



Rocky Mountain Creation Fellowship
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May/June 2010 Newsletter

Monthly Meeting Location
Second Friday of Month, 7 PM
Bethlehem Lutheran Church
21st and Wadsworth

**“For in six days the LORD made
the heavens and the earth,
the sea and all that is in them...”**

Exodus 20:11



Rocky Mountain Creation Fellowship

*Educating the World
On the Truth of Creation*

Volume 63

May/June 2010

June 11 Meeting Plans - Dr. Jerry Bergman

Rocky Mountain Creation Fellowship is privileged to have as our June speaker Dr. Jerry Bergman. Dr. Bergman is a graduate of the Medical College of Ohio, Wayne State University, The University of Toledo, and Bowling Green State University. Dr. Bergman has also completed 40 graduate hours in the department of chemistry at Miami University in Oxford Ohio, and has studied geology, philosophy, nutrition, and chemistry at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. So far he has earned nine degrees.

The title of his presentation is "Slaughter of the Dissidents," which is the title of a recent one of his books. In the book, Dr. Bergman exposes viewpoint discrimination, which is directed at those in academia who are Darwin Doubters or Darwin Skeptics. Several case studies are offered which document the stories of victims, who are routinely denied the treatment and benefits afforded to their colleagues; educators are denied tenure, students are denied degrees, and scientists are denied the opportunity to conduct scientific experiments or publish their findings in many mainline peer reviewed science journals. Many other tactics are also employed to ensure that the credibility, careers, and influence of these people is thoroughly destroyed.

Dr. Bergman has taught biology, genetics, chemistry, biochemistry, anthropology, geology, and microbiology at the college level for over 35 years. He has over 800 publications in 12 languages, mostly in science, 22 books and monographs, and over 100 scientific papers presented at professional and community meetings in the United States, Canada, and Europe. Among his books is a Fastback on

the creation-evolution controversy published by Phi Delta Kappa, a college textbook on measurement and evaluation, and he has contributed to dozens of other textbooks.

July 9 Meeting Plans —Dr. Dan Korow

July 9 is family night at RMCF, featuring Dr. Dan Korow, a retired veterinarian who delights in teaching the awesome wonders of God through the vehicle of science. Power-up your home school science with Dr. Dan! Amazing examples, neat PowerPoint® illustrations and all glorifying God our creator. Great for ALL ages!"

Before he was "Dr Korow", Dan grew up in Ohio wanting to look at bugs, butterflies and take care of animals. He wishes he had kept up with piano....but his love for science kept growing until....

After eight years of post high school study, Dr. Dan Korow earned a BS degree in Biology from the University of Akron and completed a Doctorate in Veterinary Medicine from the Ohio State University in 1990. After more than seven years of small animal practice in Akron, Ohio, he and his wife Andrea moved to Colorado in early 1998.

Dr. Korow has presented a variety of seminars nationwide as a former speaker and trainer and has also spoken at the CHEC and UTCH home school conventions. Currently, he teaches a full scope of science classes for homeschoolers. He, his wife Andrea and son Joshua, reside in Colorado.

Dr. Dan, a veterinarian, delights in teaching the awesome wonders of God through the vehicle of science. So the July meeting will be FAMILY NIGHT at RMCF. This will be a great chance to power-up your home school science with Dr. Dan! Amazing examples, neat PowerPoint® illustrations, teaching ideas and

demos -- all glorifying God our Creator. Great for ALL ages!"

Bonus Science Workshop

On Saturday morning following the July 9 meeting, Dr. Korow will present a hands-on science workshop for people of ε_2 ges.

Parents and home schoolers are urged to come and experience how God's world conforms to God's Word through science experiments and demos. Check the website for time and place. (There will be a small charge for materials, and a love offering will be taken for the teacher.)

March Meeting Highlights

Our speaker for the March 12th meeting was Dr. Ed Holroyd. Dr. Holroyd holds a Ph.D. in atmospheric science and served as a weather research scientist and remote sensing scientist for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation for 31 years, and served on the Board of Directors of RMCF. Ed's talk was entitled "Global Warming: The Other Factors".

Dr. Holroyd confirmed that global warming is occurring, noting that most glaciers and ice caps are indeed now shrinking. He contends this trend is part of natural temperature fluctuations that correlate with sunspot activity through the centuries. He discussed sunspot effects on cosmic ray bombardment of the earth's atmosphere. Increased particle fluxes during high solar activity sweep away some of the cosmic rays, which nucleate clouds. The reduced cloudiness allows penetration of more solar energy, warming the Earth.

Temperature history and upward CO₂ trends in ice cores show that the temperature leads the CO₂, so CO₂ cannot be the cause. He showed

that the strongest greenhouse gas by far is water vapor, not carbon dioxide.

Dr. Holroyd played a video on global warming which included interviews with creationist scientists such as Dr. Larry Vardiman and Mike Oard. Although the video confirmed a small increase in temperature in the last few decades, the opinions were that this was not caused by the CO₂ buildup, but reflects a natural return to more normal temperature after the “Little Ice Age” in the 18th century. Carbon dioxide enrichment of the atmosphere was described as beneficial in increasing vegetation.

