

CREATION

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Consider the moon...

Way back in Genesis 1: 14-19, on the fourth day of Creation, God created the sun, moon and stars. It is interesting to note that these Bible verses contain not only a description of the creation of these parts of the universe, but also the very first comment by the Lord on their purpose. For God clearly tells us that the sun, moon and stars have been created not only to be lights but also to be for “signs and seasons, and for days and years”. Hence they are intended not only to be calendars but also to have a prophetic role. This also indicates how important the Lord considers prophecy to be.

If, then, the sun, moon and stars are designed for a purpose, we should see supporting scientific evidences for design. So do we see these? Yes, indeed! As the moon has been in the news so much recently, let's focus on that. Here are just a few interesting facts:

The earth is the only planet known in the solar system or elsewhere to have a single moon that is respectively so large. In consequence, the earth and moon tend to revolve around each other, increasing their stability.

The moon's orbit is remarkably constant, varying only a little. If it had a wildly erratic orbit there would be repeated catastrophic earthquakes and tidal waves around the earth. Life would be extremely precarious! As it is, the orbit is just right to cause the oxygenation and stirring of the tides, making the seas and oceans life-supporting.

The size of the moon and the earth with respect to the sun, and their precise distances from each other, are exactly right



Blood moon, 28 September 2015. Image: <https://goo.gl/KbprCj>, NASA Goddard Space Center, under Creative Commons Attribution 2.0 Generic licence.

to make possible lunar and solar total eclipses. The chances of this configuration occurring by accident are infinitesimal.

The composition of the moon's surface is exactly right to make it a very good reflector of the sun's light. This composition is markedly different from that of the earth, indicating that the moon could not have originated by splitting off from the earth. Nor could it and the earth have had a common origin through gradual clumping together of myriads of tiny particles.

Any one of these points is telling enough, but taken all together they are compelling. And yet more pertinent facts about the design of the moon are described in CSM's pamphlets nos. 273 and 398.

Returning to the subject of prophecy, there has been great media interest in the fact that September 2015's "super moon" (i.e., when the moon is at its closest to earth) was also a blood moon. This is so called because when an eclipse is caused by the earth passing between the moon and the sun, so little light reaches the moon that it appears to be a blood red colour.

Some authors consider that blood moons are of little importance, because they happen periodically and are just a "natural outcome" of these orbits. But this viewpoint completely misses the point that God himself declares that the blood moon does have a prophetic significance. In both the Old and New Testaments, prophetic passages indicate that a blood moon will presage dire events that will take place in the future. (See for example Joel 2: 31, Acts 2: 20 and Revelation 6: 12-14.) So are we living in the last days? God alone

knows, but at the appropriate time He will make it clear to all those who follow Him.

No evolution here!

In the news recently on the *Telegraph* online (<http://goo.gl/YIqQhW>, accessed 05 October 2015) was a report on the amazing discovery of a very rare species of nautilus, *Allonautilus scrobiculatus*, the first time this marine mollusc has been found by researchers for 31 years. It has been suggested therefore that it could be the rarest animal in the world. This euphoric claim is, however, easily shot down by noting that many species of creatures, such as insects, are still known only from the specimens used originally to formally name them for science.

The elusive creature is part of the nautilus family, relatives of squid and cuttlefish. It was discovered in 1984 in Papua New Guinea by Peter Ward, of the University of Washington. This summer Prof. Ward and his team filmed footage of it by using bait suspended at depths of between 150 and



Nautili (not *Allonautilus scrobiculatus*) in an aquarium. Image: www.pixabay.com.

400 metres. Nautili are dependent on water temperature so are limited to specific habitats. Once extinct in a region they will be gone forever in that area, the article assures us.

The *Telegraph*'s article also notes that little is yet known about nautili - but then goes on to claim authoritatively that nautili have inhabited our planet for 500 million years and survived two of the largest mass extinctions. How is it then that the history of these nautili shows no evidence of evolution? Nautili now... nautili then.... just the same! How curious. Unless of course nautili were designed to look like this from the outset, just a few thousand years ago. Of this perfectly rational alternative explanation the *Telegraph* is strangely silent.

Cuttings & Comments from New Scientist

by Dr David Rosevear

4 July p. 6 – Battle for the universe

There continues to be concern about the theories of cosmology. The big bang theory cannot be falsified, so doesn't even rank as a scientific theory. It is upheld by such fudge factors as dark matter, dark energy, inflation field and a multiverse.

Here we have comments such as:

“Although string theory attempts to describe the universe in one theoretical framework, it makes no attempt to explain experimental results.”

