

Creation News Update

Proclaiming the TRUTH of the Bible starting at Genesis 1:1

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But Jesus answered, "I tell you, if these (his followers) become silent, the stones will cry out!" Luke 19:40

We must speak for silence would shame us, and the rocks themselves would cry out... You, O Lord Christ Jesus, must be praised for who You are in the world You have made.

Hello! The latest science is full of new findings that show that God, in the person of Jesus, is Creator of the universe, you and us. Thank you for joining us in learning the Good News.



Guy & Cindy Forsythe

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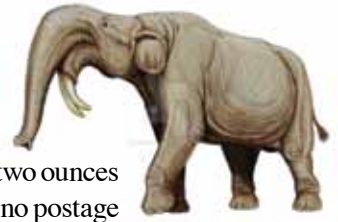
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So Many Species, So Little Time..

After our last issue, we received an anonymous letter that included an article that had just been published in *Skeptical Inquirer* magazine by Lorence G. Collins, an ardent anti-creationist. We appreciate that the anonymous letter writer paid two ounces postage to make sure we got the article (we often get letters with no postage so they don't get read as we reject any letters that arrive postage due). The article is a good one. Thank whoever-you-are for submitting the article. Here is my response.

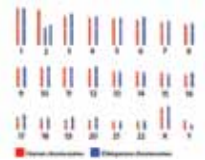


First I want to say that the author of the article is unusual. He appears to actually have read what creationists believe as he accurately portrays what we believe for the most part. Most skeptics simply say what they think we, in their opinion, should believe. So kudos to Collins!

Collins first focuses on the fact that Young Earth Creationists (YEC) believe that the Earth is about 6000 years old and the flood happened about 4350 years ago which would be about 1650 years after creation. That is an accurate *See Letter on page 2*

Chimp/Human Compare DNA: 2 New Studies

Chimp DNA has been compared to human DNA for several decades now. The rather crude methods for reading the DNA sequence of any genome used until the 21st century limited the breadth of such comparisons. As a result, only a small fraction of the DNA was compared. Researchers limited the areas of comparison to those areas known to be very similar. In the beginning that made some sense. If you are starting research in comparison, *See DNA on page 3*



Why Not Chimps

We are told that chimps are our closest non-human relative. Therefore, our DNA, our metabolism, our heart function and construction, everything about us should be very similar. Every function should be more similar than with any other creature. So, why is it that when a heart valve needs replacement, the valve from a pig is used? They used to replace blood vessels used in bypass surgery with the blood vessels of pigs. Why not of chimps? When metabolism is studied, why are rats used instead of chimps? A 2017 study at Auburn Univ. states: *Canines are excellent models for cancer studies due to their similar physiology and genomic sequence to humans... canines can serve as powerful genetic models of hereditary breast cancers.* But, wouldn't we get better understanding if we used chimps in the study? Seems we should. It is a logical conclusion if evolution is true. Jesus designed us with the best that can be and sometimes Jesus' design uses things in ways evolution can't hope to explain.

The Reason For God - 6

Pastor Timothy Keller does not consider himself an apologist (one who supports a viewpoint with logic). But he is actually one of the best apologists alive today for Jesus and the Bible. This is part 6 of a series of articles based on his book, *The Reason for God - Belief in an Age of Skepticism*. See our Web site for previous parts.

Love: the hyper Straightjacket. We have been talking about freedom. The average person thinks of freedom as being free from something (as opposed to something like freedom to make a choice). We have mentioned how having a job and other

See Reason on page 4



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Letter from page 1

description of YEC belief. He then turns to the high number of species of creatures alive to day. He accurately states that YEC believe that representatives of kinds were on the Ark. The accurate examples he gives are such things as the 30 to 40 species of cats alive today are descendants of a pair of cat common ancestors. He didn't write "common ancestor" as that doesn't sound like something you would expect from a YEC, but, in fact, we definitely believe in common ancestors. Collins just phrased it differently. We think that cats have a common ancestor. Dogs, bears, jellyfish, etc... Each group of critters has a common ancestor. What is refuted by scientific research is that all of those common ancestors came from one common ancestor, the first living cell.

Collins then talks about the incredibly huge number of species alive today. What is not said is important to my argument. The designation of species is quite arbitrary. Most of those 30 to 40 large cat species can interbreed. That means they are more like breeds of dogs. There are about 200 breeds of dogs and most have appeared in just the last few hundred years.

