



ENEWS

September 2026

This month we have some major news to share regarding the Tasmanian Creation Discovery Centre, Joe reports on results from some incredible fast oil (and gas) experiments, we take on a number of current social issues including “What has Christianity ever done for women?” and how anti-conversion laws are an attack on Christianity, and some scintillating science reviews from Dr. Diane Eager.

We Bought Evolution! (No, really)



We are very excited to announce that the Creation Discovery Centre in Tasmania has bought evolution! It's a permanent main street property in the centre of Beaconsfield, northern Tasmania. The property was bought, with third party help, from Evolution Hair and Beauty, gifting us a beautiful analogy of Creation taking over Evolution! It is a 750m² parcel of land with a small building used by the existing business, roughly the size of our current Discovery Centre. Now our team is busily planning the design and layout of a new centre and has engaged a Christian architect to assist. We expect this next step to take from 6-12 months upon which we will release the plans to all our supporters. To make this a reality, we are going to need your practical and financial help for the construction and development but more will be announced on this in upcoming months. The most important thing you can do right now is pray for the planning process, wisdom as we consider design and what we need to include but also for the smooth passage of development applications when they are submitted to local government.

Why Tasmania, you may ask? Apart from the fact this is where the opportunity has arisen through God's provision, there are many advantages that some from major mainland centres may not realise. Tasmania is a major tourist destination for Australians with over 1 million visitors per year. It is only 45 minutes flight from Melbourne to Launceston, 1.5hours from Sydney and 2.5hours from Brisbane. The new centre will be less than one hour's drive from the Spirit of Tasmania ferry terminal. One of the great advantages for Tasmania being an island is that promotions can efficiently target the gateway airports and ferry terminal where virtually all visitors enter through. The location in the central north is very accessible for all visitors to Tasmania.

Just last week a scientist involved in forensic pathology visited the Creation Discovery Centre saying that he was open-minded with looking at evidence. After spending



Creation Research Australian Director Craig Hawkins celebrating the purchase of 'Evolution'

over an hour with us he claimed that it was an excellent display and had really got him thinking. Creation Discovery Centres intend to do just that, to get people thinking about the truth using real evidence and set them on a path to discovering Jesus Christ.

John Mackay says Thank You!

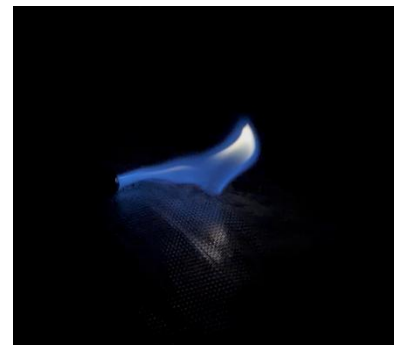
A SPECIAL BIG THANKS to all the families who have been blessing John Mackay with meals and yard work since Anne was placed in the Care Home. John visits Anne to feed her breakfast and Tea and does Creation Research in between, so your help is invaluable. Also for praise John's smashed back vertebrae (broken 10 months ago) is finally starting to heal so please keep praying.

Fascinating Fast Oil Experiments

Process trumps time: making crude oil out of prawns!

The sedimentary rock record is dotted with enormous oil reserves, from the Gulf of Mexico to Saudi Arabia. In fact, it has been estimated that over one and a half trillion barrels of oil remain trapped between the earth's sedimentary layers. But where did all this oil come from and how did so much of it end up in the earth's crust?

The answer to the first question is simple. Oils are organic compounds made primarily of hydrocarbons (mainly carbon and hydrogen) found in the bodies of living organisms. The difficulty is understanding how this oil, trapped within living tissue, ends up forming the vast pools of "black gold" we see around the world.