“We’ve been given these incredible clues from nature and we’re failing to make sense of them, he told *New Scientist*. In fact, we’re doing the opposite: theory is becoming ever more complex and

contrived. We throw in more fields, more dimensions, more symmetry – we’re throwing the kitchen sink at the problem and yet failing to explain the most basic facts.”

“Convergence gave researchers a chance to parade their field’s most puzzling experimental results, in areas from why 96 per cent of the universe appears to be missing and cosmic inflation, to quantum entanglement and the fate of information when matter falls into black holes.”

“Several physicists touted dark matter and dark energy as the best areas to focus on.”

“But dark matter has surprised everybody by failing to show up in earthly experiments, not even at the Large Hadron Collider, which was expected to produce it by the bucketload.”

“Paul Steinhardt of Princeton University, one of the original architects of inflation but now a vocal critic of how the theory



has evolved, went even further, arguing that inflation's flexibility means it cannot even be called a theory." This is said to be because the theory is adaptable enough to fit any observations we can currently do. A theory that can explain anything actually explains nothing.

The article concludes: **"What I think we need now are very simple radical ideas that will point towards new approaches to the big problems."**

How about scrapping the big bang and going back to the old approach, namely that in the beginning God created the heaven and the earth?

4 July p.17 – The benefits of a diverse background

"It's good to be mixed up. People whose parents are distantly related are on average, taller, smarter and better educated than those with closely related parents.

"It has long been known that children are more likely to suffer from genetic diseases if their parents are close relatives, because they may inherit the same harmful gene variants from their mother and father.

"But genetics is just one component of intelligence." Environmental factors like economics, nutrition and education can make the best of the hand that genetics has dealt.

The problem of marriage to close kin has indeed long been known. Leviticus 19 warns against incest, and is incorporated into British law. But this was not always the case. In the beginning, genomes were without harmful mutations, so Adam and Eve's children could (and of necessity, had to) intermarry. Even as late as Abraham and Sarah, intermarriage of siblings was

permissible, but by the time of the Mosaic Law, it was warned against. By then the burden of genetic mistakes had accumulated. Genetic disorders are increasingly common and today we all have at least 100 more mutations than our parents.

If the human race was even a hundred thousand years old, let alone a million, we would all be crippled by disease. It is as well that we shall have new bodies, when this corruption shall put on incorruption. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away (Rev. 21: 4). The curse of Genesis 3 has been atoned for by Christ's death and resurrection.

11 July p.11 – Bonobos use a range of tools like early humans

"Bonobos can be just as handy as chimpanzees. In fact, bonobos' tool-



Female bonobo (*Pan paniscus*). Image: H. Hillewaert, Wikipedia, <https://goo.gl/he3eiB>, under Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported licence.

using abilities look a lot like those of early humans, suggesting that observing them could teach anthropologists about how our own ancestors evolved such skills.”

Bonobos, it is admitted, have never been observed using tools in the wild. The article harks back to a captive one (named Kanzi) that was **“raised by humans and taught sign language as well as being shown how to use tools.”**

Here bonobos at a zoo in Germany were taught to use tools. One of them was sufficiently gifted to sharpen a stick with her teeth and jab a researcher with it.

Early man, being made in the image of God, was creative. He farmed cattle, made music and worked metals such as brass and iron (Gen. 4). CSM carries the book *The Puzzle of Ancient Man – evidence for advanced technology in past civilizations* by Dr Donald E Chittick.

11 July p.14 – Everything’s coming up roses with scent gene

“Now we can stop and smell the roses once more. The discovery of a gene largely responsible for the delicate scent of the rose could help restore the fragrance accidentally bred out of varieties cultivated for beauty.”

Highly scented roses produce chemicals called monoterpenes. By knocking out single genes, scientists found the one responsible for the scent. Using this knowledge, they hope to crossbreed and select to get flowers that are both beautiful and aromatic. No one has made a gene. They have simply used the genes present in the wild kind. Inbreeding leads to a loss

of genetic information – evolution in reverse.

While the scent, like everything else, is for man’s pleasure (the anthropic principle), it also probably has a part to play in attracting pollinators.

18 July p.28 – The time Traveller’s guide to Earth

Here is a story of what has happened to our planet over the last 2.5 billion years, as seen from the *New Scientist* time machine. However, since it deals with fiction, we won’t comment further.

18 July p.57 – The Last Word; Cats’ eyes in sight

This page’s title seems to refer to the fact that it is inside the back cover, rather than that it dispenses ultimate authority. Readers pose questions that other readers offer answers to. The puzzle here is why pussies have slit pupils while lions have round ones like ourselves. We dealt with this in these columns some while ago. Domestic cats, being largely nocturnal, need to be able to see in low light, yet also focus clearly in daylight without chromatic aberration.



