



*“The heavens declare the glory of God” (Psalm 19:1)*

# REASONS TO BELIEVE - SEATTLE AREA CHAPTER

NEWS AND VIEWS

NOVEMBER 2004

## What's Happening?

### [Case for a Creator Conference](#)

Best-selling author Lee Strobel will be doing a conference at The Bear Creek School in Redmond, November 12-13. For information or to register, go to [www.tbcs.org](http://www.tbcs.org).

### [NSTA Conference](#)

The Chapter will have a booth at the National Science Teacher Association Conference November 18-20. We need prayer and financial resources. Contact us if you can help.

### [Chapter Presentations](#)

The Chapter does free presentations on a wide range of topics. We can also do a series of follow-up classes. If your group is interested in a presentation, contact us.

### [Hugh Ross Visit](#)

Hugh Ross will be visiting the area early next year. We also plan to have other RTB speakers in the area. If your group is interested in hosting an event, contact us ASAP.

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## The Evidence Doesn't Lie

DAMIEN SPILLANE

One of the unique and defining characteristics of the Christian faith is its indubitable tie with history and the real world around us. The central event of Christian theology is the historical death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Our faith stands or falls on this event. If it is proved false we have no reason for prayer, studying the scriptures, fellowship at church or anything of the like. If the body of Jesus was discovered in the tomb then there would be *no* Christian faith—we might as well pack up our Bibles, sell our churches and go home. But we are all confident in that great first century event that defines our existence as Christians and for very good reason. In support of the resurrection we have the empty tomb, multiple independent witnesses (friends and skeptics) to Jesus' post mortem appearances, the transference of strict Jewish practices such as the Sabbath to Sunday worship and the early emergence of the church in spite of enormous persecution.



We must therefore realize that as Christians we have a duty to recognize strong evidence and accept it no matter where it comes from. Our faith is built on it. If the gospel rests on such strong empirical attestations to truths from the real world, then we of all people should be the most receptive to where it leads us on other matters. We understand God created the world and so there should be real correlation between the truth of scripture and the truth we can perceive from the world around us. So just as there is no contradiction between history and the gospel, there should likewise be no contradiction between the record of nature revealed by science and the words of scripture (Genesis to be specific).

Having underlined these points I will move now to an element of church doctrine that seems to have been accepted rather uncritically (at least in some circles of Christendom) over the last 100 years or so: the belief the universe was created no more than 10,000 years ago. The main organization most Christians are familiar with is Answers In Genesis (AIG)—an internationally recognized creation science organization. This organization is so heavily in support of Young Earth Creationism

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# “Power Plants” in Cells Randomly Organized?

MEGAN BLOOM

Throughout America, power plants (hydroelectric, gas, and nuclear) supply electricity to businesses and homes. These facilities depend upon a network of distribution “cables” to transport electricity to the communities that they serve. The cell, too, relies on “power plants” and a network of distribution lines to generate and supply energy for its biochemical needs. Subcellular organelles (“little organs”) called mitochondria function as the cell’s power producers.

Mitochondria are found in all eukaryotic cells, including animals, plants, fungi, and protists. This oval-shaped cellular organelle is encased by two membranes formed from a phospholipid bilayer with embedded proteins. Mitochondria contain their own DNA distinct of that found in the nucleus. Within a cell, there may be hundreds to thousands of mitochondria, depending on the cell’s level of metabolic activity. Its central function is cellular respiration. This process produces adenosine triphosphate (ATP) for the cell. At the cellular level, ATP serves as the energy currency. It is like the watts provided by power plants.



Current research describes the detailed organization of axonal mitochondria. These mitochondria are uniformly dispersed within the axons of neurons. An axon is an extension from a nerve cell (neuron) that carries nerve impulses. Contrary to the simple idea that all the organelles are just ‘thrown in’ to a cell and spontaneously flow throughout the cytosol (the

semifluid substance in a cell), recent advances indicate mitochondria are carefully organized inside the cell. Without such organization human health would be at risk. In fact, disruption of the organization of mitochondria causes some types of neuronal disease. The question that arises is what mediates this organization and how is it achieved? According to Westermann, the maintenance of the mitochondria distribution requires active transport of the organelles along the cytoskeleton, the cell’s network of protein fibers. Three recent studies provided new insight into how this organization is achieved.