Then Ed did a science demo using a cloud chamber apparatus where he tried to show cosmic ray traces from background radiation. None were observed, probably due to the shielding of the building.

FAMILY VACATIOS WITH A PURPOSE

Creation Mountain Adventures!

August 1-6, 2010 and
August 8-13, 2010

An excellent opportunity to get top-notch creation teaching and have a real vacation for the whole family!

Alpha Omega Institute offers family camps in one of **Colorado's** most gorgeous mountain locations -- the fabulous Redcloud Ranch near Lake City in Western Colorado which offers tremendous lodge rooms, private baths, and gourmet food!

Besides a dynamic creation seminar with Dave and Mary Jo Nutting and Richard Stepanek of AOI, there is also a dynamite children's creation vs. evolution program with hands on science, crafts, and PowerPoint sessions.

For recreation, choose horseback riding, rappelling, canoeing, 4 wheel drive trips, exploring old ghost towns, fishing, archery,

ropes courses, climbing a 14000' peak, or just soak in the beauty.

Call AOI at **970-523-9943** or visit their website for more information including a full-color brochure and registration.

discovercreation.org

April Meeting Highlights

Our April meeting speaker was Dr. John P. Jackson, the Director of Research for the Turin Shroud Center of Colorado. Dr. Jackson is likely the foremost expert on the Shroud of Turin today. In addition to conducting Shroud research, he has taught at the university level for many years.

In 1978, Dr. Jackson led a large team of international scientists to Turin where they examined the Shroud for a week. High-resolution, multi-spectral pictures and chemical samples were used to characterize the image, which amazingly appears as a photographic negative on the Shroud. Dr. Jackson became the primary custodian of this data and, along with his scientific team in Colorado, has continued the work of Shroud research ever since.

Dr. Jackson began his presentation by showing a documentary video on the Shroud investigations. The program provided intriguing but inconclusive evidence that the Shroud of Turin may be the burial cloth of Jesus. It is well known that carbon dating of the Shroud done in 1988 has put the origin of the cloth in the 14th century, which would disqualify the Shroud. Dr. Jackson proposed his theory that carbon monoxide contamination may explain why the carbon date is so recent. He also relies on historical evidence that implies an origin at least as old as the 7th century. For example, some scholars believe the head kerchief, or “sudarium,” has been preserved, with documentation going back that far. Studies in Spain comparing the sudarium with the Shroud blood stains show a high correlation with blood on the kerchief (including blood type), strongly

suggesting that it was used on the same corpse as the Shroud.

Dr. Jackson developed an apparatus that would allow the church exhibitors to display the shroud with only the face showing.

Great interest was expressed in a full-scale replica of the Shroud which Jackson used to describe its features and aspects of the investigation. The original cloth is a linen textile woven in an elegant and apparently rare, 3 over 1 herringbone weave. An interesting aspect of the image is the existence of interruptions of the image, which imply it may have been tied with a narrow strip. The strip could be the mysterious one that is now stitched to the shroud along one edge to preserve it. The Shroud exhibits blood stains (Type AB), which correlate with wounds of scourging and crucifixion of the Historical Jesus. But the origin of the sepia-colored image of face and body, which is extremely superficial, is not the result of any known natural process. This fact has led many to the conclusion the Shroud is authentic, and that the image was produced as a by-product of the Resurrection of Christ. Dr. Jackson theorizes that some sort of radiation associated with the Resurrection may have scorched the surface of the Shroud as the body of Christ miraculously passed through it.

Furthermore, the intensity of the Shroud image seems to vary with expected cloth-body distance. That is, the closer the draping Shroud was to a presumed underlying body, the more intense was the body image. This three-dimensional characteristic of the image seems to suggest that it could not be the work of an artist, because the correlation between intensity and topography would not be known

New findings: the backing which had been placed on the Shroud after the 1532 fire damage to protect and preserve it has recently been removed, revealing to scientists for the first time the backside of the Shroud. Another faint image is found there, which corresponds to the body-side image, but slightly different. The amazing

thing is that there is no bleed-through from the body side to the backside--both images are very superficial, in the surface micro-fibers only, with no trace of stain in between. This new finding adds further credence to the idea of a supernatural origin for the images.

For more info visit shroudofturin.com

May Meeting Highlights

Field research geologist Dr. Steve Austin was our speaker at the May RMCF meeting on Friday, May 14. Dr. Austin's research interests include The Grand Canyon, Grand Canyon dating project, the nautiloid mass kill (fossils) in the Redwall Limestone, earthquakes in the Middle East in the Biblical Record, and his Flume project to demonstrate how fast-flowing water can deposit stratified layers of shale..

Dr. Austin received his Ph.D. from Penn State University in sedimentary geology. He is a Senior Research Scientist with Institute for Creation Research in Dallas.