The slit pupils of a cat’s eyes. Is it really reasonable to suppose that such highly complex and essential structures could have developed just by chance? Image: E. Hutchings, www.rgbstock.com.

The explanation offered: **“To overcome these difficulties, evolution has equipped some animals with multifocal lenses, formed of concentric rings with different focal lengths. Each ring focuses a different part of the spectrum, giving a sharp image.”**

The slit eye allows the pupil to close up while still remaining multifocal, whereas a circular pupil would mask out the outer rings to give a blurred image.

‘Evolution’ is a hypothesis and has no intelligence. It cannot plan ahead to give moggies their night vision. A chance modification to the genetic information for a simple lens would only lead to a less perfect simple lens. The multifocal lens coded for by the information in the genes must be a design feature – by a Designer.

25 July p.4 – Hunt for ET starts afresh

The SETI programme has lost official backing because of its slim chance of the search for extraterrestrial intelligence being successful. **“Is anyone out there? This week, Russian venture capitalist Yuri Milner launched a \$100 million project to reinvigorate the search for ET.”** This buys his team time on two of the world’s largest radio telescopes, enabling them to scan a radio frequency range 5 times as wide as hitherto.

“‘We might not find anything,’ he says. ‘But that begins to tell us something significant about the universe. A null result is still a good one.’”

It will confirm Isaiah 45:18 – God made the *earth* to be inhabited.

1 August p.4 – Another Earth?

“Meet Kepler-452b, Earth’s new alien cousin. This rocky planet is the first Earth-sized alien world we have seen that circles a sun-like star at a distance that should allow liquid water to exist on

its surface... The planet’s star, about 1400 light years away in the constellation of Cygnus is just slightly bigger than our sun. Even the planet’s year is familiar at 385 days long.”

Kepler-452b “is 60 per cent larger than Earth, and probably weighs about five times as much...Geological models suggest that it should have a rocky composition and a thick atmosphere.”

It is confidently announced that the Kepler star is 1.5 billion years older than the sun so its planet would have had surface water for 6 billion years. The implication is that life should have evolved there long ago!

One newspaper reported that Kepler-452b has a ‘substantial opportunity’ to host life and if plants were transferred there, they would probably survive. It is, of course, doubtful that our seedlings would survive a journey taking 1400 years even at the speed of light.

It isn’t mentioned that NASA’s data, collected over four years, is based on



Plants: intelligently designed to flourish on Earth, not in outer space. Image: K. Tuck, www.rgbstock.com.

measuring a periodic dimming of the light from this star. A similar situation that we recently reported turned out to be ‘sun-spots’ on the star’s surface, not a planet at all.

What is required for life to exist somewhere? Certainly the optimum conditions of light, warmth and water plus elements such as carbon, hydrogen, oxygen phosphorous, sulphur and traces of others. But crucially, all known life needs biological machines to build the structures and coded information to produce them from seeds reproduced by parent life forms. This genetic information can only come from an intelligent Designer, who builds in the capacity for variation within each kind.

1 August p.12 – Giant fauna killed by heat, not humans

Scientists appear to be jumping on the current bandwagon of Global Warming that is discouraging the use of fossil fuels. One expert said: **“Human alteration or destruction of ecosystems is so pervasive that it is clear that many species are**

unable to shift their ranges sufficiently rapidly to match current anthropogenic climatic changes.” They claim to have correlated major past extinctions with periods of hot weather. Since much extinction occurred after the Flood during the Ice Age, one doubts that they are right. Woolly mammoths have to be dug out of the permafrost.

Nevertheless, one newspaper uses the headline ‘Heatwave killed woolly mammoths’. Why let the facts spoil a good story.

1 August p.15 – The first snake fossil with four legs

On rare occasions fossils of snakes are found having two tiny legs just ahead of their tails. This reports the first fossil snake to be unearthed with four legs. These are too tiny to support a walking lifestyle so the snake had to get around on its belly, as have all snakes since that ‘serpent of old’ of Genesis 3:14 (Revelation 12:9 NKJV).

“A range of features show that this unusual creature was indeed a snake, says David Martill of the University of Portsmouth, UK, whose team described the fossil found in Brazil. It has a single row of belly scales [a nod to Gen. 3?], hundreds of snake-like vertebrae, a body longer than the tail and backward-pointing teeth.”