Natural gas produced by Creation Research's fast oil experiment

Conventionally, oil is believed to have formed over millions of years, as microscopic plankton die and gradually settle to the bottom of ancient warm gentle seas. The plankton then mix with sediments on the bottom brought in by rivers. As further sediments slowly settle on top, the organic mix hardens into organic shale. As the shale becomes deeply buried under many kilometres of sediment, the shales are transformed into a substance called Kerogen by the increasing heat and pressure. The Kerogen is supposedly transformed into oil and natural gas between temperatures of 90 and 160°C. The oil then becomes trapped and accumulates beneath hard barriers of impermeable rock (usually shale) forming the huge underground reservoirs.

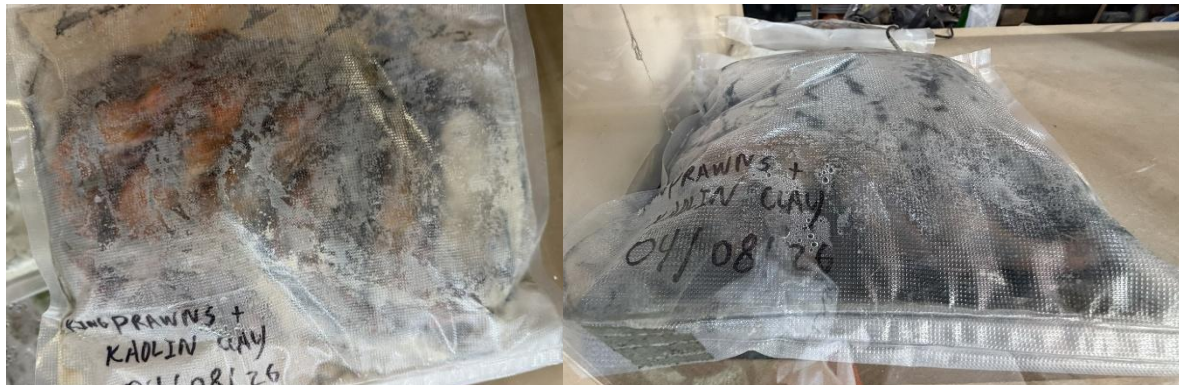
Time is clearly the hero of this standard story of oil formation. Without millions of years you can't make oil, insist the secular geologists.

There are many problems with this view, however. Not the least of which, is the issue of decomposition. When animals and plankton die and fall to the bottom of the sea, they don't simply wait around to be incorporated and buried in slowly accumulating sediments over millions of years. They are either eaten by scavengers or, more commonly, are decomposed by bacteria. To get around this, the secularists propose that oil can only form under anoxic conditions, environments devoid of oxygen and thus oxygen-dependent decomposing bacteria. Yet, there are microorganisms that can decompose organic substances without requiring oxygen. These are anaerobic organisms, and they are often used to treat sewage water. Additionally, the presence of clay within the oil-bearing shales tells us that high temperatures were not present during oil formation, as clay changes its nature when subjected to temperatures above 90 degrees.

Time is the enemy of oil formation! Time destroys organisms before they have a chance to become buried. There clearly has to be a process that can create oil quickly before the organisms decay complete.

It has already been shown by Creation Research that kaolin clay minerals found in many mudstones and shales catalyse the carbonisation of plant leaves into coal. It was therefore hypothesised that kaolin clay

could also catalyse the extraction of oil from living tissues. To find out, a clay tablet was prepared by mixing Kaolin clay with deionised water. Five supermarket-bought king prawns were placed on the tablet and sealed in a vacuum-pack bag. The temperature was then maintained using a heat mat, keeping it at a low 35°C, too low to change the nature of the clay. Remarkably, within 24 hours, a thick black oil-like liquid was visible, surrounding the prawns.



PICTURES. Left: Oil produced within 24hrs from prawns. Right: Gas produced quickly in vacuum sealed bag.

It was clear that the hydrocarbons locked away in the prawn tissues had been released. By 96 hours, the entire substrate around the prawns were jet black, oily, and beginning to pool. The bag was also bloated with gaseous byproducts of the reaction. When the bag was pierced and the gas released, the gas was burnt, producing a bright blue flame. This shows that colourless, odourless natural gases (including methane) were produced from the reaction, without any extra contaminants, as the gas underwent complete combustion.

