

G'day again from down under and don't miss our **YOU TUBE GIFTS** of more FREE full length DVDs on our YouTube Channel ([CLICK](#)) made possible by generous web supporters. More details below. This will be the last Enews till February 2012 – so have a good break and don't evolve while you read Evidence News 31/11 with EDitorial COMment from John and the Creation Research team worldwide. And yes like most ministries in these tough times – your web [donations](#) are really welcome.

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1. NEW QUESTIONS

1) Death: The Bible teaches God sent it as punishment for sin. What about murder, abortion, accidental death? [Answer](#) by John Mackay.

2) Darwin - did his daughter Annie's death turn him against God and Christianity?
[Answer](#) by Diane Eager and John Mackay.

2. CHRISTOPHER HITCHENS DEAD, as reported in BBC News 16 December 2011. Outspoken atheist journalist, speaker and defender of evolution, Christopher Hitchens has died of cancer and pneumonia at age 62. In 2007 Hitchens wrote the book *God Is Not Great: How Religion Poisons Everything*. Fellow outspoken atheist Richard Dawkins commended Hitchens as the “finest orator of our time” and a “valiant fighter against all tyrants including God”. Hitchens maintained his strong atheism after being diagnosed with cancer and faced with death. He said in one interview: “No evidence or argument has yet been presented which would change my mind. But I like surprises.”

Link: [BBC](#)

ED. COM. Perhaps the best rebuttal of Hitchens' claims comes from his own brother Peter, who writes of his own rejection of God as a young man: “The widely accepted dismissal of faith by the intelligent and educated seemed then to be definitive proof that the thing was fake, mainly because I wanted such proof. The blatant truth that we hold opinions because we wish to, and reject them because we wish to, is so obvious that it is too seldom mentioned”. (Peter Hitchens, *The Rage Against God: Why Faith is the Foundation of Civilisation*, Continuum International Publishing, 2010, p12)

Peter Hitchens now defends the very Scriptures he once burnt as a rebellious teenager. His testimony reminds us that the real issue is not lack of evidence that makes you choose atheism, but what world view you first accept and then use to interpret the evidence. Peter's life also reminds us that it is possible to have that world view changed. Anyone who takes off Darwin's glasses and looks into and through the Biblical world view will be pleasantly surprised at how well the evidence does fit God's Word. Peter Hitchens was!

There is one last sad thing to state: Christopher Hitchens will not like the surprise when he is confronted by the Creator as his Judge, and discovers that God is greater than the entire universe and everything in it, including Christopher Hitchens. How do we know this? Jesus the Creator came to earth as a babe in a

manger. No toys. No tree. No tinsel. He grew up in Israel and lived a sinless life. He was crucified, died and buried, and on the third day rose from the dead so we could know for sure that sin and death had been overcome and we could have a Saviour who could give us the gift of eternal life. It's nearly Christmas 2011. It's a gift time – but the only real gift we need is the one Christopher Hitchens rejected – eternal life from the real Christ! Don't make the same mistake. (Ref. philosophy, atheism, humanism)

3. CAMBRIAN COMPOUND EYES FOUND according to reports in ScienceDaily, Nature News and ScienceShots 7 December 2011, and ABC News in Science 8 December 2011. John Paterson, from the University of New England, and his colleagues, have discovered the fossilised remains of compound eyes in an extinct creature called *Anomalocaris*. The fossils were found at Emu Bay on the northern coast of Kangaroo Island, off South Australia, and are dated as over 500 million years old. The eye fossils are exceptionally well preserved and researchers estimate the eyes contained over 16,000 lenses each. This would give the creature very good vision, better than any living creature with compound eyes. Dragonflies have up to 28,000 lenses and the common housefly has only 3,200. Compound eyes are usually associated with creatures with hard exoskeletons, and it has been assumed these two traits evolved together. However, *Anomalocaris* is thought to have been a soft bodied creature. Robert Gaines, palaeobiologist at Pomona College in Claremont, California commented: "Since these compound eyes themselves are biomineralized, it is not clear to me whether the ancestors of *Anomalocaris* had a mineralized exoskeleton and lost it early on or if they simply hadn't evolved them yet. This could stir up debate". Scientists suggest compound eyes evolved first, and this led to an evolutionary arms race which led to the prey evolving shells, camouflage and burrowing behaviour. Paterson commented: "Such lens-rich compound eyes suggest *Anomalocaris* was a highly visual hunter. Its prey didn't stand a chance". The science news services have certainly portrayed *Anomalocaris* as a savage killer, with headlines or subheadings such as: "Cambrian predator had killer eyes" (ABC); "World's First Super Predator Had Remarkable Vision" (ScienceDaily); "Terrifying ancient predator had exceptional sight" (ScienceShots). The Nature News article begins with: "Armed with barbed grasping claws and a mouth full of tooth-like serrations, anomalocaridids are thought to have been the top predators in the Cambrian oceans about 500 million years ago".

