



## "CREATION CORNER" #2 by John Roller

Question: Where did Cain's wife come from?

Answer: From just outside the Garden of Eden.

This question comes from the famous "Scopes Monkey Trial" of 1925; it is a "favorite" of Biblical skeptics. In the dramatic theater story of that trial, "Inherit the Wind", produced in New York in 1955, there is a scene in which the agnostic lawyer, Henry Drummond, says to Matthew Harrison Brady, "Listen to this: Genesis 4:16. 'And Cain went out from the presence of the Lord, and dwelt in the land of Nod, on the east of Eden. And Cain knew his wife!' Where the #!?! did she come from?" Brady asks, "Who?" Drummond replies, "Mrs. Cain. Cain's wife. If, 'In the beginning' there were only Adam and Eve, and Cain and Abel, where'd this extra woman spring from?...Figure somebody pulled off another creation, over in the next county?" (The question is never dealt with in the play; "Drummond" merely goes on to another sub-

ject.) The answer, though, is quite simple. Genesis 5:3—5, summarizing the entire life of Adam, tells us that he lived "nine hundred and thirty years" and that during that time, besides Cain, Abel and Seth, "he begat sons and daughters". Obviously, one of those "daughters" (mentioned in Genesis 5:4) was the woman "Drummond" referred to as "Mrs. Cain."

This explanation, however, is disturbing to many people, because it implies that Cain married his sister, which, according to both man's law and God's, is illegal and immoral (see, for example, Leviticus 18:9 and II Samuel 13:12). It must be remembered, though, that 1) man, as yet, did not have any laws, 2) God, as yet, had not passed any laws against marrying one's sister (Leviticus wasn't written until over 2,500 years later), and 3) there weren't any other women for Cain to marry but his sisters. It is also objected (by some) that such a relationship

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## DEVOTIONAL FINDING GRACE

"But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD" (Genesis 6:8).

This is the very first reference in the Bible to the great concept of the grace of God. In the midst of the most violent and wicked society that history has ever seen, there was one man who was "a just man and perfect in his generations" (Genesis 6:9), and the reason why he was different was that he "found grace in the eyes of the LORD."

Appropriately, in this first mention of such a vital doctrine, it is stressed that the grace of God is not something which is either earned or learned. It cannot be gained by good works or by much study. Grace is found! It is God's free "gift" (Ephesians 2:8) to any who will receive it. "For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew Himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward Him" (II Chronicles

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### Special points of interest:

- *September meeting: 20th, 6:30 PM at First Baptist Concord in the Chapel. Special Guest Speaker - Dr David Fouts, Professor at Bryan College.*
- *October meeting: 18th, 6:30 PM at First Baptist Concord in the Chapel.*
- *November meeting: 15th, 6:30 PM at First Baptist Concord in the Chapel.*
- *We have books, videos and tapes for sale! Check out our website for more details: [www.etsa.org/](http://www.etsa.org/)*

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is biologically unsound: that it leads to monstrous, deformed children and so on. Nowadays, it sometimes does, because our gene pools have been heavily "contaminated" with damaged, defective genes. These genes (usually recessive) are passed down from parents to children, undetected, and deformed children are often born when two unrelated individuals marry, both carrying the same defective genes. Marrying one's sibling would greatly increase the likelihood of such a thing happening, because the unfortunate child would be receiving nearly identical genes from both its parents. But that wasn't a problem

in Cain's time! Back then, the gene pool was nearly perfect (it was perfect when God created Adam and Eve). That, by the way, is one of the many reasons why they were able to live so long (930 years, for example)! So Cain and his sister, "Mrs. Cain", could very well have had perfectly normal children -- as, indeed, some incestuous couples have done from that day to this.

Cain's wife literally "came from" just outside the Garden of Eden, because that's where her parents, Adam and Eve, were living when she was born. (See Genesis 3:23-4:2)

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## Carbon-14 Dating and the Age of the Earth

What is Carbon-14?

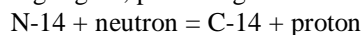
Carbon is an element that is required for life. All plants and animals contain carbon. Most of the carbon in the world is either Carbon-12 or Carbon-13 (C-12 or C-13), which are both stable, but a tiny fraction is C-14, which is radioactive, releasing a weak beta particle. The radioactive half-life for this emission is 5,730 years. Since there's very little C-13, we'll ignore it in this discussion of dating.

While a plant is alive, its growth cycle causes it to absorb CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere, absorb sunlight, and undergo photosynthesis -- the carbon is used as food to cause the plant to grow, while the oxygen is released back into the atmosphere.

Animals (and humans) eat plants and meat (both of which contain carbon), and breathe the air, which contains a mixture of oxygen and carbon dioxide. They retain the carbon and oxygen, and exhale CO<sub>2</sub> as waste. In this way, both plants and animals are constantly exchanging carbon and oxygen with that in the atmosphere. While they are alive, their bodies contain the same fraction of the three carbon isotopes as does the atmosphere, but at death, respiration ceases and the exchange stops. Since C-14 constantly decays (with a 5,730-year half-life), the fraction of C-14 in a dead body is always diminishing. After 5,730 years, the fraction of C-14 in the remaining total carbon is only half as much as when the plant or animal was alive.

