



**CREATION
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UPDATE

**FOR PARTNERS
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Proclaiming Creation in a Scientific Age

This month's update is by our colleague Philip Bell, CEO of *Creation Ministries International-UK/Europe*.

We live in an age characterised by a high level of affluence in the West and a belief that civilization is advancing through achievements in science and technology. While we have certainly benefited greatly from the advances in technology, it has been largely forgotten that over the course of the past 500 years that many of these advances were made by scientists who understood that they were pursuing a better understanding of what God had created. But the so-called 'Enlightenment', with its emphasis placed upon human autonomy, introduced a new approach to science. Gradually, generations were taught that naturalistic and materialistic explanations could explain everything in the world around us, without reference or regard for the Creator. Also science was lifted up as the possible source for the solutions to all of society's problems. Hand in hand with these ideas, secular humanistic philosophy increasingly asserted man's ability to define morality rather than glorifying the Creator. Thus, many ordinary people are unable to distinguish right from wrong (c.f. Jonah 4:11)—rather, people rely on what looks and feels right. This has resulted in decreased respect for human life, as shown by the epidemics of abortion and

euthanasia, and mass confusion regarding sexuality, with adultery, promiscuity, and every imaginable sexual 'orientation' celebrated. Biblical Christianity repudiates this, and so is vilified.

But in spite of the 'scientific' achievements of our age, it would seem that *people are as religious as ever*. We are constantly confronted with the alarming growth in religious (especially Islamic) extremism and destabilisation of many countries via the threat of terrorism. Those with a more western mind-set engage in widespread idolatry—whether of possessions, film stars, pop idols, sports teams and personalities—and many also have embraced Buddhism or any of a host of other religions or cult philosophies. The same was true of the various pagan philosophers encountered by the Apostle Paul two millennia ago: "Men of Athens", he said, "I perceive that in every way you are very religious" (Acts 17:22).

A scientific age?

The idea that we are on our way to some sort of secular Utopia is without any basis. The Bible proclaims: *Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people* (Proverbs 14:34). People are deeply religious—including atheists—and

have given the glory and worship that is rightfully due to the Creator to man and other created things. This is just as Paul observed and taught in Romans 1:18–23. In fact, he went on to link this worship-transfer (from the Living God to created objects) to moral declension and depravity generally (Romans 1:24–32).

The crying need for the faithful proclamation of biblical creation should hardly need highlighting. Is the Church as a whole awake on this issue? The answer is a clear and categorical *no!* On the contrary, there is a widespread refusal, even on the part of many professed evangelical Christians, to emphasise (or even to acknowledge) Paul's teaching. The Bible makes clear that Creation-denial ("the things that have been made", Romans 1:20) is tantamount to Creator-denial ("For although they knew God, they did not honour him as God", 1:21), and that idolatry directly follows ("because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator", 1:25).

We believe in proclaiming Creation

The hope of the Gospel is the only answer to this sorry state of affairs.

The message “that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners” (1 Timothy 1:15) is the Good News indeed. Our ‘enlightened age’ has cast off the claims of the Son of God as an irrelevance, coming as they do from a Bible which, they say, is riddled with historical and scientific inaccuracies.

Without an understanding of the *reliability and relevance* of biblical creation, people will continue to languish in their ignorance, deceived and deceiving each other (2 Timothy 3:13), their minds dulled and blinded to their spiritual poverty (Ephesians 2:1–2) and to the seriousness of their eternal predicament—that they are, “by nature children of wrath” (Ephesians 2:3), “having no hope and without God in the world” (Ephesians 2:12). By proclaiming Creation in a scientific age we expose the folly of worldly thinking, while simultaneously pointing people to the Creator-and-Saviour of the world, the Lord Jesus Christ.

All true science is God’s science

Many more important reasons could be advanced to emphasise *why* we proclaim Creation. We must dispel any notion that this defence of an historical Genesis (by an acknowledged minority of today’s Christians) is akin to Custer’s Last Stand¹—a forlorn hope in the teeth of the evidence from the sciences. Nothing could be further from the truth. Contrary to the protests from the critics of biblical creation (whether theistic evolutionists, atheistic evolutionists or secular humanists), there is abundant evidence from molecular and cell biology, biochemistry, genetics, anatomy, physiology, palaeontology and anthropology that supports the unassailable inference of design regarding all life on Earth. This, the Bible affirms to be the work of the

Creator, Jesus Christ (John 1:1–3, Colossians 1:15–17, Romans 1:20). Add to that the numerous evidences from geology, geomorphology, cosmology, history and archaeology, and the case for an historical Genesis 1–11 is truly impregnable. We can truly say that *all* true science supports the biblical record—which it would do, being God’s science!