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

ED. COM. Did you note the difference between the actual evidence and the stories built around it? The evidence is that perfectly formed and preserved compound eyes that are larger and more complex than any seen in the living world have been found on an apparently extinct fossil creature found on an island off the South Australian coast. The story is all about a ferocious predator 500 million years ago whose eyes structure forced its prey to evolve a hard exoskeleton. Since this creature is extinct, no modern scientists have observed its behaviour or seen it eat anything. Good eyes are useful for many other activities of life, such as navigation or finding a mate. Claws and teeth do not make a creature a savage killer. They are just as useful for eating vegetation. We have said that many times about many other creatures, and it is just as true here. The idea that these compound eyes were a stimulus to the evolution of hard exoskeletons, camouflage and burrowing behaviour is evolutionary wishful thinking. For a soft bodied animal to develop a hard shell or camouflage it needs a change in its genes. The fact that another creature has good eyes to see it with will not enable it to make such a change.

So does this fossil fit well into the Biblical history of the world?

Do the compound eyes show brilliant creative design? Yes!

What does the fact that the fossil eyes are larger and more complex than existing compound eyes show?

Is it evidence that living things are losing complexity, not gaining it? Yes!

Is the fact that the *Anomalocaris* eyes are exquisitely preserved, actual evidence they were buried rapidly and deeply in low oxygen conditions and mineralised quickly, and is this consistent with the creationist position fossils do not require vast ages of rock formation? Of course it is!

The fact that this creature is extinct is also a reminder that ever since man sinned and God cursed the ground, many creatures have died out, and the world is a much degraded place. Overall this fossil is a brilliant reminder that the real history of the world is creative design followed by degeneration and Flood based catastrophic events – a devolution from good to bad to worse. And yes this editor has been to

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Kangaroo Island quite a few times over the past 40 years and I have seen most of the deposits and fossils collected there and the evidence of rapid burial is undeniable. (Ref. fossilisation, arthropods, optics, world view)

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http://www.creationresearch.net/products/Search_Origin_of_Life_TEXT_BOOK.html

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5. NEW FREE AUDIO MESSAGES from 2011 UK conference by John Mackay.

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[QUESTION TIME](#) - Part A

[HOW DO WE KNOW GENESIS 1-11 IS LITERAL?](#) - Part B

[QUESTION TIME](#) – Part B

6. AUSTRALIAN HQ WILL BE CLOSED December 22nd - January 15th for annual break.

7. DON'T MISS SIMON TURPIN'S complete review of John Lennox's book "SEVEN DAYS THAT DIVIDE THE WORLD". Lennox teaches an old earth and a not so literal Genesis.

Part 1 (previously published) [CLICK](#).

Complete article [CLICK](#).

8. WEB DONATIONS yes please - we do need them, so join us in this ministry as you care, prayer and share. Thanks for all your blessing during 2011 and may God's blessings rest upon you until we meet again; from John Mackay and the Creation Research Team worldwide.

9. DONATIONS TO HELP CREATION RESEARCH WORLDWIDE can be sent to the following addresses or use our secure Web site: [CLICK](#).

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