An experiment was conducted by Ligon and Steward to determine how mitochondria move in the axons of neurons. Drugs were added separately to cultured neurons disrupting the cytoskeleton’s microtubule and the actin networks. Disrupting the microtubule network stopped the movement of the mitochondria, whereas disrupting the actin network had virtually no effect upon the mitochondria. Therefore, it was concluded mitochondrial movement is reliant upon microtubules.

In another study by Yaffe, it was observed that mitochondria and microtubules move in synchrony. When the microtubules elongate or shorten, the mitochondrial tubules extend and retract when attached, respectively. When a mitochondrion (singular) is not linked to a microtubule, it remains stationary until it is “captured” by growing

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## In the NEWS...

### [Response to Wired Article](#)

Wired magazine featured an article titled, “The Crusade Against Evolution.” Stephen Meyer, of the Discovery Institute responds to the article at: [http://www.discovery.org/scripts/viewDB/index.php?command=view&program=CSC %20-20Views%20and%20News&id=2251](http://www.discovery.org/scripts/viewDB/index.php?command=view&program=CSC%20-20Views%20and%20News&id=2251)

### [Stem Cell Research](#)

Greg Koukl of Stand to Reason has written a Christian worldview insight into the strange and misunderstood world of stem cell research titled “The Confusing Moral Logic of Embryonic Cell Research.” For a pdf file go to: [www.str.org/free/solid\\_ground/ESCR\\_Solid\\_Ground.pdf](http://www.str.org/free/solid_ground/ESCR_Solid_Ground.pdf).

### [National Geographic](#)

The November issue of National Geographic magazine is titled, “Was Darwin Wrong?” While we disagree with their conclusions, the article does provide a good summary of evolutionists’ claims. Available at your local bookstand.

### [AIG’s Operation Compromise](#)

RTB comments on Answers in Genesis’ Operation Compromise in an online article on the RTB website at: [www.reasons.org/resources/apologetics/response\\_to\\_aig.shtml](http://www.reasons.org/resources/apologetics/response_to_aig.shtml).

### [Jerry Rose Show](#)

Hugh Ross will appear on the Jerry Rose Show on the Total Living Network. The broadcast will be November 15 at 9:00 PM. You can listen live at [www.tln.com](http://www.tln.com).

### [Evolution in the Classroom](#)

Interested in improving the teaching of evolution at your local school? The Discovery Institute has a great resource for parents and school board members at: [www.discovery.org/scripts/viewDB/index.php?command=view&id=2112&program=CSC%20-%20Science%20and %20Education%20Policy%20-%20School%20 District%20Policy%20-%20MainPage](http://www.discovery.org/scripts/viewDB/index.php?command=view&id=2112&program=CSC%20-%20Science%20and%20Education%20Policy%20-%20School%20District%20Policy%20-%20MainPage)

### [New Scientific Discoveries](#)

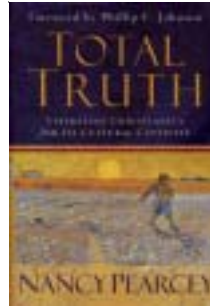
Scientific evidence that supports the Biblical worldview is accumulating on a daily basis. Each day new scientific studies are posted on the RTB website. Go to the RTB website, [www.reasons.org](http://www.reasons.org), and scroll down.

## Book Reviews

### Total Truth

Nancy Pearcey  
Crossway Books, 2004

Reviewer: Mike Brown



From the inside jacket cover: “Nancy Pearcey offers a razor-sharp analysis of the public/private split, explaining how it hamstrings our efforts at both personal and cultural re-newal.

Ultimately it reflects a division in the concept of truth itself, which functions as a gatekeeper, ruling Christian principles out of bounds in the public arena. How can we unify our fragmented lives and recover spiritual power? With examples from the lives of real people, past and present, Pearcey teaches readers how to liberate Christianity from its cultural captivity. She walks readers through practical, hands-on steps for crafting a full-orbed Christian worldview.”

In the introduction, Ms. Pearcey raises the same alarm I do when I teach apologetics. She warns that: “Not only have we ‘lost the culture,’ but we continue losing even our own children. It’s a familiar but tragic story that devout young people, raised in Christian homes, head off to college and abandon their faith. Why is this pattern so common? Largely because young believers have not been taught how to develop a biblical world-view. Instead, Christianity has been restricted to a specialized area of religious belief and personal devotion.” She goes on to explain how we must give our young people more than just a “heart” religion.

