



Our dinosaurs have started to arrive at Jurassic Ark and our chosen topic for 140 school students Tuesday (given that we've had nearly 400 mls or 8 inches of rain around Aussie HQ over the last couple of days), you guessed it - Noah's flood and dinosaurs, plus you won't believe about the evolutionists using ghost stories as evidence, but it's true and all in this week's Evidence News (02/13) with EDitorial COMment from John Mackay and the Creation Research team worldwide. We also pull the feathers out of Darwin's pigeon experiments as we recover from a politically incorrect weekend of teaching on "Exposing the Aggressive Atheists" and "Are you Homophobic or Theophobic?"

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**1. NEW QUESTION: POLYSTRATE TREES?** I have recently returned from New Guinea where I have seen trees being buried where they grew, by silica rich springs in a volcanic zone. Surely if this is happening while we watch, then this is a good explanation of polystrate trees rather than rapid catastrophic flooding? Can you explain? [ANSWER](#) by John Mackay

**2. DID YOU MISS?** The Big Bang: When did it happen in relation to earth's history? Could it possibly have happened? [CLICK](#).

**3. SEE THE SAURUS'S AT JURASSIC ARK** [CLICK](#).

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**4. FREE AUDIO MESSAGE FROM JOHN MACKAY** – proving that if you take God’s Word in Genesis seriously about the world’s past, it enables you easily to make accurate predictions about the future of this planet – moral and physical. This message was the first ever recorded by John Mackay some 30 years ago and is now available free. You will be amazed at the God given accuracy of the predictions about homosexuality and other moral slides that have since happened in the west, as you hear the first of the later famous relevance messages John Mackay and Ken Ham would preach around the world. [CLICK](#) and enjoy.

**5. WHAT’S THE FATAL FLAW OF ATHEISM?** [CLICK](#).

**6. ATHEIST SAYS** he’ll ‘Turn Christian’ if Evil Is Explained During Major Debate. Philosopher Dr. Alex Rosenberg told theologian Dr. William Lane Craig, and the audience at a debate on the existence of God at Purdue University (live online) Friday 1st Feb, he would “turn Christian” if Craig could explain why God would allow evil.

“In all honesty, if Dr. Craig could provide me with any kind of a logical, coherent account that could reconcile the evident fact of the horrors of human and infer human life on this planet over the last 3.5 billion years with the existence of a benevolent, omnipotent agent then I will turn Christian,” Rosenberg said at the conclusion of his first allotted rebuttal. Rosenberg prefaced his promise by saying that evil and suffering “needs to be desperately explained”. He asked why a benevolent, omnipotent God would allow such human tragedies as the Holocaust, World War I, and the bubonic plague. He said he found the question perplexing. February 4, 2013|8:47 am [CLICK](#).

DEBATE CRAIG VS ROSENTHAL on-demand rebroadcasts <http://live.biola.edu/>.

ED. COM. Lane Craig takes a “head in the sand” approach to creation in general, as well as an aggressively anti-young-earth position, therefore, his billions of years supposed history concepts meant he had no real answer about the origin of sin and evil in the real world (which demands a literal reading of Genesis), so he was and is no challenge to any atheist.

HOW WOULD YOU ANSWER ROSENBERG? Best reply to [answers@creationresearch.net](mailto:answers@creationresearch.net) wins our latest DVD Time’s up Darwin. Answers must be received by last day February 2013.

SEE MORE ON WHY LANE CRAIG COULDN’T ANSWER as you watch and hear his comments on how embarrassing creationism is. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VEQhPvtvc1w>