Yes, man has artificially selected for traits so the processes of generating breeds was rapidly increased by mans' efforts. But, it shows that the DNA in a kind of critter will allow the critter to adapt to a huge span of environments. Environments can cause change very rapidly as has been shown in research studies.

Darwin's finches have been used to illustrate how isolation on different islands led to different species of finches. This supposedly happened over a long period of time. The reality is that researchers have reported that many of those species of finches successfully interbreed. Once

again, it is more like different breeds, like dogs.

In one 2014 study, researchers introduced a new species of lizard on a Florida island. They wanted to see how the lizards native to the islands would change. Without going into details, changes did occur. Lead author, Yoel Sturart stated: *We did predict that we'd see a change, but the degree and quickness with which they evolved was surprising.* Like Sturart, Collins thinks change has to happen extremely slow. In fact, this case shows that when the environment changes due to a new competitor being introduced, the native species may change rapidly, in this case a few years.

But not all rapid, dramatic change is due to mutations. In fact, most are due to the way the DNA characteristics are expressed, such as in dog breeds. A study completed in 2008 showed dramatic change with no change in DNA. Five adult pairs of Italian Wall Lizards were moved from their island home to a different island with a very different environment. 36 years after the 1971 start of the experiment, researchers found that population density changed, social structures changed, diet changed from insects to plants resulting in major changes in the digestive system, head dimensions, and power of bite. The digestive system grew a completely new organ where fermentation could occur so microbes could break down the plant material. They also stopped defending territories. DNA was then compared with lizards from the island where these lizards once lived. There was ZERO change in the DNA. According to evolutionary theory, this cannot happen. To get a new structure with a new function, there must be mutations and natural selection over thousands to millions of years.

Collins is stuck in the evolutionary theory instead of research results. The

appearance of "new" species after the Ark landed would have happened very rapidly as the critters expanded into new environments around the globe.

Not un-surprisingly, the author ignored research in genetics, instead going to the fossil record and the assumption that different fossils are the result of millions of years of change. He talks about the distribution of fossils in the rock record. His major argument is that "...all sea-living cetaceans (whales, dolphins, porpoises, etc.) survived the flood but not a single sea reptile (ichthyosaurs, plesiosaurs, etc) did."

This is an assumption. Most likely, many sea reptiles did survive, but were unable to adapt to the new environments after the flood.

We know that the environment before the Noah's Flood was very different than after the flood. Vegetation grew in amazing abundance. Fossil plants are many times much larger than the plants we see today. This is also true of many insects and critters.

Collins insists that the fossil record is difficult for YEC to explain. Actually it is not. We do not have space to go into that in this article. But, I ask that Collins remember that Coelacanth (a kind of fish) was once an index fossil because they became extinct 65 million years ago. So, any fossil found with Coelacanth or any rock layer containing a fossil of Coelacanth is 65 million years (or more) old. In deed, we were told that without a doubt Coelacanth was a transitional fossil of a fish using its fins to crawl and they developed into land critters.

Just one problem, Coelacanth are a food source for the people of Madagascar. They are alive today. They do NOT use their fins for any movement in any way similar to walking. They use their fins like all fish use their fins. The explanation that Collins wants from YEC regarding fossils will also explain Coelacanth. The rest of his arguments are along the same lines.

Again thank the letter writer and hope he sees that he needs to apply his skepticism to his belief, not mine. Jesus, is the creator of Coelacanths, whales, reptiles, the universe, you and me. The evolutionist is the author of an adult fairy tale for those who wish there were no God. CRM

DNA from page 1

the best place to start is where they are very similar. Together, technological ability and cost greatly limited how much of any critter's genome could be read.

Mapping DNA was not easy or cheap. Today, you can get a map of your DNA for a few hundred dollars and a short wait. To make the first map of the human genome, many researchers spent several years and \$3 billion. Even today, scientists cannot just look at DNA under a microscope and see what the DNA is. Up until a few years ago, the way to map DNA consisted of cutting several copies of the same DNA into many *snippets*, also called *reads*.

The snippets ranged in size from about 75 to 1500 base pairs. With 3 billion base pairs, that makes for a lot of snippets. The snippets then had to be compared with overlapping areas to construct the map. This led to many possible misreads. In addition, researchers discovered that up until about 2005, chimp DNA analysis was contaminated with human DNA.

A final factor in the building of the chimp DNA is that they used the human DNA as a structure on which to build the chimp DNA map. Each chimp snippet was compared to the human genome to figure out where it went in the map.