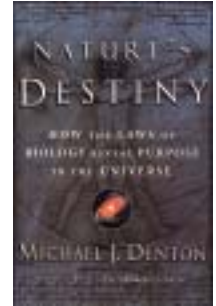
The book is divided into three major sections. The first section addresses worldview issues and how religious beliefs got relegated to the private sphere in our society. The second section deals with the history of science and religion and how the misconception developed that science is real and objective, while religion is subjective and personal. The third section gives a brief history of evangelicalism and how Christianity in our society has shifted to an emotional, anti-intellectual, individual experience.

One reviewer referred to *Total Truth* as “A unique combination of apologetics, world-view analysis, social commentary, and instruction manual.” The book stirred me to be even more committed to teaching apologetics and worldview issues to my fellow believers, and equipping them to live and share their faith as God intended.

### Nature’s Destiny

Michael J. Denton  
Simon & Schuster, 2002

Reviewer: Dave Ouellette



Denton, a molecular geneticist, depicts in great detail the chemical and biological properties observed in the universe to support the anthropic principle (that the universe was designed for the sake of humanity). He describes in layman’s terms how finely tuned all the known properties of the universe are. From the basic properties of light and water, to the elements of the periodic table, all seem to be composed and structured for the sole purpose of supporting carbon-based life.

Denton discusses the fact that the physical characteristics of animals seem to be optimally designed, especially the human body (e.g., muscles, movement, vision, nerve cells, etc.). He examines the uniqueness of the vital gases and the mammalian respiratory system. He also devotes several chapters to explaining the “fitness of cells,” nanomanipulators and DNA’s unique double helix structure.

In the later chapter, Denton proposes a theory of “directed evolution” where the entire process of biological evolution, from the origin of life through the emergence of man, was somehow directed. Here, he seems to open the door for a materialistic/naturalistic origin of life.

Compared to his previous book, *Evolution: A Theory in Crisis*, Denton seems to have modified his opinion on how life first appeared, giving more leniency to evolution albeit a “directed evolution” by some unnamed creator. Thus, while he puts forth a vast array of evidence to support the teleological argument (i.e., nature exhibits design and purpose) and maintains the origin of human was not a chance occurrence but something the laws of nature were directed to accomplish, his “directed evolution” is much more in line with theistic evolution and Darwinism than Biblical creationism.

That being said, I would recommend this book. It does provide an impressive body of evidence of evidence from biology, chemistry and physics to support the teleological argument and conclude that the universe was intentionally and uniquely designed for human beings.

(YEC) they have announced one of their main objectives for 2004 is “Operation Refuting Compromise” where any Christian holding to a belief in billions of years for the age of the Earth is accused of compromising the Bible. No doubt organizations like Reasons To Believe who hold to an old earth are a prime target. Of course, if the evidence were truly testifying to a young universe, I would commend AIG’s efforts. The real issue at stake, however, must be *where* the evidence is leading us. Like any good investigator I will call a multitude of witnesses to the stand to testify on this issue. My hope is we may apprehend the unbiased testimony of many independent geologic/organic processes that will not leave this issue unresolved. We will call God’s revelation from nature (Psalm 19 and Rom 1) to the witness stand to testify.

#### WITNESS 1 – TREE RINGS<sup>1</sup>

Dendochronologists can gain an idea of the climate over the last 10,000 years or so by analyzing tree rings that accumulate on a yearly basis. The basic process (though there are some complicating factors) is a matter of counting annual layers revealing the approximate time period each layer existed. Wet seasons are characterized by wide layers while dry seasons typically produce narrower layers. The Shulman Grove area in California is known to possess living trees exceeding 4,500 years old in addition to dead trees preserved by the cold climate that push the chronology back further than 8,000 years. The layers in these specimens have also been cross-calibrated with carbon 14 dating. This provides an independent tool to check the accuracy of radiometric dating. This is significant as many Christians have been told radiometric dating methods are for a multitude of reasons completely unreliable and entirely untestable—clearly false claims. If these criticisms were actually correct, then it is surely an astounding coincidence the tree ring chronology correlates with the carbon 14 dating results. We also have additional data derived from European Oak where the chronology can be extended back to 11,000 years.