Dr. Austin has performed geologic research on six of the seven continents of the world. His research adventures have taken him by helicopter into the crater of Mount St. Helens volcano, by bush plane onto glaciers in the high mountains of Alaska, by raft through the entire Grand Canyon, on horseback into the high Sierra, by elevator into the world's deepest coal mines, by SCUBA onto the Great Barrier Reef of Australia, by rail into the backcountry of Korea, by foot onto barren plateaus of southern Argentina, and by four-wheel drive into remote desert areas of Israel, Jordan and Saudi Arabia.

Dr. Austin's field research within Grand Canyon includes over 400 nights camped out below the Canyon's rim, and over ten technical papers. His book "Grand Canyon: Monument to Catastrophe" summarize his investigations there. Perhaps his best-known work is the video on the 1980 Mt. St. Helens eruption, where he discovered processes at work which substantiate his PhD thesis research, which theorized rapid

coal formation due to floating log mats. Such a mat is now found in Spirit Lake resulting from the volcano blast.

This week marks the 30th anniversary of the eruption of Mt. St. Helens on May 18, 1980, which Dr. Austin described in his presentation as the geology event of the 20th century—important because it challenges the evolutionary thinking in the interpretation of geologic features. As we observe this geologic catastrophe, we can apply what we learn to the origins of other geologic features, like canyons, coal beds, layered strata, etc. We can think about what it says to us personally about our view of ourselves, the world around us, and ultimately about God.

The eruption began with the largest landslide in recorded history—1/2 cubic mile, part of which slid into Spirit Lake, displacing its water 860 ft high, and forming a new basin 200' higher than before. The resulting supersonic steam blast exceeded the energy equivalent of 20 megatons of TNT, leveling 150 sq. miles of forest.

Steve showed an animated simulation of the first 50 seconds of the high speed laminar slurry flows of boulders off the summit. The mud flow which followed, depositing over 600' of strata, helped greatly to understand how rock layers form—not by slow and gradual processes over millions of years, but catastrophically.

Pyroclastic flows (1000 deg. F) raced down the mountain at 100 mph leaving layered deposits 25' thick. Additional strata laid down after the June 12 eruption created micro-thin laminations with the same characteristics as Grand Canyon sandstones, previously thought to have been gradually deposited over 30M years. After the summit eruption in March 1982, a mudflow rapidly dug an entirely new landscape consisting of 5 canyons, which is now called the “Little Grand Canyon”, which appears as a one-fortieth scale model of GC.

One million logs floating on Spirit Lake. Begin to float upright and sink to the lake bottom,

forming what appear to be multiple forests at different strata levels. This discovery has forced the Park Service to reinterpret Specimen Ridge, Yellowstone, and the sign claiming it to be the petrified remains of 27 ancient has been removed.

Spirit Lake also helps to understand the layered-bark content of coal, because at the bottom of the lake, the bark from the floating trees has created a peat bog of bark three feet thick. This destroys conventional thinking that coal forms in swamps at a rate of 1" per thousand years. Spirit Lake gives us a glimpse of the first step of rapid coal formation.

Life is now flourishing in the blast zone, with elk herds and thirty-foot tall conifers that were replanted by the gophers. This remarkable recovery reminds us of the restoration of the animal kingdom by the animals departing the Ark of Noah after the Great Flood. In Mt. SH we have seen the mighty work of God described in Ps 104: “He touches the mountains and they smoke.” There, God shows that he specializes in doing things that we think are impossible, and we see a scale model of Noah’s Flood, which helps us understand how the earth was really formed. Dr. Austin compared the magnitude of Mt. SH quake with other, much larger quakes, including Yellowstone, which range up to 6000 cubic miles of ejected material.

After the break, Steve gave us an update on the material from his book, “Grand Canyon, Monument to Catastrophe.” Truly the premier natural wonder, GC is 4-18 mi. wide, 257 mi. long, and reflects removal of 900 cubic miles of rock material. Sadly, the canyon has become an icon of evolution, reflecting “deep time,” a primitive earth, placid seas, and slow/gradual erosion, but this icon is seriously challenged by what has occurred at Mt. SH. Steve gave us a summary of GC geologic processes using his name as an acronym for Sedimentation, Tectonics, Erosion, Volcanoes, and Exponential decline. He showed how flume studies have demonstrated the formation of sorted layers of separate grains of sand, as well as crossbed

layering like the Coconino Sandstone. Studies have shown that the thick cross beds could have formed by migrating sand dunes 60' tall under fast/deep water currents. Shale layers (fine grained silt and clay), previously thought to only form in quiet lakes requiring thousands of years, can occur in 15 degree inclined flume flows, rapidly forming mud layers. Because of these studies, sedimentary geologists are preparing for a major "paradigm shift."

Even the Redwall Limestone of GC, thought by canyon experts to be the last bastion of uniformitarianism, has succumbed to Dr. Austin's discovery of billions of cone-shelled squids called nautiloids. Probably the largest single fossil discovery ever found, the bed extends from eastern GC to Las Vegas, and is 150 mi long. Steve's explanation is a catastrophic underwater mudflow which swept up the creatures and deposited them in a limestone bed 7' thick in a single event. It only took minutes, not millions of years.

