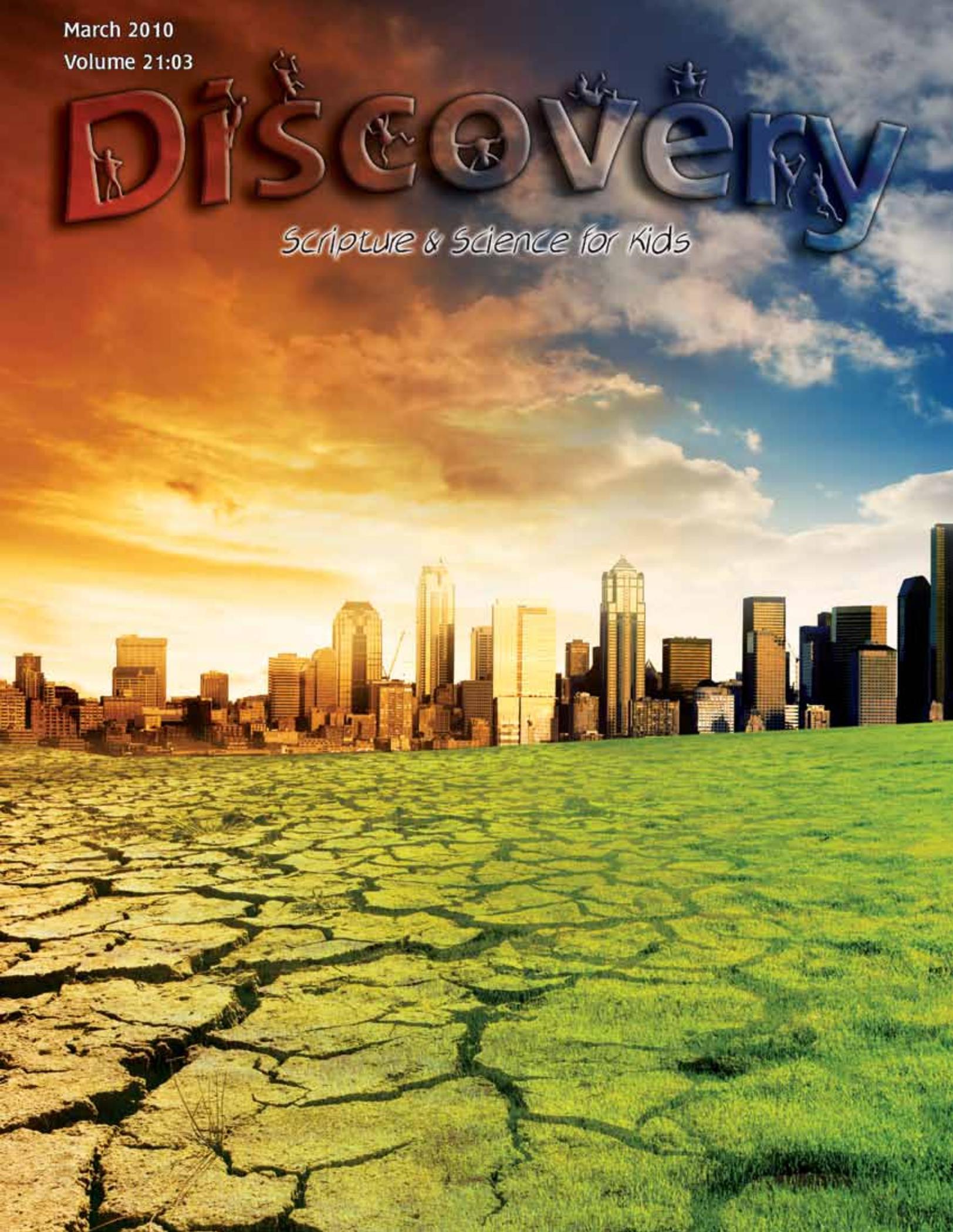


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Discovery

Scripture & Science for Kids



GLOBAL WARMING

ERIC LYONS

You may not watch as much news as your parents, but most likely you have heard of “global warming.” For several years, newscasters, politicians, and scientists around the world have said that the Earth is warming. Since the late 1800s, the Earth’s average temperature reportedly has risen about 1.2 degrees Fahrenheit. Along with this slight increase in temperature, we are told that many of the world’s glaciers and ice sheets are slowly melting, thereby causing a small rise in the sea level over the past 100 years.