It is also important to note climatic information from tree rings of differing species and different locations are giving similar accounts of the Earth’s climate over the past 10,000 years. Well-known historical events such as massive volcanic eruptions can also be calibrated with the tree ring data. This is because these enormous volcanic eruptions ejected so much material into the atmosphere, a mini “nuclear-winter” existed for a number of years resulting in extremely poor plant growth—including crop failure and mass starvation. The recorded years of these events correspond to extremely thin tree rings for these years.

#### WITNESS 2 – VARVES<sup>2</sup>

A varve is a pair of thin layers of sediment that forms in freshwater lakes that tend to freeze over in the winter. Typically, one band of the varve is light and composed of sand and organic material (such as pollen) while the second layer is dark and composed of very fine clay particles.

Varves are formed by seasonal variations in sedimentary deposition. The lighter band is laid down during the summer when a greater flow of water from inflowing streams brings coarse, sandy material into the lake. The larger particles settle rather quickly but the tiny clay particles remain in suspension due to the agitation of the

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## Apologetic TOOLS

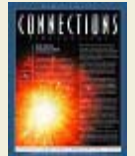
### [Creation Webcast](#)

Join Hugh Ross each Tuesday, 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM (PT), for an exciting discussion about how the latest scientific discoveries provide powerful evidence for the God of the Bible. Listen live through the RTB website. You can also listen to and download past episodes from the website.



### [Free Newsletter](#)

RTB’s newsletters are full of great articles on science and the Bible. They also provide updates on what’s happening at the ministry. To subscribe, go to the RTB website and register. Once registered you can search and print past issues by clicking on the newsletter icon.



### [Message of the Month](#)

Get fresh, faith-building messages each month while providing vital financial support to the RTB ministry. Available on audio tape or CD. To learn more about the program, contact the chapter for a free tape or CD. Or, go to the RTB website and click on the M.O.M. icon.



### [New Tract-Like Brochures](#)

RTB has introduced four new brochures for evangelism and initiating science and the Bible discussions. Topics include: How Did Life Emerge, What the Big Bang Says about God and Design, Is the Universe Designed for Humanity, and How Long Were the Creation Days. \$3 for a pack of 20 (one kind or 5 of each). Order at 1-800-482-7836.



### [RTB Training Course](#)

Take RTB’s Science and Evangelism Correspondence Course and become an official RTB apologist. The course retails for \$350 but is available through the chapter for \$150. Course materials include audiotapes or CDs, two videos (VHS or DVD) and seven books. For more information, contact the Seattle chapter. Scholarships are available from the chapter.



microtubules. In this same study, Yaffe showed the “mitochondria are tethered to the ends and bound laterally along the sides of the microtubules.”

Kyle Miller and Michael Sheetz also conducted a study on axonal mitochondria. This study was done on neurons with labeled mitochondria in order to determine the positioning within the cell. It was found for the first time that mitochondria are uniformly distributed in axons and tend to stop in the gaps between immobile mitochondria—inferring that these immobile mitochondria release a signal that does not allow other mitochondria to accumulate. When testing different regulators upon the mitochondria, it was found local regulation controls the distribution. Also, the potential (difference in chemical concentrations and electrical charge across the mitochondrial membranes) determines the direction that a particular mitochondrion is going to go. If a mitochondrion has a high potential, it will be transported towards the growth cone, but if it has a low potential, it will be transported towards the cell body. These observations show the distribution of mitochondria is generated by mitochondrial transport, and that mitochondrial potential is correlated with the direction of transport within a neuron.

These articles give new insight into how a cell achieves remarkable organization of one of its many organelles. Given the analogy between the cells mitochondria and cytoskeleton and the power generation and distribution systems in America, this type of cellular organization makes sense. For example, it would be highly inefficient to locate all the power plants found in America in one state. Consequently, the cell distributes its “power plants” throughout its interior and carefully controls its spatial organization. If mitochondrial organization is disrupted, this can lead to neural diseases or causes axonal clogging, cell death, and Alzheimer’s disease.

These articles that show remarkable organization found within the cell provide support for people who believe an intelligent designer is responsible for life. On the other hand, those who embrace an evolutionary explanation for life think this amazing cell feature arose strictly through natural means alone. The controversy can be resolved through additional research into the cells internal structure and possible pathways for life’s emergence.

