



Creation Matters

A NEWSLETTER PROVIDING CHRISTIANS UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION ABOUT THE
CREATION/EVOLUTION ISSUE AND THE MUSEUM AT "CREATION MINISTRIES OF THE OZARKS"

NO. 95

WHAT SHOULD CHRISTIANS DO?

What should Christians do in a world that is falling apart politically, militarily and economically? What did Jesus tell His Jewish followers to do about the oppression of Roman control over their land? By reading the Book of Acts we learn that the early Christians simply concentrated on being obedient to the command of Jesus to spread the truth of the Gospel everywhere they went. They were passionate to the extent of losing their physical lives to see people become true believers and followers of Jesus Christ.

These first-century Christians were first and foremost concerned with proclaiming the message that related to a person's eternal destiny. There are only two alternatives—either to be lost or saved. When the Holy Spirit directed Phillip to go to Gaza, it was because God wanted the Gospel to reach the Ethiopian Eunuch so that by believing he would come into a saved relationship with his Creator (See Acts 8). But it was more than this, because it was a strategic move of God to cause the Ethiopian Eunuch to take the Gospel home to his own people, and thus the message was taken to a new geographical area. To this day there are some Christians in Ethiopia who claim to be descendants of first-century Christians, and who also claim to be of Jewish descent.

So if we are to follow the example of the early Christians in today's world, we should understand that sharing the truth of the Gospel is to be our priority. Regardless of what our secular occupation may be, our purpose as followers of Jesus Christ is to bear fruit for the kingdom of God. Just as we learn from the Bible and history of the persecution that often accompanied the evangelistic efforts of these first-century Christians, so I believe we will see Satan attempt similar attacks upon the Church in these last days.

Sadly, much of the Church world, even many evangelical churches, are not discerning the impending dangers that lie ahead—probably in the near future. In spite of the obvious attacks upon Christianity in America that have already taken place and continue to escalate, so many are continuing with the attitude of life and church as usual. But there is change in the wind, and we need to be prepared for it with the Lord's help.

The only way to be ready for what lies ahead is to do the same things that devoted Christians have done through the centuries. These basic things include being very familiar with the Word of God, and maintaining a close personal relationship with the Lord through prayer. Reading the first Christian message given by Peter on the Day of Pentecost it is very clear that he had a

thorough knowledge of the Old Testament by the quotations he used. This takes study and time. Some surveys have shown an appalling lack of biblical knowledge among Christians, many of whom have been members of their churches for many years. Jesus said,

"If you abide [Greek = remain] in Me, and MY WORDS ABIDE IN YOU, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you" (John 15:7).

As we begin giving tours at our museum, we often encourage our visitors to repeat Genesis 1:1 in unison. And as we progress through the tour there are scriptures posted that are chosen to relate to each section of the museum. We want our guests to be powerfully impacted by the eternal truths of the Word of God and its importance, because it is through the Word that the Holy Spirit works to reach into the hearts of individuals.

We expect a busy summer. Please pray that the presence of God will impact all who come and cause them to become bold witnesses for the truth. RB

MONTHLY CREATION CLASS ON

MONDAY, MARCH 14, 6.30 P.M.

AT THE BRANSON MUSEUM LOCATION

Dr. Rod Butterworth will give the final presentation of the season.

VISIT OUR

"CREATION EXPERIENCE MUSEUM"

4180 US Hwy. 65 North MO 65771

(Just 7 miles north of Branson)

Wednesdays — Saturdays 10.00 a.m. to 5 p.m.

417-561-0750

844-219-7116 & MAP AT CMOTO.ORG

See page 4 for information on schedules for 2016.

THE AMAZING DIVERSITY OF CREATED PLANT KINDS

by Dalton Ford

With spring planting just around the corner, many people may be thinking about what they want to grow this year. Whether home-grown produce, abundant herbs, or freshly cut flowers, plants continue to be an enormous blessing to man. Beyond the more apparent blessings these provide us, however, this part of God's creation can also teach us about a very interesting subject: genetic diversity.

Those who have visited our museum in Branson may recall an exhibit with a coyote and bobcat. We use this area to discuss the idea of *created kinds*, a concept that runs contrary to the theory of evolution. The basic idea is that God created original kinds (as opposed to species) which, though having all the genetic information needed to adapt to their environment *within* the boundaries, always stay the same type (kind) of animal. We don't see information, just adaptation- the very thing we would *expect* to see with a good and wise Creator!