**7. PIGEON DNA PROVES DARWIN RIGHT** claims Nature News 31 January 2013 in a genetic study of pigeon breeds also reported in ScienceNOW 31 January 2013. Charles Darwin spent many years breeding many varieties of pigeons, and wrote about them in *Origin of Species*. According to Nathan Young, an evolutionary biologist at the University of California, San Francisco, “The domesticated pigeon was just as, if not more, important (as Darwin’s finches) to the evolution of his thinking about how natural selection worked”. Darwin suggested that the different varieties of domesticated pigeons were descended from the wild rock dove, *Columba livia*, also known as rock pigeons. A team of scientists has now compared the genomes of 36 domestic breeds of pigeon and two feral breeds, and, according to Michael Shapiro of University of Utah, the research “puts data behind that argument”. The researchers also studied one of the most distinctive features of many domestic breeds – the presence or absence of a head crest. The head crest is formed when feathers grow upwards, rather than down along the body – a condition described as “reverse polarity of feather follicles”. The researchers found a difference of one base (item of DNA information) in a gene named EphB2. According to ScienceNOW, “The single base change involved causes the protein to have a different amino acid at a crucial spot, one that likely renders the protein ineffective”. Shapiro’s team are also looking for the genetic variations that produce other distinctive features of the different breeds, such as beak shape, size, colour and whether they roll or tumble as they fly.

Link: [Nature News](#)

ED. COM. Darwin admitted he was not the first person to claim that the varieties of domestic pigeons were all related to the rock pigeon. He wrote: “*Great as the differences are between the breeds of*

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pigeons, I am fully convinced that the common opinion of naturalists is correct, namely, that all have descended from the rock-pigeon (*Columba livia*), including under this term several geographical races or sub-species, which differ from each other in the most trifling respects". (Darwin, 1859, *Origin of Species*, p23) If this idea was already believed before Darwin's book was published, then it wasn't derived from evolutionary theory, since the world he lived in was basically creationist. So a little more objective look at the current study shows that the variation in domestic and wild pigeons is actually variation within a kind, and fits with Genesis, which tells us that God created birds as separate kinds. All breeding experiments with pigeons, including Darwin's, have not changed pigeons into non-pigeons. They have simply revealed the variation within the pigeon kind. The suggestion that the head crest gene causes a protein to be rendered ineffective, is a reminder that what can often be claimed to be a newly evolved feature is actually a degeneration, and merely produces variation in an already existing trait, in this case feather growth. This also fits Genesis, which tells us the world has degenerated from its original created good state. Since evolution is actually about how pigeons are descended from non-pigeons, which prior to that used to be reptiles, which were ultimately derived from non-living chemicals, the current research does nothing to support this claim. (Ref. birds, ornithology, genetics)

See how the evidence from living creatures really fits creation with the free *Evidence From Biology*, PDF [here](#).

FREE PREVIEW DVD *Darwin's Evolution: A very unnatural selection*, [CLICK](#) – get your copy from the Creation Research [Webshop](#).

**8. YOUR SUPPORT NEEDED FOR OUR STUDENT OUTREACH.** [Donate now](#) - Tax deductible in USA and UK.

**9. FISHY LEG STORY** reported in ScienceDaily 10 December 2012 and *New Scientist* 15 December 2012. In an attempt to see how fish fins could have developed into legs in order for evolving land animals to take their first steps, Fernando Casares of the Spanish National Research Council and colleagues injected zebrafish embryos with extra copies of a gene named *hoxd13*. This gene codes for a protein that stimulates cartilage development in fin and limb buds of developing embryos. In a fish embryo the fin buds have a small region of cartilage development close to the body and the rest of the bud forms a finfold, which develops into a fin. In land animals the developing limb is called an "autopod" and contains a large region of cartilage formation. The zebrafish with the extra *hoxd13* developed a large region of cartilage growth with a reduced finfold – similar to an autopod in an embryonic land animal. The researchers also gave zebrafish embryos a DNA control element that enhances the expression of the *hoxd13* gene in mice, but is not present in fish, and got the same results. The researchers concluded that fins evolved into limbs "by acquisition of novel enhancer elements" of the *hoxd13* gene.

Links: [New Scientist](#), [ScienceDaily](#)

ED. COM. Sounds great until you read that the experimental fish did not actually grow legs, and worse than that *New Scientist* reports: "They carried on growing for four days but then died". Therefore, these experiments do not explain how control element could be acquired by chance random processes, and likewise they tell us nothing about how fins could evolve into limbs.

Intelligent scientists, who were outside the fish, acted to enhance the expression of the *hoxd13* gene by adding extra copies of the gene or the control element. However, since all they produced was dead fish with messed up fins, the scientists were not much good at creating, and they certainly did not help fish evolve as a new form of living creatures which could out-perform their non-evolving fellow creatures, and so reproduce and pass on whatever "novel enhancer elements" they may have acquired to the next generation.