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1. Neil A. Campbell and Jane B. Reece, *Biology* 6th ed. (San Francisco, CA: Benjamin Cummings, 2002), 123-124.
2. B Westermann and H. Prokisch, “Mitochondrial Dynamics in Filamentous Fungi,” *Fungal Genetics and Biology* 36, no. 2 (2002): 91-97.

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## RTB Resources

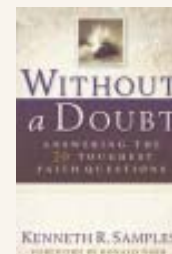
In this new book, *Origins of Life: Biblical and Evolutionary Models Face Off*, Hugh Ross and Fuz Rana reveal how life’s beginnings can be tested. They examine the latest origin-of-life research and explode the myth of a naturalistic origin of life. *Intermediate/Advanced, Hardback, US\$ 12.95.*



The length of time represented by the word “day” in the Genesis creation account is a source of controversy in the Christian church. In this new book, *A Matter of Days*, Hugh Ross explores how this controversy developed and addresses many of the key issues of the debate. *All Readers, Paperback, US\$ 9.95.*



In this new book, *Without a Doubt*, RTB philosopher and theologian Ken Samples gives readers a great apologetics handbook. The question-and-answer format is easy to follow and addresses 20 prominent issues skeptics raise about God, the Bible and Christianity. *All Readers, Paperback, US\$ 9.95.*



Does the Bible teach the earth is 10,000 years old? How does science and the book of Genesis relate? In *The Genesis Question*, Hugh Ross examines these and other issues from an old-earth creationist position. A great book to share with Christians and skeptics. *All Readers, Paperback, \$US 9.95.*



Is life in the universe common or rare? What are the odds of finding other Earth-like planets? Take an amazing journey as Hugh Ross examines how the universe has been meticulously fine-tuned for human life using state-of-the-art computer animation. *All Viewers, VHS or DVD, \$US 19.95.*



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lake water caused by the inflowing streams and also by the wind. In winter, the lake freezes over and so the effect of the wind and inflow from streams ceases. Because the water is no longer being agitated, the fine clay particles slowly settle to the bottom of the lake, right on top of the coarse sand layer. The next summer when the lake thaws, the cycle begins over. Each varve couplet, therefore, typically represents a single year. One can determine the age of a varve formation by simply counting the number of couplets, just as one can determine the age of a tree by counting its rings.

Varve deposits display great age. The Salido, Castile, and Bell Canyon formations of west Texas contain 260,000 couplets. Hence, this formation is most naturally considered to be 260,000 years old. The famous Green River Shales which span three U.S. states contain about 7.5 million paper-thin couplets.

Dr. H. Kitagawa and his team have established a chronology of varve layers containing diatoms (unicellular algae) in Japan that calibrate the carbon 14 dating technique back to 45,000 years ago. The spring season layers were recognized by dark colored clay with white layers due to an increase in diatom growth. Carbon 14 dating (i.e., Accelerator Mass Spectrometry) of the organic material in the layers has confirmed the accuracy of this dating method to beyond that predicted by most young earth models. It is also important to note this study revealed similar climate details to European marine sediments of coral dated with uranium and thorium methods as well as carbon 14. Their results also were in agreement with the tree ring C-14 results.

Tree-ring data presents a serious problem for young earth/global flood proponents. (Most YECs believe the large majority, if not all of the earth's geological record was deposited in about 12 months during Noah's flood no more than 5,000 yrs ago.) Varves must give YECs nightmares. How can a global flood that is incomprehensibly catastrophic and haphazard carefully deposit thousands and, in some places millions, of very thin and fragile but perfectly alternating and chemically distinct sedimentary layers in an organized fashion that just coincidentally happens to correlate with annual seasonal changes? How did the flood insert fluctuating amounts of diatoms into each layer which amazingly just happen to correlate with what we would expect from changes in season? But much more amazing, how did this global flood manage to sort these trillions of diatoms in the correct layers according to the proportion of carbon-14 within their bodies so modern scientists would be deceived into thinking the varves represented thousands of years of seasonal deposition?

