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## Creation Answers

Creation Education Materials, P.O. Box 1818, Arlington, TX 76004

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### Who does this newsletter?

This newsletter is produced by Wayne Spencer of Creation Education Materials on a Quarterly basis. Its purpose is to bring creationary research within the reach of Christian families and provide up-to-date reliable information on the creation issue. Wayne Spencer is a creation researcher and former teacher who has presented papers at the International Conference on Creationism and contributed to radio programs for the Institute for Creation Research.

This newsletter is meant to help people plug into creation resources and get informed about creation and evolution. It is provided free of charge on request. Using the Adobe Acrobat Reader, available for download on the internet, is the best way to view the newsletter. There are no restrictions in copying this newsletter or passing it on to others. To request to be placed on the e-mail list, send a request to Wayne at [w.spencer@attglobal.net](mailto:w.spencer@attglobal.net).

More information on Wayne Spencer's education and publications can be found on the **DFW Creation Net** web site. You'll also find a variety of articles, teaching aids, and how to contact creation organizations. <http://pws.prserv.net/creation/creation.htm>

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### A Personal Note from Wayne Spencer

Seasons greetings. I'd like to thank everyone who has recently asked to be on the list to receive this newsletter.

In this edition of the newsletter, I've tried to include a lot of relevant material that can be helpful to anyone who tries to discuss origins issues with others. The *Misconceptions about Creationism* article answers some common comments and criticisms of creationism. *Beware of "Prehistoric Beasts"* addresses a program recently aired on the Discovery television channel called Walking with Prehistoric Beasts. Then at the end I recommend a great new software multimedia cd rom that is an excellent collection of information on creation. I would like to make this cd rom available to readers of this newsletter for \$3.00 each. You can e-mail me at the address on this page or write to the address above and ask for the Creation cd rom from AIG. You can also call me to order a cd at (817) 784-6549.

Wayne Spencer, M.S., Physics

### *Misconceptions about Creationism*

What follows is a series of common misconceptions and criticisms of creationism. These ideas are often believed by individuals such as practicing scientists, college professors in the sciences, and others who strongly believe evolution. Some of these ideas are unfair and are false characterizations of creationism. On the

other hand, some of these criticisms of creationism are true for some Christians and even of some leaders in the creation movement, but they do not represent what the creationist view is in general. I have had some contact with creationist leaders from across the United States and from other countries. The comments that follow represent my perspective. My views here are based on what I see is the consensus among creationist Christians who have degrees in the sciences and who are in some way active promoting creationism. These are the people who are writing and speaking on the subject, and who often are leaders of creation ministries. Note also that by "creationism" I refer to views that hold to Genesis chapters 1-11 being literal history and that reject biological macroevolution. Defined this way, "creationism" includes more than just the young-age creation viewpoint. I am firmly committed to the young-age creation view, including a literal six days in Genesis 1, a literal world-wide Flood, that "molecules to man" evolution did not happen, and that the Earth and the universe are less than ten thousand years in age.

The average Christian, though they may be a creationist, may not be a good representative of what the creationist view is on any given issue. I offer the following in hopes that it may help readers to be more effective communicating with individuals who believe evolution. Christians who believe Biblical creation often have misconceptions about evolutionists as well, but this article will address the reverse, misconceptions evolutionists often have about creation.

### **1. Creationists are irrational. They are unintelligent, unread, with little education.**

Individuals with a high level of education in the sciences, such as practicing scientists and professors often take this attitude toward creationism. There are now many individuals with graduate degrees in the sciences who hold to the young-age creation position. There are a fair number of them who have multiple graduate level degrees. The number

of individuals with these type of qualifications would probably be a few thousand, even not considering those in the United States. It is often thought that people believe in creation without real reason, that it is a blind unintelligent type of faith. But this is not what Christian faith is supposed to be at all and it is not what young-age creationism is either.