Whether the Earth’s average temperature is warming, cooling, or remaining fairly steady is somewhat unclear. Have many glaciers receded

during the past century? Yes. Has the worldwide average temperature risen slightly over the past 100 years? Many scientists believe so. Have temperatures risen over the past 15 years? Some say “yes,” while others say “no.”

Considering that much of America has just experienced one of the coldest (and in some places, the snowiest) winters in recent memory, a growing number of people have a difficult time believing “the Earth is warming.” Also, since more scientists are using the expression “climate **change**,” rather than “global **warming**,” we are left with the impression that many scientists still are uncertain about the matter.

What We Do Know

Although it is frustrating how many unknowns surround “climate change,” there are some things that we can know for sure. For example, we can know that the Earth has gone through warming and cooling periods in the past. There is no debating this issue. **It is an established fact** accepted by both creationists and evolutionists. Long before planes, trains, and automobiles (which allegedly have caused much of today’s “global warming”) the Earth’s climate changed drastically. Consider the coldest place on Earth

today—Antarctica. At present, Antarctica is covered by roughly seven million cubic miles of ice (which represents 90% of all the ice on Earth). In addition, the average temperature at the South Pole is nearly minus 58 degrees Fahrenheit.

So what does this have to do with “global warming?” Simply this: **Antarctica has not always been the frigid, icy area it is today.** Scientists know that the South Pole was once warm and green. Can you believe it? It’s true. Long ago, Antarctica’s climate was almost subtropical—more like that of the central part of the United States. The fossil record indicates that in the past Antarctica was lush with ferns, flowering plants, and conifer trees, and was even the home of several different kinds of dinosaurs.



What’s more, Antarctica was not alone: some of the coldest places on Earth today, including Greenland, Alaska, and the Arctic, were once far warmer. The fossil record shows that freshwater ferns once thrived in the Arctic Ocean, while breadfruit trees, which today flourish in warm places like Hawaii, once grew in Greenland. Even climate sensitive turtles once lived in the Arctic.

The fact is, our planet has gone through various stages of warming and cooling throughout its history. At one time, ice covered more of the Earth than at present. (Scientists refer to these periods as “ice ages.”) At other times, even the Earth’s Arctic and Antarctic regions were virtually ice-free.

No one knows for certain what all caused the Earth to be warmer or cooler in the past. What we do know is that our forefathers have been on the Earth “from the foundation of the world” (Luke 11:50-51; Genesis 1-2). They survived times when the Earth (as a whole) was cooler, as well as when the Earth was warmer. In cooler periods, our ancestors, no doubt, built more fires, wore more clothes, and stayed in their shelters longer periods of time. In warmer periods (when ice melted), our ancestors surely enjoyed the outdoors more and were smart enough to move to higher ground when sea levels rose.

When Adam and Eve were driven from the Garden of Eden, they had to learn to adapt to their new environment. When Noah stepped out of the ark onto dry ground for the first time in a year, he had to get used to a new world that had been completely flooded. During the seven years of famine in the days of Joseph, mankind had to adjust.

If Jesus delays His return for hundreds or thousands of years (which He may not), the Earth’s climate will likely change. Regardless of how much coal man burns, or how many gas-guzzling cars he drives, history has shown us that the Earth’s climate varies over time. When those climate changes occur, man must learn to adapt.

Even the deep South, which rarely sees snow, got a nice surprise this winter.



MAN CAN'T

"SAVE THE PLANET!"

DAVE MILLER

A person who is concerned about protecting our planet from pollution and damage is called an environmentalist. While it is true that humans need to be good stewards of the Earth, many extreme environmentalists today believe that humans have the power to destroy the environment. You've heard their hype. They say our planet is warming up. They say that this "global warming" is dangerous and could cause animals, plants, and even humans to die. They say we all have to work hard to stop those things that are causing this warming. They say it's up to humans to "save the planet."