Incredible tectonic events like the uplift of 250K square miles of the Colorado plateau have come into play in the formation of the post-Flood world. The Pacific plate collided with Alaska and accreted rock onto it and boosted up the tallest mountains in North America, while subducting a portion of the sea floor under NA. This super earthquake, representing 100's of meters of displacement, has created a "superfault" at Kodiak Island, where melted rock (glass) has been discovered. To create enough heat, this fault displacement must have occurred in seconds. Steve calls it "continental sprint" instead of the conventional "continental drift." Evidently, strong seduction of the past preceded the weak seduction of the present. In these geologic catastrophes, we see the power of the Creator at work and we marvel at the failure of mankind to heed the warnings of judgment. In 2 Pet 3: 3-6 we read of scoffers who will come in the last days, denying the Creation and the Flood. But scripture gives detailed documentation of its Global extent: "Upon the face of the whole earth." (Gen 8:9), "All the

high hills were covered" (Gen 7:19,) and "deluged by water" (2 Pet 3:6).

Thanks to Dr. Steve Austin for an inspiring and memorable presentation.

Garden of the Gods Safari

On Saturday following the May RMCF meeting, twenty-five members and families were treated by Dr. Steve Austin of ICR to a guided tour of some interesting geological areas at Garden of the Gods and Manitou Springs. Each of the formations, including the 90-degree tilted red rocks of Garden of the Gods, reflect vertical tectonics, such as the 15,000' uplift of the Rocky Mountains, which raised the Pikes Peak granite, which might be the created basement rock of Creation Day 3. Overlying the PP granite is a formation similar to the Great Unconformity of the Grand Canyon, but on a smaller scale. In the GC, this stratum is thought to mark the boundary between tilted pre-Flood strata below and the flat-lying sediments from the Flood. The boundary was visible in Manitou Springs and also at the Cave of the Winds, between the PP granite and overlying sandstone and limestone. Here, the boundary is also tilted by the uplift of the Rockies.

The last stop exhibited a challenging Fountain Formation deposit of reddish-brown mudstone interbedded with unsorted light colored sandstone clasts, with vertical penetration of sand into the mud, which some agreed were probably cracks, but was debated by others. For sure, this fascinating clastic sequence was not deposited slowly at the bottom of a shallow sea, but was generated by colossal mud and sand flows, possibly transitioning between two converging flows.

A great time was had by all, and many photos were taken to document the evidence of catastrophe in the Front Range of Colorado.

Special thanks to Dr. Steve Austin.

Dinosaurs—Living Large Sauropods

Engineered for Size

What excites you most about dinosaurs? Be honest. Surely it's the ones that were super-sized! And the biggest of them all were some of the long-neck sauropods. But sustaining such huge bodies presented huge challenges.

If we're honest about it, most of us think that dinosaurs are pretty cool (at least, if the box office or all those "educational" toys are any indication). How is it that dinosaurs inspire so much devotion? After all, no one makes movies about trilobites.

When most people think about dinosaurs, they think of one word: big. But dinosaurs had a wide range in size. Some, like *Compsognathus*, were only about a foot tall, while others, like the duck-billed hadrosaurs, were bigger than SUVs. All told, it is difficult to precisely identify the average size of a dinosaur.¹

But it is the big dinosaurs that impress us. And the biggest of them all are found among the sauropods. Being large had its advantages. Before Adam's fall into sin, all land-dwelling, air-breathing animals ate plants (Genesis 1:30), and sauropods could graze on the higher vegetation. After Adam's sin brought evil and death into the world, being big and tall had another advantage: scaring off predators.

Biggest of the Big: The Sauropods

The sauropods ("lizard feet") included the largest land animals in history. With fossils on every continent, sauropods are easily recognized by their extremely long necks and tails, which are anchored to a huge body and held up by towering legs.

Familiar North American sauropods include *Apatosaurus*, *Brachiosaurus*, and *Diplodocus*. At 115 feet (35 m), *Seismosaurus*, the "earth shaker," is the longest land animal ever discovered, and is even longer than a blue whale! Most massive of all is *Brachiosaurus*,

who tipped (or broke!) the scales at around 30 tons (27 metric tons)!²

Being the biggest kid on the block has obvious advantages, but it also presents some huge challenges. For instance, how do you support and move all that bulk?

My, What Big Feet You Have!

Sauropods had an enormous chest, which housed their massive lungs, heart, and stomach. To hold up these massive bodies, the legs were giant columns of bone. The femur (upper leg bone) of *Camarasaurus* stands over 4 feet high (1.2 m) and over 1 foot wide (0.3 m), making *Camarasaurus* 10 feet tall (3 m) at its hip. Not to be outdone, *Brachiosaurus* was over 16 feet (5 m) at the shoulder. Its head towered 40 feet (12 m) above the ground.

To help support their weight, the same bones that make up the palm of our hand (metacarpals) and most of our feet (metatarsals) were organized vertically, and in a semicircle, similar to elephant feet. In effect, sauropods walked on their toes!