Many leading creationists used to believe and teach evolution but they changed their view. There are many individuals who once seriously promoted evolution but changed from evolution to young-age creationism because of the scientific evidence. But there are very very few who actively promoted young-age creationism and changed to the evolution view because of the evidence. Creationists are not perfect and there is always room for improved scholarship on various issues. But it is unreasonable to just dismiss Biblical creationism. It is actually evolution that is usually believed in a totally irrational way because many people have not seriously looked into creation at all, they just believe evolution because it's all they've ever heard and they don't think that the whole scientific community could be wrong.

### **2. Creationists believe that species are immutable. Creationists do not believe in microevolution, variation, or speciation.**

This is an issue about how creationists understand Genesis chapter one, where it says God created animals to reproduce "according to their kind." Creationists today always allow for animals and plants to be able to change to some degree so they can adapt to a changing environment. This explains how many varieties of living things came about. For example, God did not create a special fox in the beginning that we now call the "Arctic Fox." The Arctic Fox descended from other more "average" foxes and became very specialized due to how it adapted to an arctic climate over several generations. This does not mean the arctic fox could evolve into anything other than a fox. But it is still a common misconception that evolutionists think creationists believe that every creature now considered a species was created in the

beginning as we see them today. This was addressed in detail in previous issues of this newsletter in Parts 1 and 2 of Introduction to Creation Biology.

**3. Creationists do not believe that dinosaurs ever existed.** Sometimes Christians are so concerned about the problems with evolution in education that they reject even that dinosaurs ever existed. Some Christians have a great distrust of science which goes overboard. Evolutionists sometimes hear this from certain Christians and then think that this is what all creationists believe. The problems with evolution are serious but they do not mean we throw out everything we learn from science about the past. We have dinosaur bones in the many dinosaur skeletons in museums and fossil collections. Though there are things about museum displays, the media, and about science textbooks that can be misleading, there is still sound evidence for the existence of many animals in the past that no longer exist today, including dinosaurs. This is not contrary to the Bible, rather it is because of how God's judgement in the Noahic Flood changed the Earth. Many animals could not survive after the global Flood because the world was a harsher place. At any rate, no knowledgeable creationist would deny that dinosaurs existed. There are a number of creationist books available on dinosaurs that address how to understand dinosaurs from a creation viewpoint.

**4. Creationists want to replace science in public education with a literal reading of the Bible.** Though there was a time when reading the Bible was not uncommon in public schools in the United States, and though I personally do not believe this should be considered unconstitutional, I am not aware of any leading creationists who have wanted to see this done in today's public schools (including myself). On the other hand, many parent groups and concerned Christian citizens who are not actively involved in promoting creationism have worked to change how origins science is

taught in public schools. These efforts have taken many different forms in various parts of the United States, sometimes on the local school district level and sometimes on the state level. It is parent groups and certain Christians elected to public office who have sought to change how evolution is handled in science classes in public schools. Creation organizations have only become involved in these political battles when they have been asked to. The concern is mainly to allow public school students to get a more complete picture of the facts, instead of just getting exposed to a very one-sided evolutionary view in a dogmatic manner. Freedom of speech and religious expression are also at issue in how origins is handled in public school classrooms. Parents and Christian citizens have every right to work for change in public schools on these issues. But it is not that creation organizations or leading creationists have political agendas. This has been seriously misunderstood by many people.

**5. Creationists are anti-science. No real scientist could possibly be a creationist.** This idea could not be further from the truth. If creationists were anti-science, why would there be so many creationists with degrees in the sciences. And, there are "real scientists" who are young-age creationists, though they are a minority in the scientific community. There are a number of well-known scientists of the past who took a creationist view also. Related to this is the misconception that creationists never publish in accepted scientific journals. There are plenty of examples of Creationists who have published in scientific journals. Often though, the topics they have published on in scientific journals do not relate to origins issues.

**6. Creationists believe in a god-of-the-gaps. And, Creationists never change or refine their ideas.** This is a misconception that creationists arbitrarily assume God intervenes with miracles to explain everything we see in nature, without

seriously looking into the science involved. It is basically making God a cop-out answer to avoid thoroughly studying the issues. This is an impression that creationists do not do serious study and research of the complex issues involved in origins questions. But there are several technical level creationist publications where serious research papers are published and subjected to peer-review and critique. There is also a lot of discussion between creationists by e-mail. There is much being done today by creationists to refine their thinking. It is important to learn what some of the best sources are to get information on creation.