Again we repeat - it is far more logical to believe a much more intelligent Creator made fish and land animals, and gave them the appropriate genes and control elements to make fins or limbs, along with all the other features needed to be fish or land animals. (Ref. ichthyology, embryology, morphogenesis)

**10. GHOSTS REVEAL ANCESTOR**, according to reports in *Science* vol. 339 p656 DOI: 10.1126/science.1233999 and p662 DOI: 10.1126/science.1229237 8 February 2013, and *Nature News*

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and ScienceDaily 7 February 2013. An international team of scientists has completed an enormous project that collates anatomical details of 86 species of placental mammals, including 40 fossil mammals, together with genetic data from those that are still living. Placental mammals are the vast majority of mammals, and range in size and variation from tiny bats and shrews to elephants and whales. The researchers then used this information to reconstruct the common ancestor of all placental mammals. According to Nature News: “The critter turned out to be a tree-climbing, furry-tailed insect eater that weighed between 6 and 245 grams. It gave birth to blind, hairless young, one at a time. Its brain was highly folded, and it had three pairs of molars on each jaw”. The study was part of the Assembling the Tree of Life Program, a project funded by National Science Foundation (USA). According to Maureen O’Leary of Stony Brook University, “Discovering the tree of life is like piecing together a crime scene – it is a story that happened in the past that you can’t repeat. Just like with a crime scene, the new tools of DNA add important information, but so do other physical clues like a body or, in the scientific realm, fossils and anatomy. Combining all the evidence produces the most informed reconstruction of a past event”. The mammal research team used their data to reconstruct the evolutionary tree of placental mammals, and work out where they fitted in relation to the Cretaceous Tertiary boundary, believed to be when the dinosaurs were wiped out and many new mammals started to evolve. To estimate when different mammals evolved the team used “a rarely used method, ghost lineage analysis”. The way this works is described in an article in *Science* as follows: “The ghost lineage approach instead uses the defining morphological characteristics that align fossils with living clades to calibrate the phylogeny as a whole. This it does by using direct fossil evidence for the earliest appearance of lineages and by inferring the presence of “ghost lineages” not documented in the fossil record but implied by sister-group relationships.”

Links: [ScienceDaily](#), [Nature News](#)

ED. COM. When you build a family tree as evidence of what a missing evolutionary ancestor looked like, and you do so by ‘inferring the presence of “ghost lineages” not documented in the fossil record but implied by sister-group relationships, it’s time to admit you are making it up! You are assuming evolution happened in order to prove evolution! A real no no. Since DNA and fossils exist only in the present, they can at best be used as the basis for inference, not fact, about the past. Any story about how creatures got to be like they are is just that – a story, not an observed scientific fact. Therefore, the supposed “ancestor” of all placental mammals is not a real creature, but the result of the researchers’ imaginations, based on their already held belief that all mammals evolved from a common ancestor.

In 1984 Prof. Louis Bourone (former President of the Biological Society of Strasbourg and Director of the Strasbourg Zoological Museum, later Director of Research at the French National Centre of Scientific Research) said ‘Evolutionism is a fairy tale for grown-ups. This theory has helped nothing in the progress of science. It is useless’. (As quoted in ‘The Advocate’, March 8, 1984, p.17). Now it seems it has a ghostly basis as well which is just as useless for science. So never let them laugh at you for accepting the word of God who was there when they have such ghostly blind faith in the opinions of men who weren’t there! After all - the only way to get a truly “informed reconstruction” of the past is to be informed via a record left by a reliable someone who was there. Using ghost stories to invent hypothetical ancestors does nothing for the progress of science, and the National Science Foundation should stop wasting taxpayers’ money on the Tree of Life project and spend it on some real science. (Ref. phylogenetics, vertebrates, philosophy, world view)

**11. FROM THE ARCHIVES:** Each week we publish links to previous items related to this issue’s topics: [Pigeons](#), [Fish Embryos](#), [Mammal Evolution](#), [Tree of Life](#)

**12. DONATIONS:** Get involved in sharing the cost and the blessings of the research and teaching by becoming part of the worldwide support team today via our secure [Web Site](#), or send gifts to the following addresses:

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