Another feature that set the sauropods apart from other dinosaurs was their long neck, designed for foraging food. Most sauropods held their necks out horizontal to the ground. They could swing their necks in a wide arc, allowing them to forage large areas in front of them without moving around much.

Their necks were equal to or slightly longer than their torso. *Mamenchiasaurus*, a sauropod found in China, takes this to an extreme: its neck equals the length of the rest of the entire body! Other sauropods took a different approach to feeding. The neck of *Brachiosaurus* was angled upward, allowing it to reach high into the treetops, giving it access to food that most other animals could not reach.

Unlike many paintings and plastic toys, most sauropods did not hold their heads up high to browse on tall trees or "snorkel" under water

(the pressure on their lungs and air passage would have been too great to take a breath).

The key to understanding how sauropods used their necks is their vertebrae. Think of a crane. In the center is a tower, with high-tension wires running to both ends. On a dinosaur, the tower was the hips, and muscle tendons ran from there to the head. In some species, we can see depressions in the vertebrae where they were held in place.

This design reduced the neck's range of motion, so a sauropod couldn't lift its head high or look directly backward, but it could gently sweep its head left and right without straining the muscles that kept its head off the ground. The long tails of most sauropods also helped to balance the weight of the head and neck.

Sauropods were the largest animals ever to walk the earth. Their amazing size and power can remind us of the power of their Creator. From neck to tail, sauropod vertebrae are very big. So to shed a few pounds, God designed them with a lighter construction, including occasional holes or thin regions. This design is similar to modern steel construction.

What to Feed a Behemoth

One striking feature of sauropods is the small size of the head relative to the enormous body. How could they get enough to eat?

Sauropod teeth were often long and peg-like, designed to strip vegetation off plants; they did not chew their food. Instead, it would pass into their huge, vat-like stomach, where bacteria would help break down and ferment the vegetation until useful for food. Sauropods would also swallow rocks (called gastroliths) that would grind down the food. This type of digestion allowed sauropods to eat food sources (like conifers) many other plant-eaters did not.

We have little knowledge of the actual food eaten by sauropods, but the types of plants buried with them indicate low-quality, high-

fiber conifers, ferns, and ginkgos. One recent discovery from India gave us an unusual glimpse: some large fossilized dung (called coprolites), likely from sauropods, preserved several types of grasses.

They Grow Up So Fast

Sauropods grew to enormous sizes. But how fast? Until the late 1990s, little was known about how sauropods had their young and how fast they grew. But the discovery of a huge nesting ground in Argentina gave paleontologists a never-before-seen view into the lives of sauropods. Many nests were found, and each had multiple layers of eggs. More amazing still was that the eggs preserved skeletons of the unhatched dinosaurs. Strangely, though, no adult skeletons were found. In other rocks where sauropods are found, there are often medium-sized juveniles along with adults. Perhaps as the Flood waters were coming closer, the parents were forced to abandon the nesting site. Based on studies of bone structures formed while the animal grew, it took about 20 years for a large sauropod to reach maturity. Their lifespan may have been 100 years or more. So while sauropods matured slower than large whales (which require only 5–6 years to reach maturity), their growth was still rather fast when we consider how huge they became. And unlike whales, which drink up to 100 gallons a day of their mother's milk in the first year, young sauropods dined on conifers, far less nutritious fare than milk.

Truly Gentle Giants

Sauropods were without comparison in God's creation. They were certainly the largest animals ever to walk His creation. Their very footsteps could make the ground shake. Imagine the power of a herd! As creatures made on Day Six of creation, they truly were "behemoth" ("beasts of the field" in Genesis 1:25). Made along with us, their amazing size and power should remind us of the awesome power and glory of our Lord and Creator, Jesus Christ.

Footnotes

(1) Determining the average dinosaur size isn't easy. In "Implications of Body-Mass Estimates for Dinosaurs," *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology* 14(4): 520–33, Jan Peczki calculated that the average size of a dinosaur was between 1 and 10 tons. Two things push this number lower: first, more small dinosaurs are being discovered than large ones (a trend noted by Peczki, which has continued to today); second, many early methods of determining dinosaur size likely over-estimated their mass. So it is likely that the average mass of a dinosaur was less than 1 ton.

(2) Much of the data in this article came from Fastovsky and Weishampel, *The Evolution and Extinction of the Dinosaurs*, 2nd ed. (2005), and Weishampel, Dodson, and Osmólska, *The Dinosauria*, 2nd ed. (2004).

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answersingenesis.org/articles/am/v5/n1/living-large

The Amazing Eyes of the Mantis Shrimp

One of God's created sea creatures may one day inspire better DVD players! Mantis shrimp have "the most complex vision systems known to science."

The eyes of the mantis shrimp perform better than human eyes in two key ways. First, while human eyes can only see three colors (which combine to make up all visible colors in the spectrum), the mantis shrimp can see twelve.

Second, the shrimp's eyes are able to convert polarized light to a different polarity. A team of American, Australian, and British scientists report on the incredible design in *Nature Photonics*.