How do they say we can save the planet? Well, they say we need to get rid of some of the cows, since cows and their manure leak methane gas. That's right, they claim that gaseous expulsions by cows damage the planet more than fumes from cars. To offset cow belching, some environmentalists are trying to develop new kinds of plants that cows can digest easier. Others say we need to get rid of some moose since they emit carbon dioxide. Australian scientists say that kangaroos produce almost no greenhouse gas methane due to their unique digestive bacteria. So the scientists want to transplant the kangaroo bacteria into cows and sheep to prevent them from adding to global warming. How crazy is that! And that's not all. Some believe that even having children is bad—since humans pollute the planet and emit carbon dioxide.

But wait! We know that **God created Earth**, along with plants, animals, and humans (Genesis 1-2). We know that **He** put humans on Earth so they can decide to serve Him and live their lives in such a way that they can be with Him forever in heaven. So we know that the Earth will last just as long as God intended. After all, it is Jesus Who is "upholding all things by the word of His power" (Hebrews 1:3). It is in Jesus that "all things hold together" in the entire Universe (Colossians 1:17). Peter said that "the heavens and the earth which now exist are **kept in store** by the same word" (2 Peter 3:7). Paul announced to the Greek philosophers: "[F]or **in Him** we live and move and have our being" (Acts 17:28). So we can be assured that the environment will keep work-

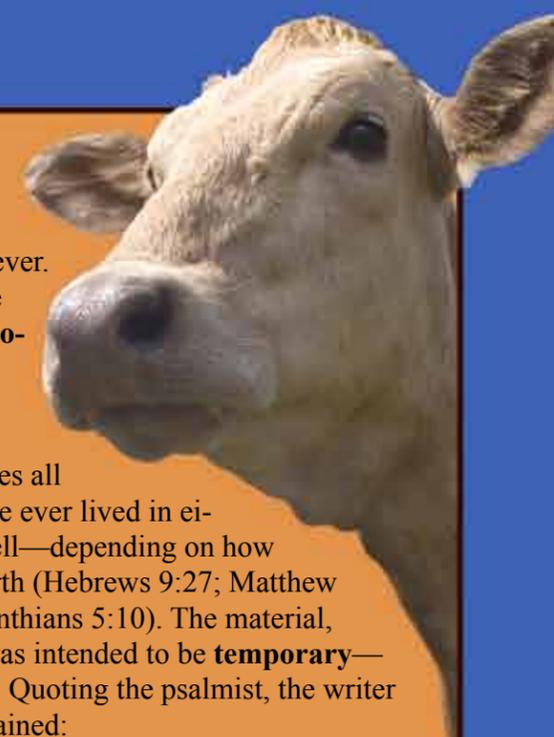
ing and stay suitable for life for as long as God intends. He is the great Sustainer.

We also know that the carbon dioxide that comes out of animals and humans is necessary for green plants to produce oxygen. Humans do not need to "regulate" the release of carbon dioxide! God has already done that—and continues to do so! The exchange between plants, animals, and humans is due to **divine design**. That's why Christians don't have to worry about whether the environment is going to survive. God is taking care of that! It's far more important to remember that humans possess inherent value and worth that surpasses the value of either animals or the environment (Matthew 10:31; Luke 12:24).

On the other hand, if God does not exist (as many environmentalists and evolutionists believe), then the physical environment must be protected and preserved by humans in order for life to continue. So those who think that the future of the Earth is dependent on human efforts to save the planet either do not believe in God, or they have not studied His Word to see that He is taking care of Earth.

God never intended for the planet to last forever. God intended the Earth to be **temporary**. It will last only until God burns it all up (2 Peter 3) and places all humans who have ever lived in either heaven or hell—depending on how they lived on Earth (Hebrews 9:27; Matthew 25:31-46; 2 Corinthians 5:10). The material, physical realm was intended to be **temporary**—by divine design. Quoting the psalmist, the writer of Hebrews explained:

You, Lord, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands. **They will perish**, but You remain; and **they will all grow old like a garment**; like a cloak **You will fold them up** (1:10-12).



ACTIVITY PAGES



MATCHING

1. ___ Theory that says human ancestors include fish and frogs
2. ___ Theory that says the Earth is heating up and man is one of the main reasons for the planet's increased temperatures
3. ___ Will destroy the Earth with fire
4. ___ Created on day six of Creation
5. ___ Necessary for green plants to produce oxygen
6. ___ Created on day five of Creation

FILL IN THE BLANKS

1. When Adam and _____ were driven from the Garden of _____, they had to learn to adapt to their new environment.
2. During the _____ years of famine in the days of Joseph, mankind had to adjust accordingly.
3. Neither evolution nor man-made global _____ has ever been proven.
4. Truth is _____, regardless of who, or how many, believe it.