The fact that oil was produced under air-tight conditions (i.e., no oxygen was present), strongly suggests the minerals in the kaolin clay were acting in the place of bacteria to release the oil and natural gas in a process similar to pyrolysis. It is interesting to consider that most oil tends to form in organic shales and mudstones, rocks that often contain minerals like kaolin. This experiment also shows that oil does not need to form between the high “oil window” temperatures of between 90 and 160°C, as is commonly stated in secular literature.

These findings open up a fascinating new branch of research into oil and natural gas production, suggesting that these fuels can be utilised as renewable energy resources.

Above all, however, they show that it does not take millions of years to produce oil and natural gas. Time is not the key, process is. That process seems to involve the use of kaolin clay mineral catalysts under low temperature anoxic conditions. This scenario matches what we would expect during the flood, as trillions of microscopic and macroscopic (large) sea creatures were buried under great thicknesses of rapidly accumulating sedimentary layers (many containing clay minerals).

Locked away in the sediments, these organisms would have been protected from the atmosphere and thus would have not had chance to decay. The oil and gas would have quickly been removed from the buried creatures by the clay mineral agents, before seeping through the porous sediments. On hitting a barrier of impermeable rock, the vast quantities of oil produced would accumulate, forming the huge oil fields present today. Process trumps time!

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Answers IN GENESIS

Digging Deeper

Day Conference

Diving down into Biblical Authority, Science & History

Saturday 19th September

9:30 am - 4:30 pm

Joseph Holdard
Creation Research UK

Simon Turpin
Answers in Genesis

Prof Andy McIntosh
Truth in Science

Dr Diane Eager
Creation Research

Holy Trinity, Oswestry

FREE ENTRY

THE ROCKS CRY OUT

FOSSIL CONVENTION TO THE ISLE OF DINOSAURS!

29th MARCH - 2nd APRIL 2027

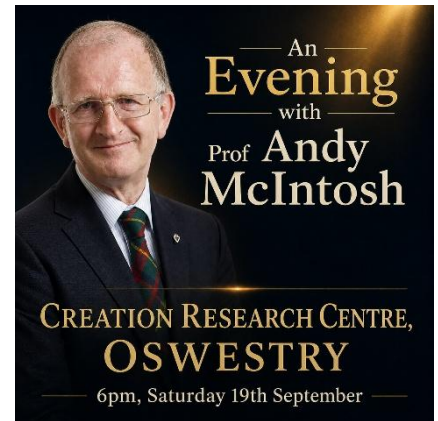
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An Evening with Prof Andy McIntosh: [An Evening with Prof Andy McIntosh – CREATION RESEARCH UK](#)

The Rocks Cry Out Convention to the Isle of Dinosaurs: [The Rocks Cry Out Convention 2027! – CREATION RESEARCH UK](#)



What Has Christianity Ever Done for Women?

This question was asked by a woman at a Sceptics versus Christians debate a few months ago organized by a University Christian group. It is a fair and reasonable question though the person asking was clearly inferring that Christianity had never done anything for women.

While this discussion can soon be side-tracked into why women are excluded in church power structures, here we really want to answer the actual question, what has Christianity EVER done for women? Believers in Christ were first called Christians in Antioch perhaps some decades after the resurrection of Jesus (Acts 11:26) but we should not separate them from the Jewish roots of the faith in the Old Testament. Starting at Creation, the first woman Eve was created from a rib taken from the side Adam. As I read on this subject many years ago, she was not taken from his head to dominate him nor from his foot to be trodden over by him. Eve was taken from Adam's side to walk beside him.

The Christian understanding is that all cultures have arisen from the descendants of Noah and his sons, all of whom only had one wife and would have had some understanding of God's original design for relationships. Therefore, it is feasible that after the tower of Babel dispersal many cultures originally took Godly ideals of marriage and respect for women with them. However, history proves that in many cultures women were treated as property, often severely mistreated, especially in war, and even the focus of human sacrifice.

