

# Article

## Twenty-Five ASA Fellows and Editors Tell of PSCF Articles That Changed Their Lives

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### 2003, 2010

CAROL A. HILL, "Making Sense of the Numbers of Genesis," *PSCF* 55, no. 4 (2003): 239–51; and DENNIS R. VENEMA, "Genesis and the Genome: Genomics Evidence for Human-Ape Common Ancestry and Ancestral Hominid Population Sizes," *PSCF* 62, no. 3 (2010): 166–78.

Carol Hill's article documents the extensive use of symbolic numbers ascribed to people in the ancient near east as though they were their chronological age, when in fact they were intended to be symbolic of their character and/or accomplishments. The documentation shows that this information was in the *Jewish Encyclopedia* for 1903! What a pity this has been kept a secret for over a century! Think of all the churchgoers who have puzzled over the ages ascribed to Adam or Noah, and how helped they would have been by this simple explanation.

I have also found especially helpful, Dennis Venema's "Genesis and the Genome." I am not a biologist, but I found his clear explanations of the findings of contemporary genetics in relation to human evolution, both enlightening and compelling.

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### 2005, 1991, 2022

PERRY PHILLIPS, "The Thrice-Supported Big Bang," *PSCF* 57, no. 2 (2005): 82–96; FRED G. VAN DYKE, "Ecology and the Christian Mind," *PSCF* 43, no. 3 (1991): 174–84; and ALAN DICKIN, "The Design of Noah's Ark," *PSCF* 74, no. 2 (2022): 92–105.

The current scientific model of the beginning of the universe is clearly described in an article by Perry Phillips in the 2005 *PSCF* article "The Thrice-Supported Big Bang." Perry describes the history of the universe from  $1 \times 10^{-43}$  second onward, highlighting the three key elements supporting the hot Big Bang. The descriptions in this article are understandable to individuals with a good understanding of high school science. Knowing that the universe has a beginning in time neatly agrees with a God external to the universe. Perry concludes by debunking "alternative theories" of young earth creationists.

I have been able to use this article when sharing with my young earth friends including some pastors in my Southern Baptist Church.

Another article I have referred to colleagues is Fred Van Dyke's article documenting the important shift in attitudes in ecology. Secular scientists no longer regard Christians as the cause of the ecological crisis but realize the important contributions of ecology science in Christian Colleges. A secular ecologist who believes in an accidental and random creation of life on Earth does not have a philosophical teleology to argue that humans should sacrifice for the environment. A proper understanding of the biblical concept of stewardship gives a logical philosophical reason as to why we should care for creation.

I recently shared a *PSCF* article by Alan Dickin on the design of Noah's ark with a friend who is on the board of trustees of the Ark Experience in Kentucky. There was no conversion, but hopefully better understanding of the diversity of perspectives within the Christian community. *PSCF* allows us to share insights on what it means to take biblical revelation and science seriously.

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### 2007, 2008

RANDY ISAAC, "Assessing the RATE Project," *PSCF* 59, no. 2 (2007): 143–46; THE RATE GROUP (LARRY VARDIMAN et al.), "RATE Responds to the Isaac Essay Review," *PSCF* 60, no. 1 (2008): 35–36; RANDY ISAAC, "Isaac Replies," *PSCF* 60, no. 1 (2008): 36–38; KIRK BERTSCHE, "Intrinsic Radiocarbon?," *PSCF* 60, no. 1 (2008): 38–39; and ROBERT ROGLAND, "Residual Radiocarbon in an Old-Earth Scenario," *PSCF* 59, no. 3 (2007): 226–28.

I grew up in a religious context, including school, church, and home, where young-earth creationism was standard fare. When I went off to study science at university, it was implicitly, and in some cases explicitly, indicated to me that my mission was to expose the scientific establishment for its anti-God and anti-Bible views, and to identify its scientific errors. After all, when done correctly, science would no doubt confirm the truth of the Bible, meaning the universe, earth, life, and humanity were created around 4000 BC.