It is thought that the legs were helpful for grasping prey or mates. It is also suggested that this fossil adds weight to the theory that snakes evolved from lizards that have legs. Our local paper, the *News*, adds that Martill discovered the fossil in an exhibition in a German museum. It is 20 cm long (8 inches) but



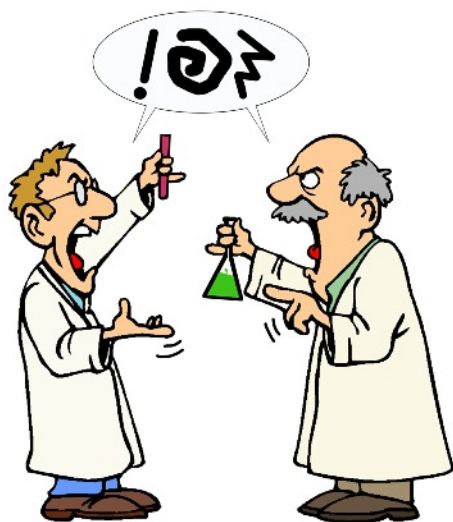
Woolly mammoths - made extinct by global warming? Hardly!
Image: Flying Puffin - Mammut, uploaded to Wikipedia by FunkMonk, <https://goo.gl/D2b6Qy>, under Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 2.0 Unported licence.

may not have been fully grown. **“Dr Martill said: ‘It’s generally accepted that snakes evolved from lizards at some point in the distant past. What scientists don’t know yet is when they evolved, why they evolved, and what type of lizard they evolved from.’”** So, his is a belief based on faith rather than evidence. Loss of legs doesn’t fit well with Darwinian Theory. Darwin might have expected snakes to have evolved into lizards by evolving legs rather than the other way around. May I say a big thankyou to members who send in newspaper cuttings?

8 August p.16 – On the creation of modern language

Here is yet another suggestion on how man started to speak, to add to the opinion of Oxford’s Dr Dunbar that speech was first motivated by women wanting to gossip. It is now suggested that since sounds can be abstract while gestures can convey meaning visually, it must be that communication between ape-men began with gestures accompanied by grunts and wails. To test this hypothesis, researchers asked a group of students to express a number of words, such as big, slow and attractive, by using only gestures and noises. What fun! As common sounds began to emerge, they recorded and played back these noises to other students. About 35 per cent of these sounds were related to their intended meanings by those who hadn’t taken part in the experiment.

An anomaly for these secularists is the observation that the oldest languages are more complex in their syntax than today’s tongues. Latin is Greek to most modern schoolboys. Languages have devolved. Adam, the first man, came fully equipped and was able to name all the kinds of creatures on his first morning. After a short



Did language really develop from gesticulations, grunts and wails? Some secularists would have us believe that it did! Image: CSM.

nap, he became quite voluble on setting eyes upon his new mate, Eve. For the first 1650 years or so we all understood one another when we wanted to. At the Tower of Babel, several newly created languages were imposed by the Creator on different clans. If they were anything like the Englishman abroad, they then started shouting loudly and gesticulating so that those stupid strangers would understand! They then wandered apart with their families, and so began to be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, according to the Maker’s original instructions (Gen.1:28).

8 August p.37 – 10 What if we find God?

This is part of a large cover story entitled *World turned upside down*, a series of “10 ‘what ifs’ with the potential to change us forever.”

“The equations are checked and rechecked. Finally, physicists throw up their hands and declare that the big

bang must have had a cause – a prime mover that created the universe. Or perhaps God simply shows up on Earth in full supernatural glory. As shocks to the system go, it couldn't get much bigger."

We have it on the highest authority that such an event *is* due to happen. 'The Lord, whom you seek, shall suddenly come to His temple, even the messenger of the covenant whom you delight in: Behold, He shall come says the Lord of hosts. But who may abide the day of His coming, and who shall stand when He appears?' (Mal. 3:1-2.) The O.T. prophet Malachi continues with a lovely picture: 'For He is like a refiner's fire... and He shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver...'

The chemist of old would sit with the silver ore in an earthen pot over a hot fire, stirring with a green stick, and drawing off the dross, until he could see his own image reflected in the pure metal.

Believe me; I'm an old chemist myself!

The article thinks that in this unlikely event – the Lord's return - both atheists and organised religions alike would be thrown into disarray. **"If this being did present itself to us, we could see atheists start a revolution against God."** Psalm 2 actually predicts this and comments: 'The Lord shall have them in derision.'

These secularists would ask God why He allows evil. They would ask, 'Who made you?' It is not easy to get one's head round the idea that the eternal God created time, so there was no one before Him.