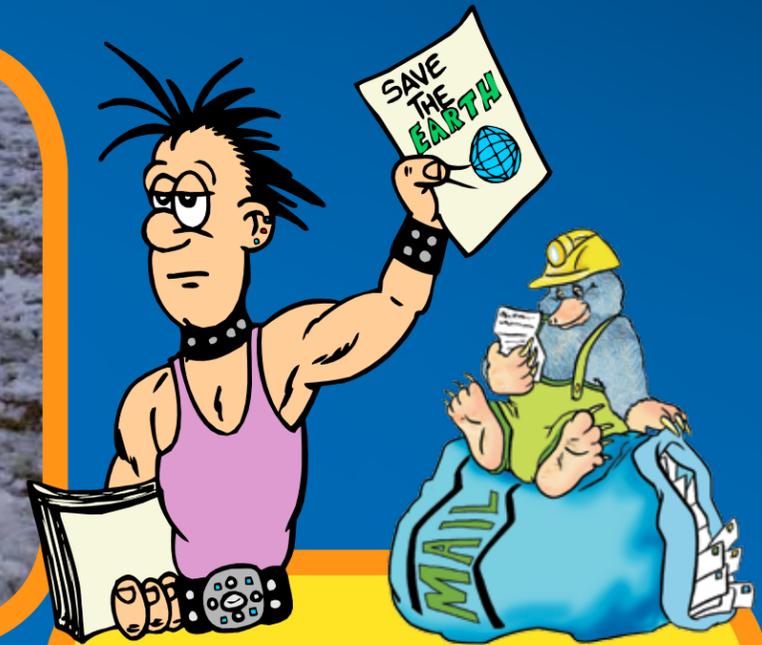
- A. Jesus
- B. Fish
- C. Carbon Dioxide
- D. Global Warming
- E. Humans
- F. Evolution

ROB BAKER, A.P.'S GRAPHIC DESIGN ARTIST, RECENTLY MADE A MINNIE MOUSE SNOW "WOMAN" WITH MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA'S BIGGEST SNOW-FALL IN SEVERAL YEARS.



