



Upcoming Schedule

April 19-22

Matt & Ryan at Parkview Christian Church
Sedalia, MO

May 3

Ryan at Springerton Christian Church
Springerton, IL

May 12

CTF Fossils at Gateway Church
Grand Prairie, TX

May 17-20

Ryan at Calvary Chapel
Norman, OK

May 24-28

Matt at First Christian Church
Canadian, TX

May 26-29

Ryan at Genesis Week Camp
Flora, IL

May 31-June 3

Ryan at Grissom Church of Christ
Peru, IN

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FATHER ABRAHAM

In Genesis 12 the Lord calls Abraham (Abram) to be the father of a great nation. This all happened to Abraham at 75 years old. Some might say that is too late in life to start something new, especially a calling of that magnitude. Yet that was not the overwhelming part to me; that would come in verse 7 when the Lord said the land would be his offspring's. Wait, what?! The Lord had a plan and His Providence would guide Abraham, even when Abraham did not have offspring and did not wait on the Lord. I have to wonder how I would have reacted to such a call and covenant.



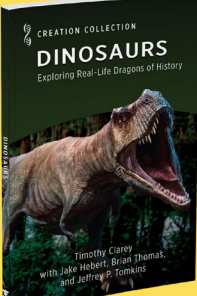
Matt Miles - President
matt@creationtruth.com

As we know from Psalms, the Lord guides and sustains all by His Providence for His name sake, which we are focusing on this year. But does Providence act on our timing? When God called Abraham, he had no children. Yet the promise given was that his offspring would be a great nation in a land saved for them. What we know now is that Abraham wouldn't have his son Isaac until he was 100 years old, a full 25 years after the covenant was made. Most of the time we expect the Lord's hand working in our life to be immediate, but that is not always the case. In some cases it might take years to experience the Providence coming to fruition. Remember Genesis 21:2 states Isaac's birth was at the "appointed time." This understanding should give us peace as we rely on Providence and, at times, are called to patience.

Providence was again on display for us to understand that even in obedient sacrifice He will be glorified, as Abraham was asked to sacrifice his son, Isaac, who was inherently tied to the covenant of the Lord. Abraham was faithful in all aspects, even when most of us might say "no way" to that sacrifice to the Lord. Yet at the right time, through faithfulness in Abraham's obedience, there was Providence providing behind him in the ram. Our faithful obedience sometimes feels like a tough ask from the Lord, but rest assured He is there, ready to lift up His name through us.

Providence continued through time, 100 years later, after Isaac had his sons, Jacob and Esau. Then Jacob was blessed by the Lord with 12 sons, one of which was Joseph, who was sold to Egypt by his brothers. You probably recall all the ups and downs of Joseph's life, yet he was faithful to the Lord throughout them all. Remember, there was a covenant at stake. The Lord, through His Providence, made sure he had Joseph where He needed him to save the great nation of Israel from famine. This Providence secured the covenant line to continue to Christ.

Many times throughout history Providence has guided and protected His covenant, and now you and I can be blessed with inclusion in His great nation through Christ. If it had not been so, then we literally have no assurance of our salvation. Praise be to our Lord Jesus Christ that His Providence is faithful for all eternity, so we may know peace and have confidence in the promised destiny. Our ministry here at CTF has always emphasized the importance of Genesis 12, Abraham's covenant. We share there is no difference in importance of Genesis 1-11 over chapter 12 and through the entirety of the Bible. The whole Bible is inspired to be trustworthy and to show His Providence throughout history for His name's sake and also for our salvation. Blessings.



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New Book Available

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DINOSAURS

By Tim Clarey with Jake Hebert, Brian Thomas, & Jeffrey P. Tomkins

If you go to almost any natural history museum, you'll be told that dinosaurs dominated our world in an Age of Reptiles until a gigantic cataclysm wiped them out 66 million years ago. This story is usually accepted without question—but is it true? Science and history paint a very different picture. Dinosaurs not only lived recently, their fossils still contain original biomaterial that couldn't possibly last for millions of years. This aligns with the biblical account of a global flood that buried and fossilized billions of creature just thousands of years ago. Join ICR scientists as they show how the evidence demonstrates that dinosaurs are compatible with the Bible but not with evolution.

Paperback • 155 pages • Junior High-Adult

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AMERICA'S EPIC ADVENTURE™
 CTF'S NEWEST VBS CURRICULUM
 From Lesson 2: *The Protected*, Be strong
 and courageous – Joshua 1:9



A MIRACULOUS SHIELD PART 1

After Plymouth colony became successful, tens of thousands of people moved to the American colonies. In 1625, with only Plymouth and Jamestown, there were 1,980 people. 150 years later there would be 2.4 million!

Everything was great as people were living in freedom, but things in the 1750's would begin the process of forever changing the world.

75,000 French traders and soldiers began travelling up and down the rivers of the western frontier. They became good friends with Native Americans, who did not like how fast British colonies were growing. The French built forts along the four main rivers: the Ohio, St. Lawrence, Allegheny, and Mississippi rivers.

This made several Englishmen nervous who owned property or were fur traders in the west. This included the governor of Virginia (Robert Dinwiddie) and George Washington's older brothers (Lawrence and Augustine, though Lawrence would die before these events happened).

A Special Mission

In October of 1753, Governor Dinwiddie sent 21-year-old Major George Washington and an Indian agent named Christopher Gist on an 11-week round trip to meet with the French forces in northwestern Pennsylvania. They travelled through snow, storms, dense forests, mountains, and freezing rivers, and were even shot at on one occasion by natives. They risked their lives just for the French general to send back with them a letter saying they would not withdraw from the lands claimed by the British. Both the French and the British would now prepare for war.

Another Important Mission

The following May (1754) George was sent out with Virginia forces to cut a road through the woods that would be used to capture Fort Duquesne (pronounced *Doo-cain*). It was at a very important place where two rivers (the *Allegheny* and *Monongahela*) came together to make the Ohio River. Today it is the city of Pittsburgh.

About 60 miles away from that fort, Indian scouts alerted Washington to nearby French troops. He ordered the immediate construction of Fort Necessity in a large open area called the Great Meadows, which turned out to be a glorified wooden fence with a storehouse in the middle. George would find out that it was just a scouting party, so he led a group of Virginians and Indians to confront them. They easily surprised and defeated them. But after the French had surrendered, the chieftain (called the "Half King") killed the French commander!

When the French found out, they were very upset and sent soldiers to attack Washington, led by the murdered commander's brother. The French and Indian force of 600-700 attacked Washington's forces of nearly 400 on July 3, 1754 at about 11:00 am. The battle continued until 8:00 pm. A heavy rain had flooded the trenches Washington's men had dug, so they had to fire over the fort's walls, mostly shooting over the enemy's heads. The Indians, though had climbed up into trees and were shooting down into the fort.



Fort Necessity, also known as the Battle of the Great Meadows Photo by Amanda Cox

Washington finally accepted terms of surrender that evening, and the entire regiment was allowed to return home to Virginia the next day. It would be the only surrender ever in George Washington's military career. He and his men received a public thanks by the Virginia government upon their return.

But the French now controlled the West, plundering any English traders who might journey out there. Once news of all this reached England and France, things quickly began to spiral out of control into a war so big it would be fought all around the world!

The English sent their forces to America, and the French sent theirs. Britain's ally Prussia joined them. France's allies Austria and Russia joined them. The world ended up seeing its first ever global war, which lasted 7 years. It is now called the Seven Years War but was known in America as the French and Indian War. What would soon transpire would make George Washington a common and legendary name throughout the colonies.



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