### WITNESS 3 – ICE CORES<sup>3</sup>

There are two ice cores drilled in Greenland called the Greenland Ice Sheet Project (GISP) and the Greenland Ice Core Project (GRIP). Located 30 km apart and both nearly 3 km deep, they give the same paleoenvironmental record back to 110,000 years ago. The ice layers

tend to trap tiny bubbles of air, including impurities that are indicative of volcanic eruptions and other climatic events. An example would be the oxygen isotope ratios of the heavier oxygen-18 to the lighter oxygen-16. As the temperature increases, the heavier isotopes are more readily precipitated (as part of H<sub>2</sub>O) than the lighter isotopes and thus the ratio of oxygen isotopes found in air bubbles in the ice provide a signature for past climate changes. Deuterium, also known as hydrogen-2, is another isotope that provides clues for temperature ranges at each period represented by the respective ice core layers. Studies of CO<sub>2</sub> levels in the trapped air bubbles in the ice have enabled scientists to plot the rise in atmospheric carbon dioxide levels over recent millennia which is of obvious importance to the earth's increasing Greenhouse Effect.

Increases in acidity are the hallmark for volcanic eruptions such as the eruption at Vesuvius in A.D. 79. Evidence for this eruption shows up in the Greenland ice core. Historically documented events like Vesuvius serve as independent tools to date the layers of ice. Though the eruption was less than 2,000 years ago and thus not long enough to discriminate between young and old earth creation models, it *does* provide us with great confidence that the ice layers are accurate recorders of time. Hence the layers that precede A.D 79 to a time of 100,000 years ago can be accepted as accurate.

More extensive though less detailed ice cores are those drilled at the Vostok Station, Antarctica to a depth of more than 3.5 km. Placed in the Antarctica region on the opposite side of the globe, it affords an excellent position for strategic sampling of past global climatic trends. The project was a joint initiative of Russia, France and the USA. The snowfall record reaches back to 420,000 years ago, yielding data on dust and sea salt levels, aerosols, and global levels of methane and carbon dioxide. Climate details such as oxygen isotope abundances correlate nicely with the GISP levels.

Some of the age measurements established by the different research groups are as follows:

- Six at 1,934 meters: 136,758 years (Sowers), 141,804 years (Lorius), 137,725 years (Jouzel-1), 135,018 years (Jouzel-2), 140,243 years (Waelbroeck), 135,507 years (Petit).
- Five at 2,082 meters: 164,433 years (Lorius), 155,785 years (Jouzel-1), 150,957 years (Jouzel-2), 152,239 years (Waelbroeck), 151,721 years (Petit)
- Four at 2,757 meters: 261,787 years (Jouzel-1), 242,235 years (Jouzel-2), 243,004 years (Waelbroeck), 237,975 years (Petit)
- One at 3310 meters: 422,766 years (Petit)

As if the evidence was not already strong enough to demonstrate the earth is older than 10,000 years, we can correlate the Milankovitch

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astronomical cycles with the climate variations we observe in ice and marine cores. The earth's surface records the processes astronomers predict from variations in eccentricity (where the orbit deviates from circular) every 100,000 years, obliquity (a slight variation in the Earth's 23.5 degree tilt) every 41,000 years, and precession (where the degree of Earth's angular tilt remains the same only the direction of the axial tilt is altered like the wobbling of a spinning top as it slows down) every 23,000 years. These variations manifest in the form of climatic shifts and can be catalogued in the various ice and sedimentary layers on Earth.

#### WITNESS 4 – CORAL LAYERS<sup>4</sup>

Like the layers of tree rings, coral layers vary in density according to seasonal changes. The unique gift they offer researchers is they not only present us with annual bands but also daily bands. For every yearly band we also detect 365 daily bands. This is an indirect way of telling us the length of each day is 24 hours long.

Astronomers have made measurements using atomic clocks on the rate of deceleration of the rotation period of Earth. The results present a deceleration time of 0.000015 sec per day. Since we have reason to expect fluctuations in this rate, we can estimate that at 10 million years ago the length of a day would have been approximately 200 seconds less. Extrapolating back from this figure we would expect the Devonian Period (360-410 million years ago) to be characterized by days of 21.8 hours in length or 400 days per year.

Ancient coral layers dated to the Devonian via thorium 230 and protactinium 231 radiometric methods provide an independent test for the astronomical calculations mentioned. The exciting discovery from ancient coral is the daily growth lines counted between the extreme values of 385 and 410 leaving us with an average for that period that correlates very well with the astronomical methods. Coral from the Pennsylvanian Period (late Carboniferous 290-325 million years ago) from two different geographical regions gave 390 and 385 lines per annum. These results imply the length of each day have increased as the earth has slowed down over the 100 million years since the Devonian period and provide further collaborative support for an old earth.