Where does the C-14 come from?

As cosmic rays come in from outer space, they interact with gas molecules in the upper atmosphere, knocking off neutrons. Some of these neutrons react with the Nitrogen-14 in the surrounding region, producing C-14 and a free proton.



This C-14 easily combines with nearby free oxygen, producing carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>). Air circulation causes mixing, and the atmosphere contains this mixture, spreading it around the world.

When the radioactive C-14 decays, emitting an electron (beta particle), the reaction is like this:



Radio-Dating with C-14

In this short article, we can't go into much detail. However, the process can be described in fairly simple terms. The basic idea is to measure the ratio of C-14 / C-12 in the sample to be age-dated. This is then compared with the same ratio at the time of death of the sample material. Therein lies the biggest problem -- how does the laboratory operator know what that ratio was many thousands of years ago? No one knows this answer, so they assume that the atmosphere has always been like it was in 1950. But this is known to be wrong!

The Specific Production Rate (SPR) of C-14 is known to be 18.8 atoms per gram of total carbon per minute. The Specific Decay Rate (SDR) is known to be only 16.1 +/- 0.5 disintegrations per gram per minute. The difference between these two numbers shows that the buildup in the biosphere hasn't had time to catch up with production in the stratosphere. In other words, the earth's atmosphere must be less than some fifty thousand years old! This, in itself, is a strong evidence of creationist claims. But the Carbon-14 Establishment's response is that it's merely a problem not yet solved.

The usual procedure (today) is to use an Oxalic Acid standard which is synthesized by the National Bureau of Standards, and is carefully maintained and calibrated to represent the C-14 / C-12 ratio in the atmosphere as of A.D.1950. Ages are reported in "years BP," (before present), where "present" is by definition 1950. Laboratories can purchase secondary standards from the NBS, for use with their own equipment.

When this method was invented during the late 1940's, the radioactive beta emission from C-14 was measured by radioactive counting techniques. This required the sample being dated to contain at least 10 grams of carbon, and the sample was destroyed by the measurement. This limited the kinds of measurements that could be done. During the 1980's, a much better technique was developed. This is called "Accelerator Mass Spectrometry," and requires only milligrams of carbon. It increases the age range and accuracy of the dating, and is commonly used today.

But still, C-14 dating measurements are limited to samples thought to be less than perhaps 75,000 years old, never for millions-of-years such as most of the rocks thought to be in the sub-surface parts of the Geologic Column. Within this limi-

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# The Sawfly by Mark Stewart

The unique digestive ability of the Neodiprion could not have evolved step by step. The adult Conifer sawfly, or Neodiprion, is a serious pest of coniferous trees. A medium-sized insect, it is common throughout most of North America, except the Midwest. Sawfly larva (caterpillars) inhabit the forests of Europe also, and as mentioned, are notorious for defoliating various types of conifers and pines. The sawfly is aided in its curious dietary habits by a unique digestive system which allows it to regurgitate poisonous oils and resins found in these leaves.

On the surface, few people would suspect that one small insect could have an unsettling effect on the basic tenets of the theory of evolution. But the larva of the common sawfly does just that.

The sawfly larva, a rather ordinary looking creature as caterpillars go, has managed to carve out an ecological niche on the fragrant needles of the pine tree. At first glance this may not seem like a particularly noteworthy accomplishment. But in the small world of insects it represents a radical departure from accepted environmental norms.

To many small insects the pine tree is a virtual no-man's land. Its resins and oils, which may smell sweet to us humans, are highly toxic substances as far as the six-leggers are concerned.

But not to the sawfly larva!

This little critter not only can tolerate pine oil and resins, but it even "knows how" to chew them up without being poisoned.

While munching on its staple diet of pine needles, the larva somehow separates the poisonous oils and resins from the digestible pulp and stores them in two goiter-like sacks located at the sides of its oral cavity. If provoked, it instantly turns its head toward its aggressor and secretes a drop of its stored liquid. This foul-smelling brew is usually enough to discourage would-be predators such as spiders, ants, and birds.

How does the sawfly larva accomplish this phenomenal feat?

First of all, for the sawfly to do this the edible parts must somehow be separated from the inedible parts; secondly, each must go the right direction so that the resins and oils will not get into the digestive tract; and thirdly, the tissue of its storage sacks must be insensitive to the resin acids.

The larva of the sawfly is able to perform these functions quite well. Its storage sacks are covered with a chitinous mem-

brane and are thus effectively protected. The muscle tissue of the sacks is so extraordinarily strong that one sawfly expert believes it helps in the separation of the digestible and indigestible ingredients. Exactly how the separation takes place - how the larva is able to let all resinous bits disappear in the sacks during the chewing process and eat only edible parts - is still a puzzle, but one which may be eventually understood.