From very early times Jewish law set important boundaries with marriage, outlawing adultery and even targeting men in the last of the ten commandments: "thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife". Jesus reiterated the importance of marriage for life and challenged the Jews understanding of it by denouncing flippant divorce, equating it with the serious breaking of the law of adultery (Matthew 19). The multiple wives and concubines of numerous Jewish patriarchs and kings is not endorsed by any Scripture but is an accurately reported historical fact of the cultural influences around them. These practises were apparently tolerated by God in His mercy and patience with the deeds of man. Nevertheless, in many instances these multiple relationships caused major trouble. The adultery of King David and many wives of Solomon led to terrible trouble in Israel. Both disobeyed the specific requirement of the Law for kings to not have multiple wives (Deut. 17:17).

Yet we still have not quite nailed the most important thing Christianity has done for women best summarised by Jesus himself who said the two most important commands were to love God and love one another. Paul later teaches the importance of "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it" (Ephesians 5:25). Christ willingly died for the church! Husbands, how much do you love your wives? Love, care and protection as well as fidelity are essential themes of the Christian faith that ultimately revolutionised the ancient world's culture towards women in the regions where Christianity spread.

Such love and care for others were especially beneficial to women in a man dominated world. The need to care for widows, for example, is mentioned in numerous New Testament passages (e.g. 1 Timothy 5). Sceptics should realise that the bizarre notion that love evolved as a survival adaption in humans gives no

answer as to why the weak or disabled should ever be cared for. Only the Creator's love for all His creation, infused into mankind but corrupted by sin, can ever explain why love is a thing at all.

When it comes to core tenants such as salvation in Christ and the promised joy of eternal life, the Christian faith is clear that men and women have equality (Galatians 3:28). Peter also speaks of this equality, that men and women are "heirs together of the grace of [eternal] life" (1 Peter 3:7). There are no specially promised benefits to men, and none to the detriment of women. We are all "one in Christ Jesus" and will one day all equally be able to walk again in the garden with Him.

As an additional, though not specific benefit of Christianity to women, Paul taught that conversion to Christianity did not require forced believing of the spouse, nor leaving them, but rather to continue living peaceably with them (1 Corinthians 7). Such teaching is contrary to that of many other worldviews including some which call for death or exclusion of anyone deviating from their belief system, especially atheistic communism during the twentieth century.

Jesus Christ surprised those around him by speaking to a lone and probably outcast Samaritan woman at a well, forbidden by Jewish custom, yet through her testimony many from her village came to believe in him (John 4). This respect for women, clearly rubbed off on his disciple John who willingly recorded that the first person to witness Jesus after the resurrection was Mary Magdalene (John 20). Jesus appearing first to a woman is especially significant as women were not regarded as legal witnesses at that time and it is incredible to think that John would include this detail if it were not true. Looking at the teachings and interactions of Jesus with women is the key to understanding the revolutionary thinking that Christianity inspired. While people may often fail, Christ is the foundation on which we should assess the influence of Christianity on the world.

In summary, Christianity has infused culture with a worldview of love and equality before God that has been especially beneficial to women. Secular women who speak up boldly in modern public forums should realise that this privilege has been won over the centuries, largely in the Christianised west, because of Biblical teaching that elevated the importance of women and their relationship with the Living God.

Perhaps we should now flip the question and ask what has Godless secularism ever done for women?

We live in an age where our society has increasingly moved away from Christian principles, and this is even reflected now in the law in various western countries. Biological men have been able to dominate women in female sporting competitions around the globe, belittling the massive training efforts of real female athletes. Women who have spoken up about this are publicly derided and sometimes excluded from their sport altogether. Kirralee Smith from New South Wales was fined \$95,000 for posting on social media truthful comments about biological men playing in and dominating women's football. Another Australian, Sal Grover, has been legally unable to set up a women's only website/App due to complaints from a transgender activist, a biological male, who wished access to the site. Most people would be aware of numerous other examples where the rights of biological men have superseded women's rights in women-only spaces.

The reasonable question therefore arises - how is secularism going with looking after women? Public servants, politicians and leaders embarrass themselves when asked to even define what a woman is.