The shrimp's eyes are actually similar in some respects to technology called quarter-wave plates, which are designed to convert light polarity in CD and DVD players, and some camera filters. However, quarter-wave plates only work well for one color of light. The eyes of the mantis shrimp, on the other hand, work well across a broad light spectrum, much broader than that of human-made devices. The researchers believe mantis shrimp use this special ability in hunting and communication.

Nicholas Roberts, of the University of Bristol's Ecology of Vision unit, said of the shrimp's eye,

"It really is exceptional—out-performing anything we humans have so far been able to create. What's particularly exciting is how beautifully simple it is . . . It could help us make better optical devices in the future." While human-engineered technology accomplishes incredible tasks and requires great ingenuity (both to create and sometimes to operate!), time and time again we find God's designs are far superior. It is not wise to think that the superior design in living creatures is the directionless result of time, chance, and the laws of nature working on raw matter, as evolutionists claim.

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Whose Image is on the Shroud of Turin?

By Bill Browning

Abstract. Scripture does not support the idea that the image of an apparently-crucified person may be that of the Jesus of Nazareth, and the burial method is inconsistent with Jewish ritualistic custom of the time. Other anomalies are discussed.

The burial and resurrection of Christ is described with most detail in the Gospel of John: (Amplified Bible)

John 19: 39 And Nicodemus also, who had come at first to Jesus by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes weighing *about a hundred pounds* [emphasis mine]. So they took Jesus' body and bound it in linen cloths with the spices, as is the Jews customary way to prepare for burial.

John 20:6 Then Simon Peter came up, following him, and went into the tomb, and saw the linen cloths lying there; but the burial napkin (kerchief), which had been around Jesus' head, was not lying with the other linen cloths, but was still rolled up (wrapped round and round) in a place by itself.

If one consults historical evidence about first-century Jewish burial practices, this account is fully substantiated, that the body was wrapped with thin strips of linen, interleaved with great amounts of spices (in this case 100 lb.), and that the head was wrapped separately with a "napkin" or kerchief.

Burial Rituals

A good summary of the first-century Jewish burial rituals is available on the web at <http://mb-soft.com/public/shroud.html>, posted by C. Johnson, 26 Jan 2010. Some quotations are given below:

“This procedure involves extensive wrapping of the body, while including a LOT of myrrh and aloes that would get placed between the various layers of cloth.”

“the hundred pounds of myrrh and aloes mentioned in John 19:39 is generally in line with other highly respected people of the time.”

“Merrill Tenney (1) describes the Jewish custom as follows: In preparing a body for burial according to Jewish custom, it was usually washed and straightened, and then bandaged tightly from the armpits to the ankles in strips of linen about a foot wide.”

Wouldn't the washing remove the blood and plasma that recorded the victim's wounds on the Shroud? (See Acts 9:37)

“Aromatic spices, often of a gummy consistency, were placed between the wrappings or folds. They served partially as a preservative and partially as a cement to glue the cloth wrappings into a solid covering.” (2)

“in addition, a semi-liquid unguent such as nard was initially used to anoint the body. The effect of this would be to cause the powdered myrrh and aloes near the body to strongly adhere to the body and to the layers of linen.”

“this complex and involved wrapping of many narrow strips of cloth would naturally have stuck together so strongly as to effectively make a relatively rigid 'cocoon' around the body.”

“A small separate 'face cloth' or 'napkin' was generally placed on the face or around the head. John 20:7 refers to this separate cloth, so this aspect of the custom was definitely used regarding Jesus.”

“Jewish custom did not involve using a single cloth, but rather a number of long strips of linen that were tightly wrapped many times around the body.”

“The Shroud of Turin contradicts each of these known facts. It purports to be a single loose layer of cloth under and over the body, which is very different from the Jewish custom that was actually followed.”

Notes: (1) Merrill Tenney is a famous author with over 50 books on the Bible (2) from: “The Reality of the Resurrection,” by Merrill Tenney

The Facial Image is a Portrait, Undistorted by Flattening.

If a cloth fitting the face from ear to ear is flattened out, distortion of the lateral dimensions of approximately 50% would result, if it is assumed that the image was mapped to the cloth perpendicular to the body surface. The lack of distortion suggests the image may be a forgery, because the facial image appears as a flat portrait, not as a flattened mask would appear.

Conclusion:

In light of scripture and the documented burial practices of the ancient Jews, it seems unlikely that the image on the Shroud came from Jesus, whose body would have been bound tightly with strips of

linen, with heavy layers of myrrh and aloe, and a separate kerchief wound around the head.

Carbon Dates are not Valid.

The Discovery Channel ran a documentary on the Shroud in March 2010 which established that the corner of the shroud that was used to sample for carbon dating (years ago) was not the original linen, but had been repaired via reweaving with cotton and died to match. Therefore, the carbon dates placing the Shroud in the 14th century are not valid, and must be redone, leaving a ray of hope for disappointed devotees of the relic that it might be old enough after all.