The sawfly's unique digestive system is more than just an oddity. It presents a number of thorny questions as far as the theory of evolution is concerned. First of all, try to imagine the difficulties some ancient variety of

sawfly larva would have encountered had it tried to switch from a normal leafy diet to one of pine needles. According to evolutionary theory, the changes necessary to enable it to digest the pine needles could only have occurred through small mutations in a step-by-step fashion. But in the case of the sawfly larva, such piecemeal transitions become totally impractical, and one is immediately confronted with one of evolution's basic problems of logic.

The sawfly larva could not live on pine needles until a completely developed mechanism which separated wholesome food from poisonous pine resin was working with perfect reliability. But such a mechanism, if it came gradually into existence by small mutations, would have developed only if the food already consisted of pine needles. Yet all the sawfly's intermediate transition forms (which evolution requires) would clearly have been unable to adequately cope with the poisonous effects of the pine needles. In that case the sawfly's evolutionary progress would have been brought to a standstill.

On the other hand if there were no pine needles around for the larva to feed on, there would be no stimulus for it to develop any mechanism for digestive separation and protection.

No matter how intelligently the theory of evolution may present the reasons for the step-by-step development of already existing organs or parts of the body, the difficulties in trying to explain how certain independent anatomical-physiological systems could originate by evolution seem insurmountable.

Could the sawfly larvae evolve to eat poisonous pine needles?

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tation, and with proper corrections, C-14 is probably the most accurate dating method available.

Information for this article was taken primarily from the book "God at Ground Zero," by Curt Sewell, and the article "Dating Dilemma," by Andrew Snelling, in the June-August 1999 issue of "Creation ex nihilo."

This is Creation Bits No. 23, by Curt Sewell

## Evolutionist Quotes

The day will come when the evidence constantly accumulating around the evolutionary theory becomes so massively persuasive that even the last and most fundamental Christian warriors will have to lay down their arms and surrender unconditionally. I believe that day will be the end of Christianity.

G. Richard Bozarth, 'The Meaning of Evolution,' American Atheist, p.30, September 20, 1979.

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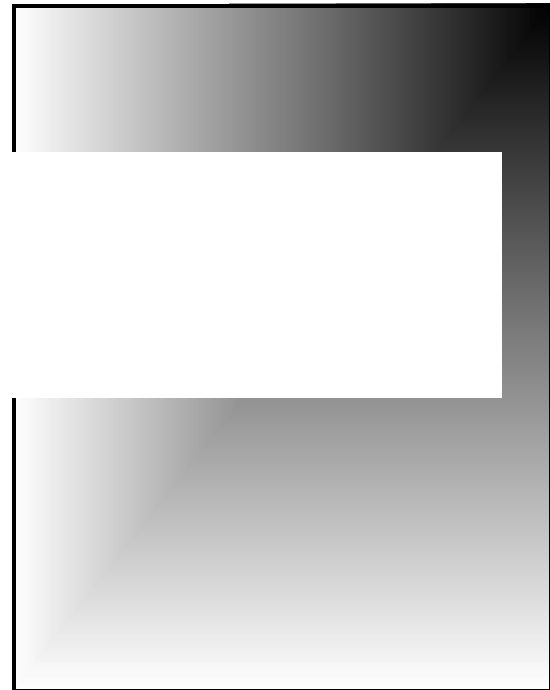
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# ETCSA

“Set in the Defense of Creation Science”



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“Christianity is—must be!—totally committed to the special creation as described in Genesis, and Christianity must fight with its full might, fair or foul, against the theory of evolution.”

“It becomes clear now that the whole justification of Jesus’ life and death is predicated on the existence of Adam and the forbidden fruit he and Eve ate. Without the original sin, who needs to be redeemed? Without Adam’s fall into a life of constant sin terminated by death, what purpose is there to Christianity? None.”

“What all this means is that Christianity cannot lose the Genesis account of creation like it could lose the doctrine of geocentrism and get along. The battle must be waged, for Christianity is fighting for its very life.”

Bozarth, G. Richard, “The Meaning of Evolution,” *American Atheist* (February 1978), pp. 19, 30.

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16:9). The eyes of the Lord surely had to search diligently in an earth “filled with violence” (Genesis 6:13) to find a man whose heart was open toward God but, when He did find such a man, “Noah found grace!”

In a beautiful pattern of divine inspiration, it is significant that the first mention of grace in the New Testament stresses the same great truth. It appears in the words of the angel Gabriel to the virgin Mary: “Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favor (literally ‘grace’) with God” (Luke 1:30). Thus Mary, like Noah, “found grace with God.” Noah was chosen by the Lord to save a believing remnant through the Flood by the building of the Ark of safety, and Mary was chosen by the Lord to bring into the world the One who would take away its sin, the eternal Ark of Salvation.

It is the same today. Although “the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men” (Titus 2:11), only “few there be that find it” (Matthew 7:14). God’s grace is available to all if they will but believe and accept it, but it takes a seeing heart and a hearing soul to find it. Henry M. Morris, Ph.D.