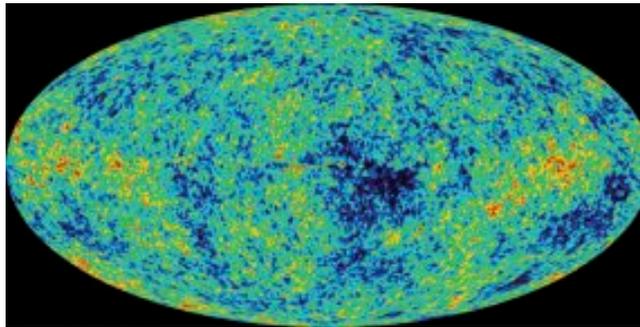


March 2003

BABY PICTURE

On February 11, 2003, a NASA press release announced "the best 'baby picture' of the Universe ever taken." The "baby picture" shown here has subsequently been featured in prominent science journals and newspapers across the globe.¹⁻⁴ It was taken about 1.5 million kilometers above Earth by NASA's Wilkinson Microwave Anisotropy Probe (WMAP), a satellite that measures the cosmic microwave background radiation (CMB). The oval map represents the whole sky, like the spherical Earth is represented as an oval on a flat sheet of paper. Different parts of the map relate to different parts of the sky. Different colors represent variations in the CMB with "warmer" as red and "cooler" as blue. *Science News* writer Ron Cowen² likened the astronauts that unveiled this snapshot to "beaming parents showing off pictures of their newborn." Indeed, the WMAP photo, which is alleged to depict our infant universe, shares several other characteristics of a newborn child, characteristics that its worldly parents are not likely to focus on.



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For a color version of this figure, visit the TASC web site at: <http://members.aol.com/dwr51055/tasc/taschome.htm>

Like a baby, the WMAP photo is protected against public criticism by unwritten rules of secular social etiquette. Have you ever known anyone to begin an argument with the statement, "Everyone knows that [insert idea]?" If everyone really knew, then why bring the subject up? Such statements are usually meant to convey that "you won't be very popular if you don't agree that [insert idea]."

Alan MacRobert declares in the article *Mapping the Big Bang* in *Sky and Telescope* (www.skyandtelescope.com) that the NASA report "has powerfully confirmed the conclusions that many teams of astronomers had already reached." Dr. Charles L. Bennett, of the Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC) in Greenbelt, Maryland and the WMAP Principal Investigator, is quoted in NASA's press release, "The data are solid, a real gold mine." How can a gold mine come from confirming what people already know? MacRobert states that "the big news is actually no news." This is something that both secular and creationist scientists can agree on, but for different reasons.

Like a baby, the WMAP photo can do no wrong in the eyes of its parents. Overall, the information provided by WMAP is not new but is alleged to be more precise than early measurements. The parents of this portrait claim that it "pegs the universe's age to an unprecedented accuracy of 1 percent." A pretty picture indeed! However, as in all things, beauty is in the eyes of the beholder. For several years now NASA has touted CMB as confirming the Big Bang, as well as the universe's age, composition, geometry, ultimate fate, etc. However, behind these claims are an enormous number of philosophical assumptions. Dr. John Hartnett, a creationist physicist writes, "In short, the big bang is first assumed to be true and they adjust their parameters to get the theory to fit the data. Because of this circular reasoning, it would be a miracle if it did not 'confirm' the big bang."⁵

Like a baby, the WMAP photo is bound to cause problems. As mentioned earlier, the WMAP results are not new, but are more precise than similar maps produced from instruments measuring CMB from the ground, and from balloons, and from its predecessor, the COBE (Cosmic Background Explorer) satellite. The big picture has not changed. As Dr. Hartnett describes in his relatively recent report, CMB actually poses problems for the big bang and supports creationist cosmologies. Contrary to the basic assumption behind the big bang, CMB seems to indicate a preferred frame of reference. Several other problems are pointed out by Dr. Hartnett in his article, and this latest NASA report itself said that the stars formed earlier (by their own dating methods) than previously predicted.