**7. Creationists are incapable of establishing scientific truth about creation WITHOUT referencing the Bible.** This has been thoroughly demonstrated to be incorrect by many creationists. This is a matter of choosing your sources well. Some creationists are better at this than others. But to say this as a blanket statement is very unfair to all the creationists with degrees in the sciences who work very hard at making a scientific case. In fact, I have noticed that in secular non-religious settings, if the creationist avoids any mention of the Bible, a nonchristian or evolutionist present is very likely to ask a Bible related question. So, it is often the evolutionists who bring up the Bible in origins discussions, because of the implications of the scientific evidence for creation.

**8. All creationists think alike.** Among creationists, there are variations of opinion on many details about the science of origins and about how the Bible should be interpreted on origins. There are some areas of fundamental agreement, but all creationists certainly do not think alike. There is much discussion and critique between creationists of different viewpoints on many detailed questions. Though all these various opinions are not necessarily equally valid, the friendly debate about various theories is a healthy thing in the creation movement. It is a natural part of refining our thinking that there

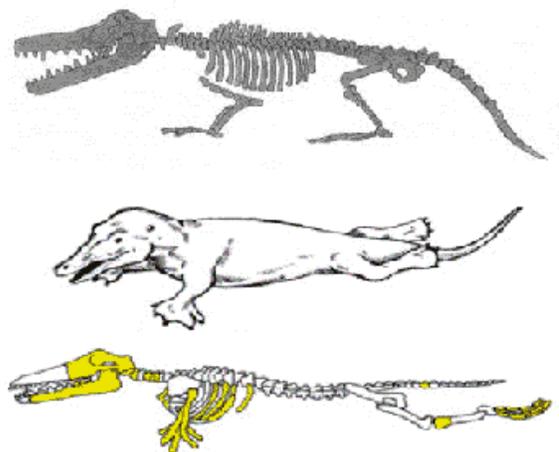
be healthy debate of different explanations. Evolutionists tend to stereotype creationists and not realize the amount of serious debate of the issues actually takes place among creationists.

### **Beware of “Prehistoric Beasts”**

Recently the Discovery channel aired a program called “Walking with Prehistoric Beasts.” The program uses the same technology as the program “Walking with Dinosaurs.” It features realistic animation of real-looking animals. However, the Prehistoric Beasts program begins with the death of the dinosaurs from a large impact from space and tells the evolutionary story about how mammals evolved from that point up to the time that man evolved. The special effects of the program are amazing, but there is little real science to back up many of it’s assertions. There are animals in the program for which we do have fossil evidence, but there are also a number of creatures depicted that there is little evidence for. There is no explanation of what the evidence is in the program at all, they merely tell the evolutionary story as if it is well established fact.

Note the graphic provided with three diagrams of Ambulocetus, which is believed by evolutionists to be one of the ancestors of today’s whales. (Ambulocetus graphic from

**Ambulocetus: Missing Link?**



Answers in Genesis at [http://www.answersingenesis.org/PBS\\_Nova/0926ep2.asp](http://www.answersingenesis.org/PBS_Nova/0926ep2.asp)) This animal was shown in Walking with Prehistoric Beasts swimming. Ambulocetus is believed to have been able to use its limbs to walk on land and also use them to swim like a whale. The bottom picture shows in yellow the actual bones found. There were no bones found from the hips, which are crucial for learning anything about how the animal moved. There is no way to know how it swam or even if it swam from such meager evidence. Even with the forelimbs, some of the bones were not found, so there is little that can be learned about how the animal moved. I suspect in time Ambulocetus may be shown to be a land animal. This would agree with what is known about the bones. None of this is explained in the Prehistoric Beasts program. Such problems with evolutionary ideas are frequent in paleontology. But the public and students in science classes seldom have opportunity to get "the rest of the story."

The above is just one example from the program where a healthy skepticism is called for in watching the program. The program does acknowledge that some characteristics like the coloring and patterns in the fur of extinct animals cannot be known.