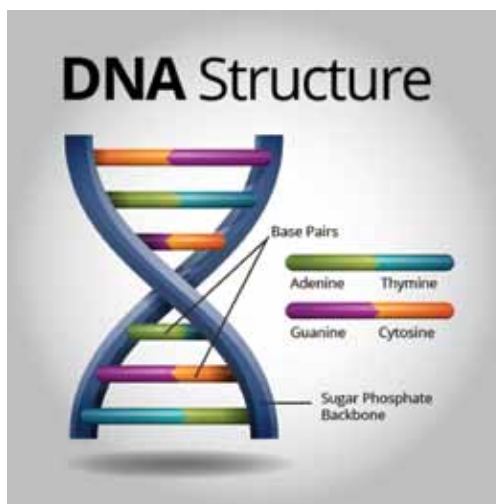
Earlier this year a new chimp genome map was constructed. Several aspects of the research leads the researchers to say that by far this is the best chimp genome map ever produced. It makes sense as techniques and technology are always improving.

First, evolutionist Richard Buggs of the University of London was able to virtually eliminate human DNA contamination. Second, the snippets ranged in size from 10,000 to 215,000 based pairs in length, eliminating a lot of guesswork. Third, he constructed his map from scratch. It is not based on the human genome.

He summarizes his research: *The percentage of nucleotides* (same as "base pairs") *in the human genome that had one-to-one exact matches in the chimpanzee genome was 84.38%.*

Dr. Jeffrey Tomkins earned his Ph.D. in genetics at Clemson University in 1996. He was a faculty member in the de-

partment of Genetics and Biochemistry at Clemson University where he directed the Clemson University Genomics Institute from 2002 to 2006. He also started and directed the well-funded Clemson Environmental Genomics Laboratory (2006-2009). As a result of his science studies, Tomkins became a creationist. He also did a comparison of chimp and human DNA and found a similarity of 84.4%



In fact, researchers that have looked outside the usual 2% of DNA that is studied have long been saying that the similarity is in the mid 80% range with an MIT research project shown that the similarity in the Y (male) chromosome is at best 70%.

Even during the transition to better techniques, the similarity of human and chimp DNA was being measured quite well.

Ebersberger, I. et al., in a paper (*Mapping human genetic ancestry*, Molec. Biol. Evol. 24:2266–2276, 2007) states, *"For about 23% of our genome, we share no immediate genetic ancestry with our closest living relative, the chimpanzee....Thus, in two-thirds of the cases a genealogy results in which humans and chimpanzees are not each other's closest genetic relatives. The corresponding genealogies are incongruent with the species tree. In accordance with the experimental evidences, this implies that there is no such thing as a unique evolutionary history of the human genome. Rather, it resembles a patchwork of individual regions following their own genealogy."* Ebersberger is stating that the similarity is about 77% or a difference of 23%.

We can conclude, based on the latest studies that compare the entire genome of chimps and humans, that the similarity is nowhere the 98+% you hear about all the time. **Consider:**

1 Chimps and humans supposedly share a common ancestor that lived 6 million years ago. With a generation being 13 years there have been about 460,000 generations of chimps and the same number of human generations. That is a total of 920,000 generations for the difference in DNA to occur.

2 With a similarity of 85% (at best), there is a difference of 15% between the chimp and human genome. The human and chimp genomes have about 3 billion nucleotides or base pairs. 15% of 3 Billion is 450 million. That means there would have to have been 450 million mutations in those 920,000 generations.

3 When we divide 450,000,000 mutations by 920,000 generations it means that every generation had to have had 489 new mutations... **ALL** of them beneficial.

4 The number of mutations entering the genomes of chimps and humans is about 60 per generation. But evolution needs 489 mutations per generation. That is 8 times more than is actually occurring. That means evolution is a mathematical impossibility. When it comes to humans and chimps, there is no DNA relationship.

5 Johns Hopkins University maintains a database of human mutations that result in maladies in humans. Currently, there are over 20,000 bad (deleterious) mutations occurring in the human genome. There is not a single known positive mutation in the human genome, one that makes human health better. Not one! Yet evolution needs 489 positive mutations per generation with NO bad ones. It is totally unreasonable and unscientific to believe in evolution of humans.

God in the person of Jesus, created humans and the entire universe in a perfect state. When Adam sinned, God set in motion the scientific principle of entropy. EVERYTHING is going downhill, falling apart. That includes our DNA. But, rejoice! Disciples of Jesus will be resurrected into perfect bodies to spend eternity in the presence of Jesus! Christians get the most contented earthly life and a better eternal next life. Join us! **CRM**

Reason from page 1

situations restricts freedom. But they are trade-offs we make. We decide to exchange one for another... Work or total freedom every minute.