Then it was revealed that the whole shroud has been hopelessly contaminated with a preservative, and retests would be useless. According to scientists in the documentary, the only shred of hope is that the Vatican will allow scientists to try and reclaim a small amount of the charred remains from the fire that damaged the Shroud centuries ago, because it would be less susceptible (?) to the preservative. (Almost all of the charred material has already been lost).

A Crucifixion does not a Resurrection Make.

The number of crucifixions during the rout of Jerusalem by the Romans in 70 AD was enormous (500 per day mentioned in <http://mbsoft.com/believe/text/crucifix.htm>).

So the forensic pathologist's finding, that the victim, whose image on the Shroud was, indeed, crucified, is hardly conclusive that it was Jesus of Nazareth. Given the burial procedure, it was probably not even a Jew.

Another "Just-so" Story?

It is interesting that nowhere in the documentary, or in others I have seen over the years, is there found any mention of the historical record in the Gospel of John. This anomaly gives testimony to the disdain that many scientists have for the Scriptures, and especially the True History of origins. So, the story of the analysis of the Shroud of Turin is reminiscent of the bias of materialistic naturalism that we at RMCF oppose so strongly in the Creation/Evolution debate, which denies the historical eye-witness account of Scripture, and elevates "just so" stories of forensic anthropology and geology, thereby undermining the authority of the entire Bible.

Dr. John Jackson Answers the Skeptics

Dr. John Jackson, our April speaker (of Shroud of Turin fame) was gracious to sit down with Bill

Browning the next day to discuss the objections to the Shroud Hypothesis. We appreciate his patience in addressing several issues. Below is a summary of findings.

1. For sure, Dr. Jackson should not be grouped with the many scientists who avoid any reference to scripture in trying to determine True History. His many references (and interpretations) of scripture show him to be guided by the record contained there. He believes his model of how to explain the scientific evidence from the Shroud to be consistent with scripture, albeit debatable.

2. Kerchief. The passage in John Chapter 20 is interpreted By Jackson as follows: The face cloth, or "napkin" discovered by the disciple Peter lying separately from the grave cloths was not used as a part of the burial, but was placed over the deceased's head before burial, and subsequently removed before wrapping the body in the Shroud. Dr. Jackson believes that the kerchief, so removed, would not be taken away as one might expect, but would be kept with the entombed body, because it was Jewish custom to bury any blood with the corpse. *[This conflicts with the historical account that a separate face cloth would be used in burial.]*

3. Spices. Dr. Jackson is not swayed by the fact that no evidence was found in the shroud for the 100 lb. of myrrh and aloes used by Joseph and Nicodemus, as stated in John Chapter 19. His model of this apparent discrepancy has two parts: a.) Jews did not intend to embalm the body during burial, like the Egyptians. Thus, the spices may have been placed around the body, rather than interleaved with the linen grave cloths. b.) The scripture tells us that the two Mary's came on Easter morning to anoint the body with spices (Mark 16:1). So the large quantity of myrrh and aloes may have not yet been applied, when the women discovered the empty tomb. *[This idea seems to conflict with John 19:39 given above.]*

4. Washing. Because Jewish law required the blood to be buried with the deceased, the normal ritual of washing before burial would not have applied in this circumstance of violent crucifixion and large quantities of blood.

5. "Wound" or not? Rather than the use of multiple strips of cloth, which were wound, or "bound" around the body, Dr. Jackson believes that the process was driven by the urgency to be completed before the Sabbath, and shortcuts may have been taken. He proposes that repeated binding with strips of cloth is not a necessity, although the Shroud image does give evidence of a single narrow strip tied around the body. This idea is consistent with Kenneth

Stevenson's book "Image of the Risen Christ," which says that burial practice for Jews executed by the government would use a single burial sheet. (p. 96)

6. Passover Cloth? Dr. Jackson advanced the interesting hypothesis that the fancy herringbone weave of the Shroud linen was unusual for a burial, and that Joseph probably had it on hand, being that it was Passover and shops would have been closed. He proposes that it was the Passover Cloth (table cloth), used by the Disciples during the Last Supper, which was a Passover Feast.

This idea reflects the universal practice of early churches, according to Jackson, to place the elements of the Eucharist on a cloth, which is symbolic of the burial cloth of Jesus. The elements of the Last Supper (the unleavened bread and Cup of Redemption) would have been placed on such a Passover cloth, which was destined to become the burial cloth of Messiah. Dr. Jackson believes that it was the practice of the early [Jerusalem] church to use the actual Shroud for the Eucharistic ceremony. *What a magnificent way to fulfill our Lord's command, to "do this in remembrance of me."*

7. 3D image. When questioned about the alleged encoding of 3-D information in the Shroud image, Dr. Jackson explained an empirical relationship he derived from intensity measurements from the image, which were correlated with distance from the shroud over the face, depending on the various ways one can assume that points on the face were mapped to the cloth. (See Journal of Applied Optics, 15 July 1984).

The best fit was produced assuming the projection was not perpendicular to the body surface or to the cloth, as one would expect, but perpendicular to the body spinal axis. No theory was advanced as to why the facial image appears in orthographic projection, and thus not distorted.