The internet has become a place where easy access to pornography for people of all ages has reduced women to objects. Young men growing up with this exposure are being corrupted in the mind and it is a probable contributor to the explosion of domestic violence in Australia over the last decade or so.

Secular ideas on transgenderism have led to confused and pressured young women undergoing life altering, irreversible surgeries and hormone replacement "therapies" that many have later regretted. So how is secularism really going for our women? Has it really been an improvement on things or has it simply opened up a door of sin and confusion that has devastated so many lives?

The Christian ideals of men loving their wives as Christ loved the church, protecting the vulnerable, fidelity, purity, self-control, fixed created identity in the image of God, forgiveness and grace - to name but

a few, are a much sounder foundation upon which to base the well-being of women in the future. The secular experiment has failed badly, and we need to get back to God's ways if we are going to see improvements to the well-being of women in our society.

Anti Conversion Legislation

An Attack On Christianity in Australia



Many states in Australia have now enacted anti-conversion legislation which are touted to be needed to stop abusive practices aimed at changing someone's sexuality or gender identity. In decades past some medical professionals have used methods such as shock therapy to 'heal' someone, for example, who was homosexual. Unfortunately, it seems Christians have at times been guilty of trying to deal with hurting or confused people with manipulative and perhaps harmful practices including exorcism rituals that most believers would consider excessive or even abusive. We completely reject that any such behaviour should be condoned or tolerated.

However, while such examples may be the pretense for passing new laws, in reality there has been no known use of such medical interventions for more than 40 years in Australia and, even historically, were relatively uncommon. Spiritual excesses would be confined to a very small number of fringe extreme or cultish groups. So, the question arises, why is this legislation really needed?

Proposed anti-conversion laws in the state of Tasmania are considered by Christian lobby groups and many respected legal experts as the most extreme attack on the Christian faith of any existing similar laws in the country. In summary, these laws would criminalise any activity seeking to "convert" a person from any sexual orientation or gender identity, that is outside the traditional understanding of biological sex or Christian teaching of sex being confined to heterosexual marriage between a man and a woman for life. This includes pastoral care or prayer for someone who seeks advice or direction. A pastor could be criminalized even if a person requests counselling, makes no complaint and "the practice causes no harm".

While this article does not seek to delve into the numerous legal issues of any proposed Bill, we do wish to highlight the underlying foundations for why we are now effectively seeing attempts to criminalise Christianity in Australia. At its core is the deviation from fundamental truths like, as Jesus Christ the author of our faith said: "in the beginning God made them male and female" (Matthew 19:4). Not just the male and female part but the fact that "God made" them. If God made us, then He has every right to instruct how we should use our bodies. Homosexuality, adultery, transgenderism and many other deviations from the created foundation are therefore outside His plans, are part of mankind's rebellion against Him and are therefore considered sin in the Christian understanding. No amount of human outrage will change that fact, and no amount of theological juggling will change this foundation. The Christian faith is very inclusive: *"For ALL have sinned and come short of the glory of God"* (Romans 3:23).

Which brings us to the fundamental divide in worldviews. Regarding your sexuality, the world says you can choose your gender irrespective of the biological reality determined at birth. Gender fluidity is largely a social contagion, a belief encouraged by progressive advocates and lacks credible scientific evidence and backing. We acknowledge that some people genuinely feel drawn to those lifestyles but the apostle Peter declares there is a battle at hand:

"Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul" (1 Peter 2:11).

So basic Christian understanding is that we **all** fall short of God's perfect design and that we are **all** called (not just LGBTQ+ groups) to abstain from the fleshly lusts that assault us as if in war. Therefore, when the outlined principles of the proposed legislation directly contradict Christian principles and then outlaw anyone who does not abide by them, it is clearly a direct attack on Christianity. Looking at the proposed legislation, one of the Bill's guiding principles states:

"a person's sexual orientation or gender identity is not broken and does not require fixing, changing or suppression" - Sn 8c Conversion Practices Prohibition Bill 2026.