Like babies, the WMAP photo is ultimately a reflection of its true Father, our Creator God. Creationist cosmology models do not have the problems mentioned above and

discussed by Dr. Hartnett.^{6, 7} In fact, Dr. Hartnett contends that recent findings pertaining to CMB are consistent with creationist cosmologies. Don't misunderstand. Creationists' models are not and never will be perfect. They, like secular models are designed by fallible scientists, whose theories change on a weekly basis. Yet, by faith we understand that the heavens were prepared by our Creator God. And through this same faith we can rest assured that, despite limited funding and resources, if any model of our universe should eventually succeed in describing all phenomena, it will be a creationist model. ☞

Jeff Gift, PhD

¹ NASA. 2003. New image of infant universe reveals era of first stars, age of cosmos, and more. Feb. 11 NASA Goddard Space Flight Center press release. www.gsfc.nasa.gov/topstory/2003/0206mapresults.html

² *Science News*. 2003. 163: (7, Feb. 15), p. 99

³ MacRobert, Alan. 2003. Mapping the Big Bang. *Sky and Telescope*.

⁴ Answers in Genesis. 2003. Surprise? NASA 'confirms' the big bang. Available at http://www.answersingenesis.org/docs2003/0214nasa_bigbang.asp

⁵ Hartnett, John. 2001. Recent Cosmic Microwave Background data supports creationist cosmologies. *Creation Ex Nihilo Technical Journal*, TJ 15(1).

⁶ Humphreys, D.R. 1994. *Starlight and Time*. Master Books, Colorado Springs.

⁷ Gentry, R.V. 1997. A new redshift interpretation. *Modern Physics Letters*. 12: 2919-2925.

SHARED GIFTS

From Genesis we learn that pain and suffering were not God's original intent for us. Many agonize over the question of why we suffer if God claims to be loving and omnipotent and yet "allows" suffering. Scripture teaches us that original sin resulted in our suffering and death. Yet God has provided some wonderful healing mechanism.

Our pain nerves are not all bad. Dr. Paul Brand, retired master plastic surgeon and former missionary to the lepers of India, has taught how important pain sensation is to allow us to be able to perform routine acts such as walking, cooking, and handling rough objects without the necessity of forever consciously avoiding injury to our skin.

Dr. Brand has also taught that our spiritual demeanor influences our pain and suffering. Four states increase pain and four decrease. Fear and anger increase and peace and forgiveness diminish; idleness and loneliness increase while activity and visitation diminish. Healing mechanisms are also influenced spiritually. God has

provided biochemical hormones including endorphins for pain relief, and also enkephalins to stimulate healing factors. Prayer has been scientifically proven to be a powerful influence for wellness. Happily, many of our previously totally secular medical schools are now teaching these healing modalities to medical students and practitioners.

All of us can benefit by recognizing and practicing these gifts of God. ☞

Isaac Manly, MD

EVIDENCES FOR CREATION OVER EVOLUTION

Editor's Note: The following are arguments No. 3-7 of 21 arguments compiled by various persons who believe that true science and biblical Christianity go hand in hand. The first part covered arguments No. 1 and 2.

This was produced jointly by the Creation Research Society, St. Joseph, Missouri, and Skilton House Ministries, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Editors: Paul G. Humber and Glen W. Wolfrom. Contributors: Harry Akers, Robert Gentet, Ed Garrett, Lane Lester, Ron Pass, Dave Sack, Curt Sewell, Helen Setterfield, Doug Sharp, and Laurence Tisdall.

3. The fossil record is a record of things that died. Relationships between fossils are based on the idea that either they are so close to being alike that we believe they were the same sort of plant or animal or else based on ideas about the relationships which determine the conclusions. We often read about this or that "transitional" (in-between) form bridging the gap between one kind of life and another. It is important to remember that the transitional forms found are only transitional because they are declared to be. We have no evidence that they are not simply another "kind" of plant or animal. For instance, if someone who had never seen a bat saw a fossil of one, it might easily be declared that this was a transitional form between birds and mammals! But we, knowing what bats are, know they are a kind of animal unto themselves, and not a transitional form. The same thing happens with fossils. We see them declared "transitional" between birds and dinosaurs or between fish and reptiles. The reality is that a "transitional" form, like beauty, is in the eye of the beholder. People tend to see what they want to see, and the theory of evolution demands transitional forms. Thus some discoveries are declared "transitional" and heralded loudly in the press. When the idea of "transitional" is retracted, however, it is often done very quietly, with little or no press coverage. And so we—and even the scientists themselves—are left with the impression that great many transitional forms have been found. The truth is far different.