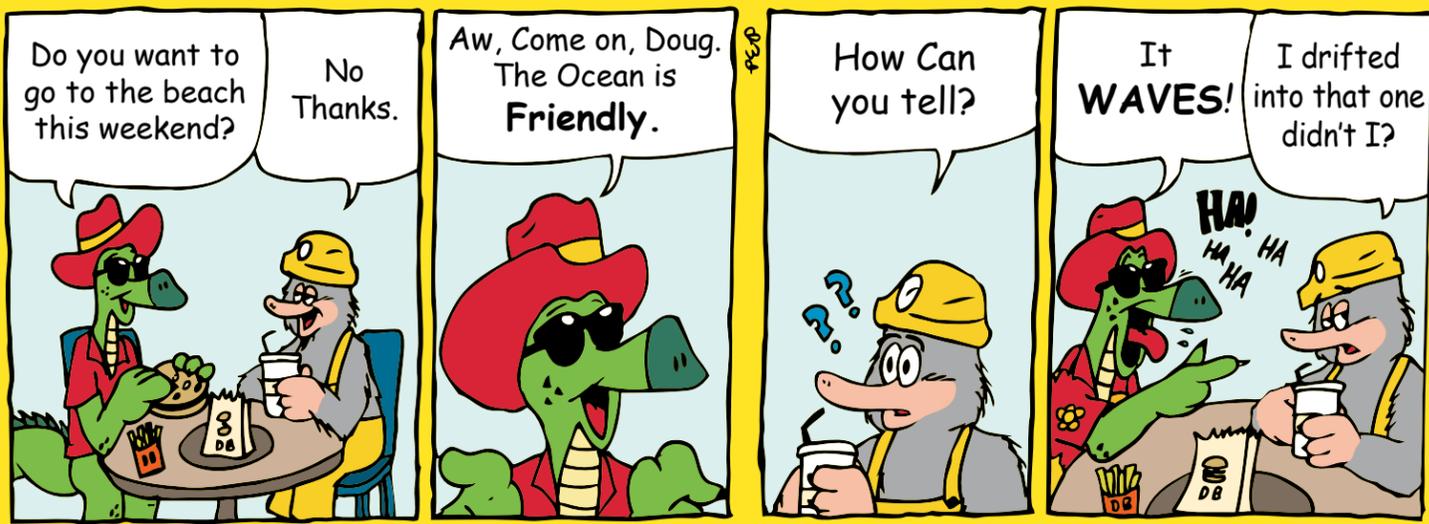
TRUE OR FALSE

1. ___ Man-made global warming is a proven fact.
2. ___ According to the Bible, man should do whatever it takes to keep the Earth from getting too warm.
3. ___ Antarctica has always been very cold and covered with ice.
4. ___ Long before planes, trains, and automobiles the Earth's climate changed drastically.
5. ___ All scientists believe in evolution and man-made global warming.
6. ___ Truth is not determined by the opinions of anyone.
7. ___ People should be good stewards of what God created for us.
8. ___ The Earth will remain the home of mankind until Jesus returns to judge the world and destroy the Earth.
9. ___ The Earth has gone through stages of warming and cooling throughout its history.
10. ___ The South Pole was once warm and green.



Dear Digger Doug,
Do dinosaurs have ears?
—Peyton Blair, Pikeville, KY

Dear Peyton,
Great question. Have you ever seen a picture of a dinosaur with ears? Probably not the kind of ears like humans, cats, or dogs have. Why? To answer your question, think about reptiles and amphibians that are living today. Do turtles have ears? What about snakes, lizards, or frogs—do they have ears? Since dinosaurs were reptiles, they most likely did not have external (outside ears) like you see on a dog or cat. Instead, they probably had ears like you see on other reptiles. Some reptiles have holes in their heads that lead to their internal (inside) ears. Certain amphibians, like many frogs, have a thin layer of skin just behind their eyes called a tympanum. This thin skin detects sounds by acting like an eardrum. Whichever of these kinds of ears dinosaurs had, you can be sure that God designed their ears just right for them.





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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

EVOLUTION and Global Warming

ERIC LYONS

Evolution and man-made global warming are two different theories. Evolution says that human ancestors include fish and frogs. Global warming has to do with the supposed rising temperatures on Earth, which many say are caused by man's use of coal, oil, and gas, among other things. So what do these two theories have in common?

First, so many of those who believe in evolution and man-made global warming act as if both theories are proven facts. When people bring up scientific evidence that contradicts either theory, the evidence often is either dismissed or "explained" away. Why? Because "everyone (supposedly) knows" that evolution and man-made global warming are proven facts. The problem is, neither evolution nor man-made global warming has ever been proven.

Second, defenders of evolution and man-made global warming have attempted to convince people that all smart scientists believe in these theories. Many students have accepted evolution and man-made global warming as factual,



not because the evidence proves them to be true, but because their "brilliant" teachers declare that they are true. The fact is, however, many thousands of brilliant scientists around the world reject both evolution and man-made global warming. Furthermore, truth is not determined by the opinions of anyone. Truth is truth, regardless of who, or how many, believe it.

Consider a final similarity these two theories share: neither is based upon the truths of God's Word. The Bible tells us that God created fish on day five of Creation, and man on day six. Man did not evolve from fish (or anything else) over millions of years. What's more, the Bible indicates that Jesus, not man-made global warming, is going to destroy Earth. People should certainly try to be good stewards of what God created for us, but that doesn't mean we should not drive cars that expel carbon dioxide, or that we shouldn't raise cows that belch methane gas. The fact is, this Earth will remain the home of mankind until Jesus returns to judge the world and destroy the Earth.

ANSWERS

TRUE OR FALSE: 1-F; 2-F; 3-F; 4-T; 5-F; 6-T; 7-T; 8-T; 9-T; 10-T.
 MATCHING: 1. F (Evolution); 2. D (Global Warming); 3. A (Jesus); 4. E (Humans); 5. C (Carbon Dioxide); 6. B (Fish).
 FILL IN THE BLANKS: 1. Eve; Eden; 2. seven; 3. warming; 4. truth.

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