This principle maybe what the world sees as acceptable and "not broken" but it is in direct conflict with what the Bible teaches. It also demands that unbiblical sexual orientations or gender identities do not require "changing or suppression". Our verse from 1 Peter is in direct conflict and calls Christians to "abstain" from these lusts, which is to fix, change and abstain from them.

Furthermore, the legislation's fourth principle says:

"no sexual orientation or gender identity constitutes a disorder, disease, illness, deficiency or shortcoming." - Sn 8d Conversion Practices Prohibition Bill 2026.

Most Christians would accept that there is no disorder, disease or illness involved but we cannot resile from the fact that we do believe there is a deficiency or shortcoming. As our verse from Romans highlights, "all have sinned and come short....". Sin is a shortcoming. It is a deficiency from God's perfect ways. Perhaps extremely difficult for a person caught up in it, but if they are seeking counseling on God's perfect and just ways from a Christian understanding, the contradictory principle is that we must abstain (suppress) from fleshly lusts that war against the soul because we fall short of God's ways. Most of us are born adulterers, whose basic instinct is to lust after others in some way or another, but as Christians we are called to abstain from those behaviours. If the proposed legislation passes, Christian counsellors will be breaking the law if asked to give their honest Biblical response to a person seeking counselling on these matters. As difficult as our sins are to battle or abstain from, and thus for us to find the path to salvation, Jesus Christ said, *"for men this is impossible but for God all things are possible"* Matthew 19:26).

For those who disagree with Christian teaching, you are permitted in our country to ignore it. Our warning, however, is that one day all will stand before the Creator, who is the appointed judge, and give an account of our lives. There is only one way to avoid eternal separation from the giver of life and that is by believing in Jesus Christ. True believers will seek to live according to His ways and that involves abstaining from sin that wars against our souls.

Did Jesus Baptise People in Central Australia?



An aboriginal woman from NSW recently came into the Tasmanian Creation Discovery Centre claiming she was a Christian pastor. Upon her mention of 2600 generations and 65,000 years of Aboriginals in Australia, I gently mentioned how the flood of Noah, which our display focusses on, and dispersal of all peoples from Babel would mean that Aboriginal people could not have been in Australia for any more than about 4,000 years. This seemed to be an offensive suggestion to her. As I tried to invite her in to view the chart of Patriarchs from Adam to Noah and through to Jacob, to support my case, there was a flat refusal and a suggestion that the 'spirit' of the place was not something she felt comfortable with. I realised later, after a lengthy discussion, that any hint of contradicting her authority about Aboriginal matters was offensive even as I attempted to use biblical history to question her conclusions.

The point that all of us who claim to be Christ followers must consider, is what authority do we trust when we examine history and biblical truths? Do we really trust that:

“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.” (2 Tim. 3:16)

The creation issue is full of instances where people try to insert their opinions and understanding of science into the scriptures such that the otherwise plain meaning of them is adulterated. Perhaps the most obvious example regards the days of creation and if they are really literal days or not, but there are many other cases. My encounter demonstrated that the same issue can happen with cultural understandings. When I finally asked the aboriginal woman if she considered aboriginal legend of equal importance to the Bible her answer was “yes”. Furthermore, she made the outrageous claim that Jesus Christ personally baptized aboriginal people in Central Australia, and that there is an aboriginal story in the region of Mount Warning (in northeast NSW) that equates to the story of Moses receiving the ten commandments on Mount Sinai. These legends are supposed to predate the arrival of Europeans to Australia.

Now there is a remote possibility ancient missionaries did make it to Australia and that stories of Christ and Moses were conveyed in some way and perhaps confused, since there was no written language. However, there is no evidence of this being the case and it is pure speculation. The more likely Biblical stories retained by the aboriginal people in some form would include stories from before the Babel dispersal. These include creation stories such as a single creator God and mankind made from the earth, and also knowledge of the flood.