Of course, animals weren't the only things created "after their kind," and I want to use a plant species by the name of *Brassica oleracea* to dive into this topic. This familiar garden species has undergone substantial artificial selection by man (so it's been observed), and is better known by its subspecies. It may seem strange, but broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, kohlrabi, kale, collards, and even Brussels sprouts all claim the name of *B. oleracea*. And to think that all this variety comes from the same original kind of plant!

Isn't this example of diversity, though, just evolution in action, the "baby steps" of Darwin's idea? Maybe it would be good to take a look at what is actually happening. To be sure, the original kale-like plant hasn't had any new information added to it. Starting from that basic type, we see that all that's being done is selection for ideal traits: larger leaf size, tighter leaf arrangement (heads), enlarged stems, and bigger flower heads. Since the plant had the information for kale-like leaves, stems, and flowers already, all that was needed was to select the specimens that emphasized the desired trait. Darwinian evolution calls for more than the selection of preexisting traits: it calls for the production of *new* traits (like kale producing soybeans). Although some people might try to use Brassicas as a case for evolution, offer any variety of *Brassica oleracea* as dinner to the typical 5-year-old, and you may get some very strong assertions that they are all still the same created kind!

But why would God give *B. oleracea* (and all other living organisms) this ability? How does the ability to adapt in small ways help out? In short, one reason for

this is *survival*. Natural selection (the dying off of less-fit organisms) would possibly wipe out entire species if it wasn't for the ability to adapt.

Let me give an example: imagine you have a handful of tomato seeds from one plant. You scatter these in your garden, and soon have a plethora of little tomato plants. As time goes on, you begin to see several different traits emerging. Some plants start producing tomatoes several weeks ahead of the others; some produce large tomatoes, some small; and some have long vines, while others are short. However, things could go wrong, things like (as I have experienced) chickens getting into the garden, strong winds, or early cool temperatures. In any of these scenarios, certain plants have a better chance of survival than others, ensuring that at least *some* would produce viable seeds for the next year. As the old saying goes, "Don't put all your eggs in one basket," and this is part of why adaptation is so important.

Brassica oleracea, though, is just one species; created kinds (baramins¹) typically reach several taxonomic levels higher than this! Created kinds are often found at the family level of taxonomy, so let's see a little of what that might include: *Brassica rapa* (oriental greens, turnips), *Brassica napus* (rutabagas & some canolas), *Raphanus sativus* (radishes), *Lepidium* species (peppergrasses), and possibly *Eutrema japonicum* (wasabi) to name a few. Baraminology (the study of created kinds), of course, isn't a very simple subject, and there is still much research to be done in grouping the various species.

With that in mind, here's a challenge for the next 30 days: try to identify several different veggies that are part of the same created kind. There are a number of online resources^{1,2} to help out, so don't be afraid to jump in. You may be surprised what you find!

Regardless of whether someone dives deeper into baraminology or not, this knowledge of adaptability and design can deepen our appreciation for God's amazing design in the world. Even our simple group of garden vegetables in *Brassica oleracea* reveals the incredible genetic potential of the created kinds. With a Creator like ours, should we expect anything less?

¹For more info on baraminology, visit <https://answersingenesis.org/creation-science/baraminology/>

²For a technical article from CMI, visit <http://creation.com/a-baraminology-tutorial-with-examples-from-the-grasses-poaceae#endRef31>

WHY HAVE A CREATION MUSEUM?

So what's so special about a creation museum ministry? First, we tell people right upfront as soon as they enter, that the purpose of our museum is to support the reliability and accuracy of the Bible. Many today have been taught that the Bible is just an old fashioned book full of myths and contradictions. We confidently declare that the exact opposite is true. We all need to take a serious look at the Bible.

The Apostle Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 9:22, **“I have become all things to all men, that I might by all MEANS save some.”** God has given us a “means” that causes people to visit us, and then we can proclaim the Gospel to them as part of the museum tour. Is this ministry reaching people? Over 5,300 have visited our Branson, MO museum in just 22 months. They have been exposed to biblical creationism and the Gospel. The seed of the Word of God is being sown through this ministry. We are pleased that a high percentage of these visitors have been young people. What a great privilege this is.

However, we know that not everyone is happy we exist. We have had the opportunity to **“speak the truth in love”** (Ephesians 4:15) to several groups of atheists who have visited us. We thank God for such opportunities, but sadly, there are also professed Christians who are not happy we exist.