The biggest mystery is how the image was formed on the Shroud. Even though it looks like blood, with similar coloration to the actual bloodstains associated with the wounds, the image was also tested and no blood was found there. The material is like pure cloth that has been scorched, as with an iron. Dr. Jackson hypothesizes that some sort of radiation produced this scorching, which may have been a result of the Resurrection itself, as the body passed through the Shroud and was miraculously set free.

8. Dr. Jackson does not accept the recent findings of Dr. Ray Rogers that argues that the carbon date obtained (14th century) was caused by contamination due to reweaving with cotton. The reason is that the

amount of contamination material would have to be over twice the original to cause a date change of such a large amount. In any event, he still holds to the belief that the Shroud is of a first century origin, regardless of the carbon dating, which for many people is cause enough to doubt the Shroud's authenticity.

To explain this anomaly, Dr. Jackson has developed a theory that the Shroud has been contaminated by atmospheric carbon monoxide, which causes carbon dating to produce erroneously recent dates.

In closing, we can see how the Shroud story gives a fascinating picture of the interaction between scripture, legend, and science, and how people can construct models which support their presuppositions about origins. It shows that the scientific data hardly tells the whole story, allowing experts to bring in their own biases and seek extra-biblical interpretations of biblical history.

Do You Want to Move to Another Planet?

Scientists keep looking in the universe, but there doesn't seem to be any really nice places to live besides earth. One of the more recent planet discoveries is called WASP-12b. It is a huge planet, six times larger than Jupiter. However, it is so close to its host star that it orbits every 26 hours! Our earth orbits the sun about every 365 days.

The planet has a strange orbit that causes something called tidal heating. This raises the temperature on the planet's surface to more than 4,700°F (2600°C). I don't think we want to move there! Astronomers believe that the host star may be pulling gas from the planet, which it adds to its own gases. This gives the impression that the host star is eating WASP-12b. Talk about a hostile environment!

The more we look into space, the more amazed we are at the beauty and fitness of our own planet. It is a special place designed by the Creator with mankind in mind. Scientists can keep looking for other places to live, but the earth is a unique place. "The heaven, even the heavens, are the LORD's; But the earth He has given to the children of men" Psalm 115:16.



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Creation vs. Evolution Factoid #6

The Failure of Homology
By Bill Browning

in spite of their not being controlled by the same genes? “

“Homology” is a science that studies similarities between organisms, and is the basis for classification of living things. When evolutionists look at the similar structures of the arms or wings of mammals, they assume this means they had a common ancestor. Creationists see the same data and believe it is evidence of a Common Designer. Darwin’s theory of "descent with modification" provided a naturalistic mechanism for the natural relationships between groups of organisms. Darwin said that the "argument from classification" was so decisive, that on that basis alone, he would adopt his theory, writing, “All true classification is genealogical.”

Evidence against Ancestors: Embryology

The science of embryology predicts that, if species with similar forelimbs inherited them from a common ancestor, they ought to be traceable to embryonic development. Not true. In fact, homologous structures are arrived at by different routes and cannot have the same genetic origin. In early stages of embryonic development, we find that the cells that give rise to the three main structures of the embryo are extremely different;

In his book “**Evolution: A Theory in Crisis**,” Dr. Michael Denton compares the formation in the early development of three vertebrates having the same basic design for the forelimbs and shows that homologous structures cannot be traced back to homologous regions in early states of embryogenesis. In fact, the embryological development of every kind of plant and animal is unique. So, Darwinism fails to produce the required embryological relationships.

Similar structures from different genes

Biologists have assumed that corresponding embryonic parts are themselves controlled by homologous genes. However, this evolutionary assumption must be rejected by the discovery that apparently homologous structures are specified by quite different genes in different species.. On this basis, Sir Gavin de Beer challenges the theory of common ancestors in his 1971 paper on homology: (*Oxford Biology Readers*, Oxford University Press, 1971)

"...what mechanism can it be that results in the production of homologous organs, the same patterns,

It’s as if the Creator has encoded a message into the biological design, saying “No Evolution”. (See Walter ReMine, *Biotic Message*) It is paradoxical that the same homologous resemblance which serves to link all the members of one class together into a natural group also serves to distinguish that class unambiguously from all other classes. Wouldn’t random chance mutations have produced many designs for the same function? Why the Creator chose to reuse the same basic designs over and over, and then to arrive at them through different developmental paths and blueprints, could be God’s way of imprinting on the biota the knowledge that evolution never happened.

Conclusion: Common Structures mean Common Designer

In Dr. Denton’s analysis of the facts of comparative anatomy we find no evidence for evolution in the way conceived by Darwin. The failure of homology to validate the predictions of Darwinism is not as well known as "Darwin’s enigma" (the fossil problem). But it is even more important, since it shows that so-called "higher organisms" could not have evolved from common ancestors in any gradual, step-by-step process of random mutations and natural selection. Rather, homology is powerful testimony to a Common Designer.*

For the works of the Lord are great, sought out by all who delight in them. The LORD has made his wonderful works to be remembered. Psalms 111

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July 9/10 Dr. Dan Korow, Science Guy

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