



CREATION^{In} The CROSSFIRE

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And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. Thus the heavens and the earth were completed, and all their hosts....And the water prevailed more and more upon the earth, so that all the high mountains everywhere under the heavens were covered. Gen 1:31-2:1; 7:19

The Next Meeting: August 22, 2009 at 7 PM. John Rajca, former curator of ICR's museum in El Cajon, will be the speaker: "Natural Resources and the Christian: Cement, Metals, Forests and Food." His talk will look at these resources and determine their real scarcity (the truth will be surprising) and he will outline the Biblical view of their stewardship.

Mr. Rajca earned a B.S. in biology in 1983 from Christian Heritage College. In 1994, he earned an M.S. degree in biology from the Institute for Creation Research. In 2003 Mr. Rajca also received an M.S. degree in Faith and Culture from Trinity International University, Santa Ana

Video at 6 PM. *Relevance of Physics, Cosmology & Astronomy for Young Earth Creationists.* One of the world's leading scientists in creation research, Dr Keith Wanser shows exciting evidences from physics that support the belief that the earth is only a few thousand years old!

SBCSA Board needs a Secretary

Please help. We dearly need someone to replace our former board secretary. The secretary's duties include keeping minutes at board meetings, preparing the minutes and reading the items of old business for each subsequent meeting. The board meets once each month except December at a day and time agreeable to all board members.

What Is New Is Old Again Pt II

By Kevin Anderson, Ph.D.

(This article first appeared as the editorial in the *Creation Research Society Quarterly* vol. 45, pp. 241-244. Used with permission of the Creation Research Society. Kevin Anderson is current editor of CRSQ. Last month, in part one, Dr. Anderson's remarks were on the *Australopithecine* named Lucy and other hominid fossils as evidence for human evolution and on the human genome.)

mtDNA

Cells in the human body contain small organelles called mitochondria. Mitochondria possess a small piece of DNA, which is separate from the chromosomal DNA in the nucleus. This mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) is generally passed from mother to child and like all DNA is subject to mutations with each passing generation. Based upon how many new mtDNA mutations occur per generation, a genealogy of various human lineages (i.e., family trees) can be constructed from a study of mtDNA sequences.

Over twenty years ago some evolutionists proposed a genetic lineage of human mtDNA. They claimed their proposed lineage showed that all modern humans descended from just one female (Cann et al., 1987). In other words, all mtDNA in humans today was passed down from just one mother. This female was named mitochondrial "Eve" (mtEve). Many Biblical creationists viewed this as genetic evidence of the Biblical description of Eve as "the mother of all" humans (Gen. 3:20). However, the study also claimed that mtEve lived between 140,000 and 290,000 years ago: A direct genetic challenge to young earth Biblical creation.

What needs to be understood, however, is that a key component of the 1987 study was the assumption that humans and chimpanzees shared a common ancestor 6 million years ago. This assumption became part of the researchers' calculations, which gave a very slow mutation rate for human mtDNA over the last 6 million years. Thus, an old age for mtEve was an inevitable result of the study. The assumptions imposed in the calculations, in fact, made it impossible for mtEve not to be "old."

The mtDNA mutation rate of modern humans, however, is much faster than the rate used in the 1987 study (Gibbons, 1998). Therefore, if the actual human mutation rate is applied to the 1987 study's data, rather than a mutation rate derived from evolutionary

supposition, the age for mtEve shrinks to less than 10,000 years (Gibbons, 1998). Also, a recent study has determined the original mtDNA sequence of “Eve” to within an accuracy of at least 99.99% (Carter, 2007). This is a much more accurate sequence than the “Eve” sequence used in the 1987 study. Interestingly, human lineages derived from this sequence are fully consistent with mtEve living only a few thousand years ago (Carter et al, 2008). Yet, how many people originally concluded that mtEve gave wonderful genetic support to evolution, or at least “old-earth” creation?

Index Fossils

In the early nineteenth century, British geologist William Smith was credited as the first to apply the concept of index fossils. This system, known as biostratigraphy, uses the fossil fauna in a given geologic region to assign a correlative age with other geologic regions. For example, the geologic strata of Grand Canyon, Zion National Park, and Bryce Canyon are all correlated with each other by the fossil content of their rocks (United States Geological Survey, 1997).

Index fossils are specific fossils (1) assumed to not have existed very long in earth history (evolutionarily speaking), (2) are easy to identify, and (3) were widely distributed. For example, archaeocyathids are assumed to have lived only during the Cambrian Period. Thus, rocks containing archaeocyathids are identified as Cambrian. *Siphonodella sulcata*, a species of conodont, is assumed to have lived only at the beginning of the Carboniferous Period. It serves as an index fossil for that geologic time. Since Smith’s first application, the use of index fossils has been widely employed and practiced (Dunbar and Waage, 1969). In fact, using index fossils, geologic strata around the world was dated and correlated long before concepts of radiometric dating were even conceived. Von Englen and Caster (1952) acknowledged that at one time “historical geology [relied] chiefly on paleontology, the study of fossil organisms,” which “utilizes knowledge of organic evolution” to “correlate the [rock] records of ancient time” (p. 423). Clearly, biostratigraphy is based specifically on assumptions of evolutionary descent. Thus, a geologic stratigraphy based upon index fossils cannot be offered as geologic evidence of evolution or as evidence for contemporary geologic time

scales. “By doing so, we are guilty of circular reasoning if we then say the fossil record supports [evolution]” (West, 1968, p. 216). Yet, creationists are mockingly told over and over that they are guilty of denying the overwhelming evidence of the fossil record. I have found that terms such as “overwhelming” are often used as a deceptive description for the very opposite. Biostratigraphy is no longer emphasized as a tool for dating and correlating geologic strata (I’m not sure that means it is no longer used, just not emphasized that it is still being used). In fact, no reliable chronometer has yet been found for dating the entire rock record. As a consequence, currently the International Commission on Stratigraphy is effectively assigning dates more by committee decision than by physical evidence (Reed, 2008). An observer of all this might begin to think that creationist criticism of evolutionary paleontology and geology has not been so erroneous after all. Yet, how many people were convinced (and still are) that fossils and rocks prove evolution and prove the earth’s age to be billions of years? Examples continue to arise where even many evolutionists now acknowledge the original claim was mistaken or bogus. Will creationists finally be given credit that they had been right in challenging the claim, that they had been right in their alternative interpretations? If this were strictly a scientific discourse, then I would say yes. But it is not likely, because that is not how this “game” is played.

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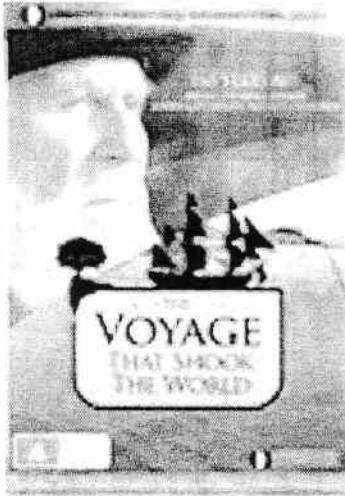
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The Voyage that Shook the World



Creation Ministries International has produced a documentary *The Voyage that Shook the World*, which has been shown in churches throughout America, will be available for purchase as a DVD in September. This video can be pre-ordered for \$24.95. If you are interested in getting the DVD call CMI at 800-616-1264.

CMI has many resources including the colorful *Creation Magazine* for the family and *Journal of Creation* for tough-minded readers. Both magazines are published quarterly.

Notice for Aspiring Singers



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