15 August p.17 – Star bubbles shelter planets

Here is another instance of the anthropic principle, the idea that the universe gives the appearance of having been designed for man.

"Our sun's wind of charged particles and radiation forms a bubble called the heliosphere, which repels cosmic rays that can affect Earth's weather, eat away at the ozone layer and damage DNA." The article goes on to point out that other stars also must provide this protection to their planets. This, it is supposed, would allow life to evolve. As mentioned above (August 1st, Another Earth), it takes rather more than the absence of radiation to produce life. Life on Earth was created by 'Elohim', our Godhead, who provided all the conditions necessary for us to multiply.

15 August p.19 – Roar achievement

We are familiar with individual fingerprints and iris recognition used to identify people. Here it is reported that no two tigers sound the same. Tiger voices can be used to track the animals in the wild. A conservation project aims to tell individuals apart by analysing the pitch and duration of their roars. Scientists have already installed recording equipment in a forest in Thailand, which they say will be more reliable than hidden cameras or tracking paw-prints.

We are already aware that penguins returning from fishing trips can distinguish the cries of their own chicks from the tens of thousands of others, while the stripes of zebras are also unique. What a fascinating world we live in!

22 August p.19 – Oldest human hand hints at early descent from the trees

Hardly even a hint, I'd say. A fossilised little finger found in Tanzania is dated at 1.8 million years old, and apparently shows that it belonged to a ground-dwelling human rather than a creature that was used to swinging in the trees.

"Hanging from branches bends bones like this one that extend from the knuckle,

whereas in modern humans – and in this case – they are straighter.”

If hanging around really bent apes’ little fingers, then new-born apes would have straight digits. The shape is determined by the genes, not the exercises.

Changes in anatomy would require the replacement of ape genes by human genes, with all their complex information and coding. That could not happen by chance.

When it is realised that rocks were laid down catastrophically, as seen in field observations and laboratory tests, then the whole millions-of-years scenario collapses. The finger was from a human buried in the flood.

29 August p.16 – Sick ants’ healthy appetite for a toxin

It has been observed that *Formica fusca* ants choose to ingest hydrogen peroxide if they have a certain fungal disease.

“Infected ants had better survival odds if fed a diet spiked with hydrogen peroxide. The same diet raised mortality rates in healthy ants, and when offered the choice, they tended to avoid the spiked food. Crucially, however, the infected ants ate more of it, suggesting they somehow felt that it would benefit them.”

Either these tiny insects could figure this medication problem out for themselves or maybe their caring Creator hard-wired the instinct into them.

5 September p.14 – Finches discover insect repellent

Here is another example of self-medication this week. The parasitic fly *Philornis downsi* was introduced to the Galapagos Islands accidentally by tourism in the 1960s, and its negative impact on Darwin’s finches was first noticed in the 1990s. The fly’s larvae can kill entire broods of finches in the nest by sucking the blood of the



Darwin's finches. Inbuilt information has enabled them to deal with a novel threat, but Who provided the information originally? Image: CSM.

nestlings. Disease carrying mosquitoes are also a threat to the finches. Now scientists have noticed that the iconic birds that inspired Darwin’s theory are picking leaves from a Galapagos guava tree, *Psidium galapageium*, and rubbing them into their feathers. The leaves both repel mosquitoes and inhibit the growth of the parasitic larvae. **“Other birds and animals around the world are known to rub their feathers or fur with plants to protect themselves from insects and parasites, but observations of this behaviour in birds are mostly anecdotal.”**

““That would be a really rapid and novel evolutionary response to a new selective pressure that was brought about by humans,” Hendry says.”

Or maybe the One whose eye is on the sparrow built this instinct into the finch’s DNA.

5 September p.30 – What came before the big bang? And other questions physics can’t answer... yet

“According to the big bang theory – our best explanation for why space is expanding – everything exploded from nothing about 13.8 billion years ago. Cosmologists have been able to wind things back to within a tiny fraction of a second of this moment. But now they’re stuck... ‘The rules we have simply don’t work in that regime,’ says Carlo Contaldi at Imperial College, London. ‘Nothing makes sense any more.’”

“That’s a problem for our origin story. Did time begin with the big bang? Or was there an epoch before it.

“One possibility is that instead of a bang, there was a bounce.”

“Or perhaps our bang was one of many. Some think our universe popped into existence as a bubble in a frothing sea of universes.