Returning to the beginning of the program, an impact of an asteroid from space is depicted, supposedly causing the dinosaurs to go extinct. Though this idea (known as the Alvarez Hypothesis) is now accepted by most scientists, some scientists disagree. I have looked into the issue of impacts onto Earth from a creation viewpoint. I believe that there is some exaggeration of the effects this particular impact to make it seem more credible in explaining the demise of the dinosaurs. There is strong evidence that impacts from space have happened on Earth in the past. There are now about 130 to 150 sites around the world (in all types of rock) where there is at least a remnant of an impact crater. In a Biblical view of history, young dinosaurs would have been saved from the Flood on Noah's Ark along with other land animals. Then in the years

following the Flood it became impossible for them to survive, probably due to volcanic eruptions, changes in the climate, and because of the ice age that followed the Flood.

Most of the effects of an impact are over in less than an hour, but the dust put into the atmosphere has more lasting effects. This dust from the crater could block some of the sunlight and make the temperature drop for some period of weeks. This means that all the effects of a large impact would be over in less than 6 months. In the evolutionary view of Earth history, the dinosaurs did not actually go extinct all in a few months. From the evolutionary view of the fossil record, the extinction of the dinosaurs would have taken up to a few million years. How long this actually took is still a subject of debate among evolutionists. How is it that one large impact could cause extinctions that took so long to happen? The effects of impacts don't last long enough. So, there really is no way evolutionists could possibly know if an impact had anything to do with the extinction of the dinosaurs. This is one reason some scientists have suggested that large volcanic eruptions actually are more closely related to extinctions than impacts from space. I suspect this is closer to the truth, but I would say that the volcanic eruptions would be a natural consequence of the Noahic Flood.

In conclusion, in watching the Prehistoric Beasts program, bear in mind the following. God created many types of animals and He made them able to diversify into many varieties, but there are definite limits to how much animals can change. A land mammal cannot change into a whale. Many varieties of animals that lived in the past no longer exist because of the changes in the Earth that took place following the world-wide Flood. Creationist publications and web sites provide a lot of information about problems with evolutionary ideas presented as fact on television or in textbooks. Always question assumptions, and distinguish between facts, and interpretations of the facts.

### **Creation Multimedia CD ROM from Answers in Genesis**

I would like to heartily recommend a new product available from Answers in Genesis (AIG). It was produced specifically to answer programs on the Discovery channel in recent months about evolution, including Walking with Dinosaurs. It is a software cd rom that includes many articles in the form of Adobe Acrobat files. It also includes audio from various AIG radio programs and some video segments from videos produced by AIG. It is a fantastic collection of materials. To make use of all the material on this cd, you'll need a multimedia-capable computer with sound. It can run on either Windows or Apple Macintosh computers.

There are many articles on a wide range of topics provided on this cd rom. These articles are written by a number of different authors including Ken Ham, Jonathan Sarfati, and Carl Wieland. From the main menu, there are six topic areas: evolution rebuttal, why does it matter, how old is the Earth, supposed evidence, design and purpose, and voices for creation. There are articles on Biblical issues as well as scientific issues and articles about scientists of the past and present who believe creation. One of my favorite things on the cd is a video segment called *From a Frog to a Prince*, which includes an interview with Dr. Michael Denton. Michael Denton is an evolutionist molecular biologist who is well known for his book "Evolution: A Theory in Crisis." Denton's book, though written by an evolutionist, points out many serious problems with the theory of evolution. The *Creation* cd rom includes short audio messages and entire audio lectures. Many of the articles have been published in the *Creation Ex Nihilo* magazine produced by Answers in Genesis. Documentation of sources for the information is also provided with the articles. For anyone with a computer able to use it, I cannot think of a better collection of materials that answers common questions about evolution and creation. The

cd can be ordered for \$5.00 each through the Answers in Genesis web site: <http://www.answersingenesis.org/aigmain.asp>. However, I would like to make them available for \$3.00 each to readers of this newsletter. Call or e-mail me with your address and I will send you one of the discs. Then payment can be mailed to the Creation Education Materials P.O. Box address on page 1. Again the phone number to call is (817) 784-6549.