What has happened? Let's think historically for a moment. For about 1800 years since Christ, the Church and Christians as a whole believed the Genesis account of creation as real history. One of Satan's strategies during these centuries was to deprive the common man from having access to reading the Bible for himself. But after the Bible became a best seller, Satan changed his approach. He saw the false philosophy of evolution as a very effective weapon to use against God and His Word.

In the 1800's some Christian theologians made a very significant and unfortunate strategic mistake. The idea of evolution had begun to be promoted as an exciting new science, especially since Charles Darwin's book *On the Origin of Species* was published in 1859. The tragic mistake some Christian theologians made was this: They said as it were, “This is real science, so we need to find a way to make it fit into the Bible.” Well, from that, various ideas came into the Church trying to harmonize the Bible with the idea of evolution and millions of years.

Such ideas do not come from the Bible. Suppose a Bible is given to an isolated tribesman in a jungle setting. As he reads the Bible for the very first time, will he come up with the idea of millions of years from reading the Genesis account? No, it would never happen. By the way, radiometric dating methods are basically useless as honest scientists will admit.

I believe the Church did right by believing for 1800 years that the Genesis account should be accepted as written—as real history. In fact, today's Hebrew scholars tell us that the only way to understand Genesis from the Hebrew language itself, is that Genesis is real historical narrative. The creation account is clearly referring to six literal approximate 24-hour-days just like the days we experience now.

Pastors and Bible teachers do not need modern secular scientists to enable them to understand the Bible with their unsubstantiated theories. Please don't misunderstand. I love science, and when it is accurate it will always be in harmony with the Bible.

A creation ministry like CMOTO can tap into wonderful examples from today's scientific discoveries. For example: microbiologist Michael Denton in his book *Evolution: A Theory in Crisis*, (Chevy Chase, MD: Adler & Adler, 1985) pp. 328-330, compares one individual cell with the human brain. He writes:

“In terms of complexity, an individual cell is nothing when compared with a system like the mammalian brain. The human brain consists of about ten thousand million nerve cells. Each nerve cell puts out somewhere in the region of between ten thousand and one hundred thousand connecting fibers by which it makes contact with other nerve cells in the brain. Altogether, the total number of connections in the human brain approaches 10¹⁵ [power] or a thousand million million.”

What an amazing God we serve! With the above description in mind we should gladly agree with Psalm 139:14:

“I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well.”



During January and February the museum was open by appointment only in order to help us work on improving some of our exhibits. Several groups came during this period as shown above. Above right, and seated to the right with Katy his wife standing next to him, is Gary, one of our fine new tour guides. We take the training of our tour guides very seriously, and it is great to have another dedicated Christian like Gary to stand with us in teaching biblical truth without compromise.

COME AND VISIT US

CREATION EXPERIENCE MUSEUM IN **BRANSON** IS OPEN WEDNESDAYS THROUGH SATURDAYS 10.00 A.M. TO 5.00 P.M.

ADMISSION FREE—DONATIONS APPRECIATED

PLEASE NOTE: RESUMING REGULAR SCHEDULE OF WED. — SAT. FROM MARCH 2, 2016.

SOME CURRENT NEEDS FOR THIS MINISTRY:

We would love to find some more people who could volunteer to join the wonderful volunteer family already devoting time to help us with landscaping projects as spring approaches.

Approximately \$20,000 needed to complete the \$40,000 needed for the parking lot improvement.

FIND MORE INFORMATION AT:

www.CMOTO.org (SIGN UP FOR OUR FREE NEWSLETTER ONLINE)

Or call: 844-219-7116

Donations can be made online or sent to:

CMOTO

1440 State Hwy. 248

Suite Q 461

Branson, MO 65616 **Please make checks to CMOTO**

A WORD ABOUT FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY

Financial accountability is extremely important to us. To this end *Creation Ministries of the Ozarks* has a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status from the IRS. Donations can be claimed as charitable giving for tax purposes. We have engaged the services of Mr. Dan Wiser, Certified Public Accountant in Springfield, Missouri.

“CREATION MATTERS”

You can hear our two-minute creation broadcasts on KWFC 89.1 FM at 11.21 a.m. CST Monday thru Friday each week which covers the Springfield and southwest MO area.

Or, hear previous recordings at our online radio archive anytime at: www.CMOTO.org