If time began from nothing this violates the law of cause and effect. Yet a series of universes dying and then bouncing into another one would not solve the problem of where it all began. The first law of thermodynamics says that matter and energy cannot arrive from nothing. And the second law says there must have been a beginning, since things continually wear out and energy is dissipated as useless heat. The simple explanation is given by the Creator Himself: In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. No big bang, no big bounce, no billions of years, just instantaneous creation by an all-powerful, all-wise Elohim. He told us that He stretched out the heavens.

12 September p.8- Deep cave yields a new human

“The copious remains of Homo naledi shake up our view of our past.”

Every researcher likes to think that their own discovery is ground-breaking!

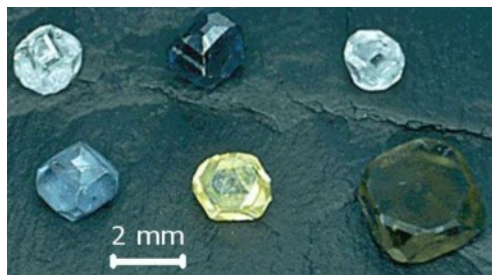
Lee Berger of the University of Witwatersrand in South Africa has explored a cave system just north of Johannesburg in which he found a very large collection of human-like bones. According to the accompanying diagram, the cave system first descends some 25 metres underground before climbing again some 15 metres. Berger here **“squeezed through”** a narrow **“12 metre vertical shaft”** dropping into a chamber strewn with bones. His team recovered 1400 bones and 140 teeth from at least 15 individual skeletons. They left thousands of bones behind when they left. The remains include some of infants, ruling out the possibility that people had deliberately entered the chamber. The bones bore no gnaw marks, so they were not brought in by animals. In fact no other vertebrate bones were found. The skeletons had larger chests and pelvises than modern man, but the skulls were much smaller. The arms were shorter than the legs, and the feet were also fully human.

Previously, in the Atapuerca Mountains of Spain, 28 skeletons had been found in a pit. The remains were big-brained – **“they looked and behaved rather like us”** (though behaviour is difficult to assess from bones).

We have noted earlier (NS 26 October 2013 p.16) that modern humans vary in dimensions as much as fossil hominins.

12 September p.28- Elements at the extreme

As a chemist, I found this article most interesting and informative. It described the changes in properties that occur when elements are subjected to the kind of immense pressures present at the Earth’s core and mantle. For example, at a depth from the surface of 2000 kilometres (a third of the way to the centre of the Earth) the



Various synthetic diamonds created rapidly under high temperature and pressure conditions. Why, then, should natural diamonds have taken millions of years to form? Image in the public domain.

pressure reaches 0.95 million times atmospheric pressure at sea level. At this pressure the oxygen that we breathe here collapses to become a solid metal.

These pressures can be achieved in the laboratory by using very tiny hydraulic presses (the 'stiletto heels' effect) and very hard hammer and anvil such as diamond. However, the pressure treatment doesn't involve millions of years. The article tells us that plant debris decomposes into peat. Coal is formed when this is **"compacted and heated for millions of years a few kilometres below ground. But go 100 kilometres or so down, and the high temperatures, along with pressures 30,000 to 50,000 times those at Earth's surface, transform carbon's bonding to make an apparently different substance: diamond."**

"Since the 1950s, however, researchers have been cutting out the billion-year geological middlemen. Large hydraulic presses weighing tens of tonnes now compress carbon to yield synthetic diamonds used in coatings, cutting tools and even jewellery."

In extreme conditions, changes take place very rapidly because the carbon of coke is unstable and rushes to change to the compact lattice of diamond.

Creationist researchers sent samples of natural diamonds to secular laboratories for carbon dating. After even one million years there should be no radiocarbon left since its half-life is only 5700 years. The labs found carbon fourteen, contrary to expectation. Similarly, coal and oil do not need a long time to form in the Earth.

Deep time is a philosophical construct to make evolution seem possible.

19 September p.8 – Climate change shaped humans

The alleged evolution of apes into us is, of course, taken as read. So what was the mechanism for this remarkable change over a few million years? According to this article it was a change of climate that forced apes to be adaptable.

"The ways in which climate affected human evolution have been hotly debated for over a century. A persistent idea is that the challenging climate of southern Africa - a sparsely vegetated, dry savannah - drove humans to walk on two legs, grow large brains and develop technology." Just So!

So why would everyone be so concerned about climate change if it leads to easier movement, bigger brains and better technology? Of course it doesn't.

"However, not everyone is convinced."

Frankly, I'm not surprised.

19 September p.28 – It takes two... but why? Blame an ancient hook-up

"Sex might be everywhere, but we still don't know why animals and plants do it... Almost all animals, plants and fungi partake in it. Despite this, sex has mystified biologists from the time of Darwin to the present day."