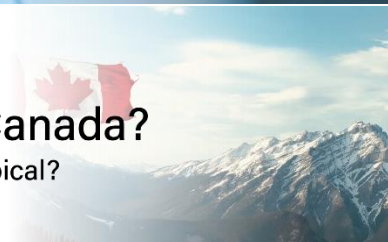
So those who trust the scriptures can see how I had an uphill battle trying to be agreeable to the claims of my Discovery Centre visitor. To state that Jesus was never recorded baptizing anyone, nor travelled any further than basically Judea, Samaria and Galilee during his ministry according to scripture, was highly offensive to her. The final straw came when I was told that aboriginal people are indeed descendants of Noah but were also around before him. Yes, I was confused too, so I sincerely asked how 2600 generations, being descendants of Noah and a global flood that destroyed all flesh fitted together in her understanding of aboriginal history. “You haven’t been listening to a single thing I have been saying” came the reply as our conversation ended abruptly.

Yes, pray for us as we stand up for the truth of scripture and cop criticism from all sides at times. It is unpopular to stand against the world and its scientific and cultural objections to what the Bible clearly teaches. But we will continue to stand for truth on the very foundations of our faith from creation, fall and flood to the coming of the Messiah. We appreciate your encouragement and support as we do so.



Balmy, Palmy... Canada?

Was Canada Once Subtropical?



Scientists in Canada have found fossil evidence that northern Canada once had a warm, subtropical climate. The researchers were examining a drill core of sediment extracted at a place named Giraffe, in

the Lac de Gras region, Northwest Territories, Canada. The site is located at 64.7 degrees north, not far from the Arctic circle. They found numerous phytoliths –microscopic silica concretions found in plant leaves. Phytoliths have distinctive shapes that enable scientists to identify what type of plant they were part of, even if the rest of the plant has decayed.

The phytoliths in the Giraffe drill core were from palm leaves, a plant that cannot grow in the current Canadian climate. Peter Silver, one of the scientists explained: *“Because palms remain physiologically active throughout the year, do not undergo dormancy and have a high water content, they are incapable of occupying areas that experience prolonged freezing conditions or severe frost events.”*

Along with the palm phytoliths the researchers also identified microscopic aquatic plants and a sponge currently only found in warm water regions. The research team concluded: “The presence of palm phytoliths allows inference of a warm regional climate during the late early Eocene, with mean cold-month temperatures above freezing despite prolonged winter darkness.”

References: [Botany One](#) 15 July 2026, *Annals of Botany* 137: 1987–1995, 2026, doi: 10.1093/aob/mcaf021

Editorial Comment: This is not the first evidence that high latitude cold regions of the earth were once warm and pleasant places for living things that are now restricted to regions closer to the equator or have died out. Plant and animal fossils, including dinosaurs, indicate both the Arctic and Antarctic regions had lush vegetation and cold-blooded animals could live there without freezing to death.

These palm leaf remnants are yet another reminder that the world was originally created “very good” which meant no living organisms would freeze to death. However, after Noah’s flood the climate and environment were devastated and God warned Noah there would be periods of cold and heat. As part of this degeneration some regions have become almost uninhabitable because of extreme climates, but the fossil record of big things like dinosaurs, and microscopic things like these phytoliths, serves as a reminder the real history of the world is from created perfection to degeneration, and we are living with the results of human sin and God’s judgement on the world.



PICTURE. Palms (centre) in tropical forest Darwin Australia

They are also a reminder that during the history of the world there has been some spectacular climate change, but none of it has been because of human industry. The climate change doomsayers should look to Jesus – the Creator and Judge who is in charge of the climate, for salvation. The salvation He offers is free, but it does involve repentance from the belief that human beings are autonomous and can save themselves.

Lizard Genes Cling on for Evolution

Scientists studying small lizards in hurricane prone Caribbean islands claim to have found genes that enabled lizards living on the most badly hurricane-affected islands to evolve resistance to extreme weather events. According to Science (AAAS) News the influence of hurricanes on island lizards is a “natural, large-scale evolutionary experiment”.

