And all flesh died that moved on the earth: birds and cattle and beasts and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, and every man. ²²All in whose nostrils was the breath of the spirit of life, all that was on the dry land, died. ²³So He destroyed all living things which were on the face of the ground: both man and cattle, creeping thing and bird of the air. They were destroyed from the earth. Only Noah and those who were with him in the ark remained alive. ²⁴And the waters prevailed on the earth one hundred and fifty days. (Gen 7:17-24 NKJ)



Suggested Reading

- Baugh, Carl, and Wilson, Clifford. *Footprints and the Sands of Time*, Oklahoma City, OK, Hearthstone Publishing, Ltd. 1992.
- Ham, Ken, *The Great Dinosaur Mystery*, Green Forest, Arkansas, Master Books, 1998.
- Ham, Ken, *Did Adam Have a Belly Button?* Green Forest, Arkansas, Master Books, 1999. (Answers to 172 tough questions.)
- Parker, Gary, Ph.D., *Creation Facts of Life*, Colorado Springs, Colorado, Master Books, 1994.
- Sarfati, Jonathan, Ph.D., *Refuting Evolution*, Green Forest, Arkansas, Master Books, 1999.

Suggested Resources

ANSWERS IN GENESIS is an apologetics ministry, dedicated to helping Christians defend their faith and proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ effectively. We focus on providing answers to questions about the Bible—particularly the book of Genesis—regarding key issues such as creation, evolution, science, and the age of the earth.

Web: <https://answersingenesis.org/>

THE INSTITUTE FOR CREATION RESEARCH, after more than four decades of ministry, remains a leader in scientific research within the context of biblical creation. Founded by Dr. Henry Morris in 1970, ICR exists to conduct scientific research within the realms of origins and Earth history, and then to educate the public both formally and informally through graduate and professional training programs, through conferences and seminars around the country, and through books, magazines, and media presentations.

Web: <http://www.icr.org/>

MISSION IMPERATIVE is an outreach by Mike Snavely, founded in 1995, and exists to give God His rightful glory in creation. It's all about the Lord Jesus! As such, our prime focus has been the development of various ways to make the message of God's Word clear, especially as it relates to origins. The prime focus of the ministry revolves around our "creation seminar safaris" - a series of seminar sessions that cover a wide array of topics that deal with many of the facets of the whole creation model. These are typically presented in churches, conventions, camps, etc. There are programs that cover the evolution theory, nature issues, dinosaurs, the fossil record, ancient civilizations, the apes-to-man scenario, the Grand Canyon, etc.

Web: <https://www.missionimperative.org/>

THE AMERICAN SCIENTIFIC FOUNDATION'S unique mission is to integrate, communicate, and facilitate properly researched science and theology in service to the Church and the scientific community. ASA members are confident that such a goal is not only possible but necessary for an adequate understanding of God and Nature. We believe that honest and open studies of both Scripture and Nature are mutually beneficial in developing a full understanding of human identity, relationships, and our environment. Additionally, the ASA is committed to advising churches and our society in how best to employ science and technology while preserving the integrity of God's creation. Web: <https://www.asa3.org>

THE CENTER FOR SCIENCE AND CULTURE, formerly known as the Center for the Renewal of Science and Culture, is part of the Discovery Institute, a conservative Christian think tank in the United States. Web: <http://www.discovery.org/>

Study Curriculum

CREATION OR EVOLUTION: We are encouraged by television that the people who really know animals are from Australia or South Africa. Mike Snavely is certainly no exception. “Ranger Mike,” from South Africa asks, “Have you ever seen a curriculum designed specifically to deal with the creation vs. evolution issue? We hadn’t. Many people asked us about it, so we decided to write one in 2001. This book is designed, for self-study purposes, for anyone 6th grade and above. It contains forty lessons that are divided into seven units. Most lessons have worksheets, and all units have tests. Most use this for their children as a Bible supplement. It’s designed to answer many of the questions asked on the issue of origins. This curriculum answers these and many other questions. It is designed to give the student a well-rounded view of the whole “creation model” of origins. This study of the biblical account of origins will stretch the student’s faith in the written Word of God and encourages confidence when facing a world hostile to its message.” 148 Pages.

Web: https://www.missionimperative.org/store/p1/Creation_or_Evolution_Curriculum

Television

GENESIS SCIENCE NETWORK

Web: <http://genesissciencenetwork.com>

DRIVE THRU HISTORY with Dave Stotts® is a fun, fast-paced, content-rich history show that speeds through ancient civilizations, the Holy Land, and the founding of America, allowing the viewer to experience the people, places, and events that shaped our world and the Christian faith. To date, ColdWater Media has successfully produced and distributed 54 episodes. Aired on Trinity Broadcast Network and Blaze.

Web: <https://www.drivethruhistory.com/>

CREATION IN THE 21st CENTURY features top scientists on a weekly basis and includes stories, and discoveries that will enlighten, educate, and inspire as David Rives takes viewers on an amazing journey through the grandeur of the universe. From deep space, to the amazing complexities of planet earth, to God’s plan of salvation through Jesus Christ, each episode of this innovative show will challenge viewers to take a closer look at Scripture in light of the wonders of God’s creation. Aired on Trinity Broadcast Network.

Web: <http://creationinthe21stcentury.com>

The author recognizes that God's Word has not changed from the beginning. Satan continues his deceptions. His great tool of our age is the *lie of evolution*. This book challenges that lie, and explains to readers that the foundations of the Christian faith, beginning with the creation, still stand. The author writes in an enjoyable style and includes Scripture passages within the text to effectively explain how one's belief regarding origins affects our daily lives six thousand years later.

This book is written for all Christians, and for Jews who want to learn how science fits with the fact that God created everything from nothing in six days, as God inspired Moses to record. Christians and Jews worship the same Creator God, and the Jews are part of God's master plan. Our Jewish friends might be interested in why Christians accept Jesus Christ as the Messiah.



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Word to the World Ministries



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