"Sex is a puzzle because it makes far more sense to produce clones. Why go to all the trouble of finding a mate if you can

make offspring asexually? An asexual organism can produce many more offspring than a sexual one, which must find a partner and only passes on half of its DNA.”

Eukaryotes, creatures with their nuclear DNA enclosed in a cell nucleus, are all multicellular, and their cells also have mitochondria containing their own small amount of DNA outside of the nucleus. These all reproduce sexually.

On the other hand, prokaryotes are single-celled organisms (bacteria and archaea) that do not have their DNA enclosed within a nucleus. They lack a mitochondrion. These prokaryotes make clones of themselves.

The article claims that the acquisition of mitochondria made sex necessary, though it admits that there is no direct evidence for this.

Despite the nomenclature, there is no evidence that prokaryotes predated eukaryotes, or that the latter ever lacked mitochondria. Mitochondria supply the energy for the processes in these complicated cells. Mitochondria lack a repair system but rely on that within the nuclear DNA.

The mixing of the male and female elements, each holding just one set of chromosomes (DNA) to give an offspring with a full complement of chromosome pairs, means that if one chromosome has a mutation that renders it unfit, the other of its pair can still function. This also allows variation due to the different partners. If humans were all clones of the first human, life could be a bit humdrum.

The book of Genesis explains that in the beginning God made creatures male and female to reproduce after their kind with their seed within themselves. Partners do not only complement one another in sex, but each supports the other in many ways.

Many studies of children show that single parents make for a less than ideal situation, even with the best will in the world.

25 September p.10 – Diving for pearls of Greek wisdom

Here is a report on a recent exploration of a shipwreck 55 metres below the surface of the Mediterranean near the tiny Greek island of Antikythera north of Crete.

In the 1st century BC a ship sank here, and in 1900-1901 treasures were salvaged from it. These included bronze and marble statues, gold jewellery, ornate furniture, and gorgeous ceramics and glassware. There was also a **“battered lump of bronze, which cracked open to reveal gearwheels, pointers and inscriptions in ancient Greek. Experts at the time were stumped, but decades of research, including X-ray analysis and CT scans, have revealed that the device was a clockwork computer, with more than 30 gearwheels that modelled the workings of the solar system. This gearing was**



Corroded gears of the Antikythera computer. Image: T. Efthimiadis, Flickr, <https://goo.gl/cTjOvm>, under Creative Commons Attribution 2.0 Generic licence.

originally inside a wooden box, about the size of a mantelpiece clock, with a handle that allowed the user to move forwards or backwards in time. Revolving pointers showed the movements of the sun, moon and planets, while a series of smaller dials displayed the timing of eclipses, and even the Olympic Games.”

Evolutionists had to think again about ancient technology. Geared mechanisms led to modern clocks and the automated machinery that drove the industrial revolution. All this 2000 years ago!

Dr. Chittick’s book mentioned under 11 July above has a section on this ancient computer.

3 October p.7 – Big Apple floods

Superstorms of increasing frequency hit Manhattan in New York. A continuing rise in sea level enables these superstorms to breach the sea defences. It is said to have happened every 500 years, but now occurs every quarter century. This magazine often refers to climate change, blaming human activities such as deforestation and increasing industrialisation.

Another view is that there have been drastic climate changes in the historical past and things are still coming to equilibrium. Those who hold this view are dubbed climate change deniers by those who are global flood deniers. Certainly human activity exacerbates the natural process.

“Benjamin Horton of Rutgers University, New Jersey, analysed sediment samples from local salt marshes to see how the sea level changed between 850 and 2005. His team then used climate models to generate hypothetical cyclones. They focussed on an area in Lower Manhattan known as the Battery, where the sea walls were breached during superstorm Sandy. They found that



Hurricane “Superstorm” Sandy over the USA in October 2012 (continent outline artificially added). Image: NASA, in the public domain.

average flood heights there increased by 1.2 metres between 850 and 2005.”

This data supports the model of recovery since the flood and ice age only 4,500 years ago. However, **“You can really see the impact of anthropogenic activities,” Horton says”.**

When Marco Polo (1254-1324) was travelling from Venice to China, he records coming across several inland seas of salt water. These have long since dried up. The Aral Sea and Lake Chad are recent examples of this continuing process. Many parts of the world suffer increasingly prolonged draughts leading to raging fires. Desert areas are spreading.

With superpowers warring in Syria, and the Islamic nations fighting one another, maybe the return of the Lord Jesus Christ to reign in Zion is at hand. Isaiah 35, speaking of that joyful time, says that ‘in

the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert. And the parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water.’