Love is the hyper-straightjacket. Most people would say that love is the ultimate freedom. It just seems to be part of human nature that we need love (romantic and otherwise). Research has shown we need love. Without love we will feel incomplete. Most will quickly give up freedom for love.

We don't just give up freedom, we choose to put the needs of someone else above our own needs. Not only do you trade time for love (like you do for a job), you make an obligation to the person who is the object of your love. You make commitments you vow to keep. That is the ultimate freedom straightjacket. And we all gladly put on the straightjacket. As Stevie Nicks wrote, we would all like to drown in the sea of love.

It would seem that we need some things that are restrictions on freedom that, in the end, make us feel more free! Keller states: *Freedom, then, is not the absence of limitations and constraints but it is finding the right ones, those that fit our nature and liberate us.*

In a healthy love relationship, there is mutual loss of freedom. All religions, including atheism, require the follower to submit to the religion at complete sacrifice of his humanness. Christianity is the exception. God submitted to our need by coming to

earth in the person of Jesus, and undergoing the unjust sacrifice of His life so we can have a relationship with Him. He did it all. We are the fortunate recipient of the results of that sacrifice.

Does a Christian lose freedom as a result of accepting Christ as Lord and Savior? Exactly the opposite happens. Love always causes us to want to please the object of our love. Where I was a slave to sin with no freedom to not sin before, I now have the freedom to not sin. I have the freedom to love God and to please Him.

Remember what Bob Dylan said, *Maybe the devil or it may be the Lord, but you are going to serve somebody*. Once we see the incredible love Christ has for us, we gladly serve Him.

The next argument Keller tackles is the complaint that the Christian church has done much injustice in the world. There are three issues here.

First is the issue of character flaws in Christians. There is no doubt that Christians have many flaws and some of them are apparently worse than the flaws of many non-Christians. We are all hypocrites with no exceptions. We talk a talk that does not always match our walk.

The Bible is quite clear that we are all born self-centered and horribly flawed. Hopefully, our parents straightened out many of the flaws. Some parents do and some don't. We can take over working on character after we leave the supervision of our parents. It is a lifelong process. We never get it 100% right. I wish we all did.

Common grace is a principle taught in the Bible that makes it clear that every good work is from God. He uses Christians and non-Christians alike in His exercise of common grace. Nobody has earned the station of being favored by God. We all fall short. No one is worthy of being favored. Those who have a relationship with God, Christians, are in that relationship because they have asked God to forgive them for falling short of being good. We have nothing with which to earn God's favor because we can't.

The Bible is a unique book. In most religions all you hear about is all the good things done by their founders/leaders. There is no doubt their leaders have done many good things as described. But what about the flaws? God calls King David a "...man after my own heart." But God also puts David's flaws on display. For example, David used his position to take advantage of the wife of Uriah. Then to try to cover the sin, David had Uriah killed in battle. Not exactly a picture of loving kindness. What made David a man after God's own heart is David's reaction when confronted by Nathan about his sin. David immediately agreed he was in the wrong and asked God to forgive him. He made no excuses, he just faced the reality that he was a flawed person.

We'll continue with this issue in the next newsletter. In the meantime, do good and thank God for giving you the opportunity to do good. What a gift it is to be used by God to meet His plan for mankind. CRM

QUOTE:

Perhaps generations of students of human evolution, including myself, have been flailing about in the dark; that our data base is too sparse, too slippery, for it to be able to mold our theories. Rather the theories are more statements about us and ideology than about the past. Paleoanthropology reveals more about how humans view themselves than it does about how humans came about. But that is heresy.

American Scientist, Vol. 66, p. 379, May/June 1978

POINT:

It has been 40 years since this quote was written, but nothing has changed, at least in Paleontology. There are still very few fossils of supposed transitional creatures between a common ancestor and chimps and humans. Those that supposedly show the start of the transition look like chimps (the insistence that we have a common ancestor rather than evolved from chimps is to help hide the glaring fact that the supposed earliest humanoids have skeletons just like chimps). Later humanoids such as Java Man, Peking Man and Neanderthal Man all look fully human. Indeed most paleontologists who study human descent agree that you can walk down the street and pass by people who have skeletons, including skull features, that are exactly like those supposed pre-humans. The quote is proven true in recent times as studies in DNA show conclusively that it is a mathematical impossibility that humans and chimps are in any way related. Math must be ignored and facts about the fossil skulls must be ignored. I am on the wrong side of consensus, but on the right side of science.