4. The fossil record reveals distinct kinds of plants and animals with no “evolutionary” connection to each other. Because of these “gaps” in the fossil record, there have been a number of theories proposed to explain them while still holding to evolution. “Punctuated equilibrium” is the idea that evolutionary changes happened in small, isolated populations very quickly and left no fossil record. And while gaps between species may indeed have arisen this way by the genetic means God originally put within the created “kinds” during Creation Week, such relatively minor changes can’t explain the larger gaps which divide, for example, the major phyla. But the fossil record itself is very much in accord with what we read in the Bible: plants and animals were created by “kind.” The founders of the early scientific disciplines, who were primarily Christian creationists, supported this view. For additional help, see <http://www.arn.org/arnproducts/books/b021om.htm>.

5. Evolutionists must declare that the earliest life forms were quite simple and that time and some mysterious evolutionary process led to the complexity and variety we see on the Earth today. The fact of the matter is, however, that this thought of “simple to complex” is the product of ignorance. Darwin considered the cell to be a sort of little blob. The more we learn about the cell, however, the more incredibly complex it is seen to be. Thousands of proteins interact in specific and orderly ways in a protected environment. Nutrients are taken in, broken down, used, and waste expelled; there are reactions to the environment and then the cell duplicates itself in a chain of events we still don’t completely understand. There is nothing simple about a cell. There was nothing simple about any cell at any time. And yet a cell is the “simplest” form of life we can find! (Even viruses are marvelously complex.) So the idea of “simple to complex” in an evolutionary time scale is denied by the complexity of that little cell from the beginning of life.

6. The earliest illustrations of possible evolution of man from some kind of ape-like ancestor always showed the darker-skinned people as emerging from the ape-line first and the lighter-skinned humans being the actual final products of evolution. In line with this reasoning, evolution can be held responsible for many of the horrors of racist ideas which existed in the late nineteenth and into the twentieth centuries, and even until now. It was not so long ago that the black-skinned folk were considered not yet human in the evolutionary sequence. Hitler is known to have adopted the evolutionary ideas to support genocide and the concept of the promotion of a superior (white) race of men and women. As science

has discovered that all humans are genetically the same, and that all can successfully marry and have children across “racial” lines, evolutionists have backed off of the idea that skin color determines how far up or down the evolutionary ladder one might be. This is also their conclusion based on the need for “political correctness.” The conclusion that all men are human from the start, however, can be found in the Bible. God knew what was true from the beginning. He created us. (For additional help, see *Creation Ex Nihilo Technical Journal*, <http://www.answersingenesis.org/Home/Area/Magazines/technical.asp>, 13(2): 101-111, 1999 and <http://www.icr.org/pubs/imp/imp-164.htm>.)

7. Evolutionists have attempted to prove their case by mixing up two different processes under the term of “evolution.” The first is variation. We see variation everyday. Puppies and kittens are all born with individual differences in their coloring and personalities. In fact, we know that sometimes these differences can be huge, for examples both Chihuahuas and Great Danes are dogs. Would someone looking at the fossil record think that? Or that they lived at the same time? Perhaps not. But they are both varieties of dog. We can see some remarkable variations in certain kinds of things, but we still recognize them as the kind of thing they are, be they dogs, horses, cats—or people. We know both Pygmies and Zulus and Germans and Chinese are all human beings. Just different varieties. Because the word “evolution” simply means “change,” the evolutionists point to these variations within kind and claim that this proves the theory of evolution that posits changes far beyond the Genesis “kinds.” But evolution of one kind to another, such as the evolution (so it is claimed) of fish to human, requires a whole lot more than variation. It requires massive changes in body-type and behaviors. It is a false argument to take the small variations we see on a daily basis and claim this proves the evolution of a one-celled organism into ferns and people and elephants and butterflies and oak trees.

COMING EVENTS

Thursday, March 13, 7:30 P.M., Providence Baptist Church, 6520 Ray Rd, Raleigh.
TASC meeting. Topic to be announced.

Thursday, April 10, 7:30 P.M., Providence Baptist Church, 6339 Glenwood Ave., Raleigh
TASC meeting. Topic to be announced.

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