3 October p.9 – Fossil ear bones reveal shift in human hearing

“A reconstruction of fossil ear bones has found that human hearing shifted towards picking up frequencies useful in speech very early in our evolution.”

Fossil ear bones of extinct apes *Australopithecus africanus* and *Paranthropus robustus* (dated at 1-3 my ago) were compared with those of modern chimps and humans using CT scans and 3D models. The apes and chimps could distinguish sounds up to 3 kilohertz, but humans hear better than them in the 3-5 kHz range. This enables us to pick up consonants such as t, k, f and s. Because evolution is assumed, this data is seen as explaining how we evolved speech from grunts.

However, it has been shown that the hard bones of the inner ear that control balance, known as the labyrinth or semi-circular canals, differ between apes and humans. Ours are more complex in order to deal with bipedalism. There are no intermediate forms. (see *Nature*, 23rd June 1994 p.645.)

10 October p.5 – Tall story

This story is tall in both senses:

“Which came first, the giraffe or its long neck? Fossil vertebrae from extinct species related to giraffes have allowed the evolution of its neck to be pieced together and the work confirms that long necks had begun to appear before the giraffe family itself evolved.”

Fossil neck vertebrae of animals that may or may not be genetically related to giraffes have been arranged in a sequence of increasing length. This cannot ‘confirm’

that one form evolved into another, even if the dating system were reliable. They were probably all buried in the flood.

Giraffes have the same number of neck vertebrae as many other mammals, but they are elongated. The Just So story about reaching those leaves that others can’t reach makes one wonder how juniors and females coped without this advantage.

10 October p.16 – Grass disguises seeds as droppings to trick dung beetles.

“One species of grass has evolved to deceive dung beetles into dispersing its seeds by making them look – and smell – like antelope droppings.” Here is another Just So story, oh my best beloved, this time about a cunning crop that worked out for itself how to make chemicals with the right pong to add to its seeds that it had crafted to look like droppings, in order to fool dung beetles. But the story shouldn’t fool us – this is a design feature to help the grass to be fruitful and multiply and fill the Earth.

17 October p.14 – Digital brain fires like the real thing

“A tiny piece of a rat’s brain has been reconstructed in minute detail in a computer. The digital model, which includes 31,000 neurons and their 37 million synapses, fires like the real thing, and is already revealing fresh clues as to how the brain works.”

This breakthrough is the first in the billion-euro Blue Brain Project, launched 10 years ago. Swiss scientists hope eventually to model the entire human brain to probe consciousness itself. Yet the mind is part of the soul that lives on after the brain has ceased to work.

This section of the rat brain recreates a piece of tissue one third of a millimetre cubed. It contains 207 different kinds of

brain cells and the millions of connections between them.

The team consists of 82 people from 12 institutions using data collected over 20 years (as opposed to 6 days) from a brain region responding to a sense of touch. This **“substantial piece of work”** is certainly praiseworthy, but one wonders if these painstaking experts realise that most scientists think that the rat’s brain is the result of millions of years of fortuitous mistakes in copying the genes of a protozoan!

17 October p.14 – First humans to leave Africa went to China

Here is yet another discovery that claims that **“We have to rethink our species’ dispersal. Early humans may have left Africa several times.”**

The article also sheds light on the dating methods involved. Researchers found 47 teeth of *H. sapiens* (that’s us) in a cave in China. They were under a layer of stalagmites that obviously formed after the teeth were deposited. **“The stalagmites are at least 80,000 years old, so that’s the minimum age of the teeth...Given that the animal bones found at the same site were typical of the late Pleistocene, this puts the upper age limit at 120,000 years ago.”** The previous estimate of when man

made his mythical exit from Africa was 60,000 years ago.

Stalactites and stalagmites grow at a rate determined by the mineral content of the material through which ground water percolates. You’ve probably noticed some stalagmites under Victorian railway bridges. Pleistocene refers to a layer of rocks rather than a timescale. Most fossils date from the flood. The teeth are being genetically compared to today’s Chinamen. A radio-carbon study would cause a more drastic rethink.

Quote

"We can quickly tell from the way someone walks whether that person is young or old, male or female, healthy or sick, because patterns of movement vary from one person to the next. In fact, we can often recognize a friend from a distance, even if he's walking with his back to us, because of his characteristic strides.

Scientists have assumed that evolution would push us toward a single "best" method for walking - or for any movement. But even one person's repeated steps, watched closely, are rarely identical."

(The Editor, *NeuroScientist News*, <http://goo.gl/PQrkAT>, 02 October 2015.)

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