After two hurricanes struck in quick succession on two of the islands, scientists found Anole lizards on these islands had a number of differences in limb structure compared to lizards on other islands. These included larger pads on their toes, longer forelimbs, and shorter hind limbs. Previous studies indicate these features help the lizards cling onto tree branches during high winds.



Anolis scriptus -lizard in study

An international group of scientists has now looked for genes in these lizards that may explain the differences. Among a number of genes for muscle and bone development they identified a variant of a

gene named *hs6st1* that was associated with changes in rear toe length. To see if variation of this gene would affect grip strength the researchers disabled the gene in lizard embryos. This resulted in lizards with shorter rear fourth toes. This would seem like a disadvantage, but the scientists tested lizards with varying toe lengths and found the lizards with a shorter rear fourth toe were better able to cling on to a pole in a simulated high wind. According to evolutionary biologist Shane Campbell-Staton of Princeton University “a shorter toe gives you greater leverage.”

According to Science (AAAS) news this study of genetic changes in Anole lizard populations “catches evolution in real time”.

References: [Science \(AAAS\) News](#) 28 July 2026, [Current Biology](#) 28 July 2026 doi: 10.1016/j.cub.2026.07.022

Editorial Comment: The differences in skeletal structure found in lizards living on hurricane affected islands are a classic example of selection, but not evolution. The lizards with shorter toes survive because they already have this feature. Once a lizard has been blown away by a hurricane it is too late for any evolution.

Natural selection can only operate on characteristics that already exist. It cannot bring them into existence. For that you need new genetic information. In this case the genetic change that resulted in shorter toes was deliberately induced by intelligent manipulation. Furthermore, it knocked out a gene, rather than adding one. If that was actually happening in the wild, rather than just in the laboratory, it is degeneration rather than evolution.

Natural selection is a real process, but it is not evolution. The conflating of natural selection, a process that can be observed, with evolution, a belief in something that is not observed, is one of the worst ideas promoted by Darwin and his followers.

There is no evolution to observe on these hurricane prone islands, just a struggle for life in the fallen world. The fact that some lizards survive better in adverse circumstances is a tribute to resilience and potential for variation that is already built in by the Creator.

Living Fog Cleans Air



Fog consists of tiny droplets of water and previous studies have shown that some droplets contain bacteria. It was assumed the bacteria were just drifting passively with the fog droplets, but a new study of fog microbes has shown that bacteria can actively live in fog droplets and remove toxins from the air.

Scientists at Susquehanna University and Arizona State University have studied bacteria found in radiation fog, i.e. fog that forms close to the ground when the ground cools at night and water vapour condenses. They found bacteria were growing and dividing, i.e. they were alive and reproducing, which means they must be feeding on something.

The research team found an abundance of a type of bacteria named methylobacteria. These bacteria can feed on formaldehyde, a chemical pollutant that adds to ozone smog and can harm human health. If there is more formaldehyde than the bacteria need for their own growth they will break it down to carbon dioxide. Thus, bacteria carrying fog is alive and detoxifying the air.

According a news report from Arizona State University, “*Fog matters more than we thought. It’s a real aquatic habitat that gives toxin-eating microbes a chance to clean our air.*”

References: [Arizona State University](#) 14 May 2026; [Susquehanna University](#) 5 June 2026; mBio 11 May 2026 doi: 10.1128/mbio.00463-26

Editorial Comment: In the original created world, the earth was watered by a rising mist. This is a soft and gentle way to water plants and settle dust. These new discoveries about microbes in fog indicate the rising mist may have further facilitated keeping the air clean by holding microbes in the air long enough for them to carry air purifying functions.

This study is also a reminder that most bacteria do not cause harm. It is only when they get into the wrong place they become a problem. In the original very good world they were kept in their place and were essential for recycling nutrients and preventing potentially toxic substances from building up. We should be thankful to the Creator that most of them still do this. It is also an example of highly complex, interwoven ecosystem processes that were designed by an incredible mind to enable life to exist on planet earth.



Useful links from the Archives: [Blizzard Lizard Evolution](#) [Arctic Dinosaurs](#) [Cacti Collect Fog](#)

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