Such evidence is demonstrably *inconsistent* with the whole molecules-to-man evolutionary story. And with increasingly easy access to information via the Internet, the fatal flaws in this great delusion of our age are being exposed. An excellent source of such information was compiled during CMI’s *Evolution’s Achilles’ Heels* project (now available in book and documentary form). The existence of such readily-available tools ought really to lay to rest, once and for all, the well-worn, empty mantra of evolutionary propagandists, that “there are mountains of evidence for evolution!”²

Answering questions about origins

It is true that our age is one of amazing electronic gadgets, ground-breaking medical advances and pioneering space missions. And it may be tempting to think that ‘the sky’s the limit’—the public is bamboozled by all the media razzmatazz, surrounding each new scientific breakthrough, plus the constant drip-feed of evolutionary claims masquerading as science. For the most part, unwary people swallow the godless speculations about origins, unable to distinguish these from genuine breakthroughs of experimental science and technology. CMI speakers frequently meet people who have been swayed by the evolutionary mantra, ‘science has proved the Bible wrong’; this deceitful statement wrongly equates

evolution with science. Others are more candid, plainly declaring ‘Evolution is a fact, so Genesis cannot be true history.’

None of this is of any comfort to the millions of people searching for answers to their many nagging questions. What happened to the dinosaurs? Aren’t the fossils proof of evolution? What about the big bang? What about carbon dating? Could Noah’s Flood have really happened? How did the different human ‘races’ arise? Doesn’t DNA support evolution? Could God have used evolution? How could a loving God allow death and suffering? Of course, a large part of CMI’s work is given to dealing with exactly these questions—and many others besides. Our dozens of qualified staff writers and speakers globally³ network together and keep abreast of new origins-related discoveries and fresh claims. In this way, we provide informed critiques and thought-provoking reflection that is up-to-date and reliable.

Walking fish? Walking snakes?

For just one recent example, our attention was drawn to a video on YouTube which showed fish called mudskippers ‘walking’ around on exposed mudflats in mangrove swamps—“a creationist’s worst nightmare” exulted our antagonists. We took up the ‘challenge’, and demonstrated the evolutionary penchant for half-truths by showing that mudskippers are, in fact, marvellous specialists with a unique suite of features: stereoscopic vision; liquid-filled skin ‘cups’ to keep their eyes moist when out of water; a ‘ramped’ retina allowing them to focus through the upper and lower sections of their eyes in/out of water; the special ability to breathe through the mouth and skin (rather than gills); a lubricant slime covering with antimicrobial properties.

These characteristics refute the evolution of these mudskippers, instead supporting a design explanation.⁴

Creation believers hold your ground!

Exposing falsehoods and “demolishing arguments against the knowledge of God” is not merely an optional extra for the Christian (see 2 Corinthians 10:4–5). Much as some would shy away from this, the military analogy is a biblical one—Christians are to engage in this “warfare” against strongholds, whether they be worldly, fleshly (pertaining to their own sinful nature) or satanic (see 1 Timothy 1:18, James 3:15, Ephesians 6:12). It’s a biblical imperative. The evolutionary stranglehold on education—maintained and perpetuated by a mendacious mainstream media—is a significant obstacle to the knowledge of God in the 21st century. The Bible clearly teaches the creation of all things in six-days a few thousand years ago (Genesis 1–2); the intrusion of sin and the Curse, blighting the originally perfect universe physically and morally (Genesis 3); the geographically global, devastating Flood (Genesis 6–9); and the historicity of Babel, with the confusion of human language (Genesis 10–11). Furthermore, Jesus and all the New Testament writers affirmed this view of Genesis 1–11.⁵

We *proclaim* Creation, not only because it is true, but because effective evangelism requires it. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is founded on an historical Adam and Eve, the serpent tempter, the taking of the forbidden fruit, and the promise of the Victor over Satan (Genesis 3:15). History’s simple message—all are sinners; sin’s penalty is death, spiritual and physical; Christ came to deliver us from sin’s penalty and power, and from the sting and dominion of death—is *founded*

on historical events recorded in Genesis.

Last, but not least, God is glorified when we uphold the Word of God and proclaim its teaching on Creation and the Creator. His name is honoured. The same cannot be said for teaching which undermines the same even if by well-meaning Christians. Christians seeking to live godly lives in this ungodly world should be at the forefront in repairing and restoring the breaches in the foundations and walls of Christendom (Isaiah 58:12). We need to hold fast to our confession of faith in Christ (Hebrews 10:23), making every effort to contend for the faith handed down to us by previous generations of faithful believers (Jude 3). *Proclaiming Creation in a scientific age* should be a staple part of every Christian’s engagement in the good fight of faith (1 Timothy

6:11–12). CMI is privileged to serve the Body of Christ by providing tools which believers can use to proclaim biblical truth. Please do pray that we may have many more opportunities to train and equip the Church to bring the light of Christ into a dark world.

References

1. Refers to the heavy defeat of battalions of the US Army’s 7th Calvary Regiment (led by George Armstrong Custer) at the famous ‘Battle of the Little Bighorn’, during the Great Sioux War of 1876.
2. See, A ‘mountain of evidence’ for evolution? *Creation Magazine LIVE!* (2–18), creation.com/media-search?fileID=LgDaViPUfZY, 22 May 2013.
3. This represents a large pool of qualifications and experience across all major scientific disciplines, theology, engineering and other apologetics-related subjects.
4. Bell, P., Mudskippers—marvels of the mud-flats! *Creation* 34(2):48–50, 2012.
5. See, Batten, D. & Sarfati, J., *15 Reasons to take Genesis as history*, Creation Book Publishers, 2006.