#### CONCLUSION

Thus ends our exploration of just a small sample of evidences for the antiquity of our planet. Note the different and independent processes used to yield highly concordant details on climate and chronology extend well beyond the time limit held to by young earth creationism. Many of the processes were not reliant on radiometric decay though their age diagnoses were in good agreement with that method. I also selected processes that are independent from one another as evidence for old age. Tree rings have nothing to do with varve layers, that have nothing to do with Vostok ice core layers, which do not

depend upon the twofold witness of coral layers and astronomical calculations on Earth spin down rate. It leaves me baffled as to how Christians whom should be the most concerned with the truth of God's revelation are sometimes the most obtuse to its message.

It hardly surprises me so many in the academic community find the Bible hard to accept as factual when they perceive Christians as believing in science that holds as much credence as a flat Earth. I wonder how many searching souls have stopped short of the gospel thanks to the total incongruity they recognize between YEC and science. Perhaps people in these contexts will still make decisions for the Christian faith but all too many will be based on emotion rather than the rational truths that make up our worldview. Unfortunately and ironically, organizations like Answers In Genesis that are vigorously promoting YEC are oblivious to the fact that their untenable creation model is contributing to the rejection of the Bible as a historical/factual document. Obviously then, this results in people rejecting Christianity as a historical (i.e. accurate) faith. And that is the sad part.

For further insights on these topics I highly recommend *A Matter of Days* by Hugh Ross and *Science and Faith: Friends or Foes* by John Collins.

#### NEW DISCOVERY<sup>5,6,7</sup>

The exceptionally thick Antarctic ice have provided researchers with an opportunity to drill a core 3 km deep into Dome C, high on the East Antarctic Ice Sheet. According to the report, the earth has experienced eight ice ages throughout the last 740,000 years. The study confirmed that the obliquity cycle and the eccentricity cycle that occur every 41,000 and 100,000 years respectively have a major influence on climatic conditions. This study reveals even more headaches for a young earth creation model since the core now reaches further back in time than ever before and receives collaboration from various astronomical cycles. This study also supported evidence from prior research that the last 10,000 years of human history (Holocene Period) has been exceptionally benign climatically, providing a unique environment for human civilization to flourish.

*Damien Spillane is a member of the Australian Chapter of Reasons to Believe. Their goal is to raise awareness of the importance of science faith. Their website is ozreasons.org.*

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## Seattle Chapter Reasons to Believe

### Who Are We?

The Seattle Chapter of Reasons to Believe is a local extension of the worldwide, interdenominational Reasons to Believe ministry. We exist to support our parent organization and foster local involvement in the ministry. We serve the Puget Sound area and are composed of Christians of different ages and backgrounds.

It is our conviction the same God who created the universe inspired the Bible. Therefore, what God says through His word must agree with the facts of nature. We reject the notion that science and the Bible are at odds and seek to provide a scientifically-sound and Biblically-faithful alternative to Darwinism and young-Earth creationism.

### What Do We Do?

Our mission is to remove the doubts of skeptics and strengthen the faith of believers. We provide scientific, historical and philosophical evidence that supports the Christian worldview and helps remove barriers to a belief in God, the Bible and the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We carry out this mission by:

- Helping people access RTB and other scientifically and biblically sound resources.
- Bringing nationally-known speakers into the area to promote the scientific reliability of the Bible.
- Assembling a team of local apologists to address questions about science, the Bible and related topics.
- Working with teachers and homeschoolers to achieve a balanced approach to the teaching of origins.
- Building alliances with local churches, ministries and groups to maximize the exposure of the RTB ministry.
- Reaching out to unbelievers with gentleness and respect, encouraging them to evaluate their worldviews.

We welcome your involvement and support. For more information, contact us at [seattle@reasons.org](mailto:seattle@reasons.org). Your tax-deductible donations can be sent to: Seattle RTB, PO Box 99683, Seattle, WA 98139-0683.

## Questions? Get Answers.

Whether you are looking for scientific support for your faith or answers to questions about God, the Bible, and science, contact us at [seattle@reasons.org](mailto:seattle@reasons.org). You can also call the RTB hotline seven days a week, 5:00 to 7:00 PM at 626-335-5282.