



Think & Believe

A Publication of Alpha Omega Institute

Jan./Feb. 1993; Vol.10 No.1

SIX DAYS?

by Dave and Mary Jo Nutting

Genesis teaches that God created the heavens and the earth and all that is in them in six days. Some try to "harmonize" this with "modern science" by interpreting the word "days" in Genesis 1 as long periods of time. Were these real days or was the term "day" used in a figurative sense? Consider the following points:

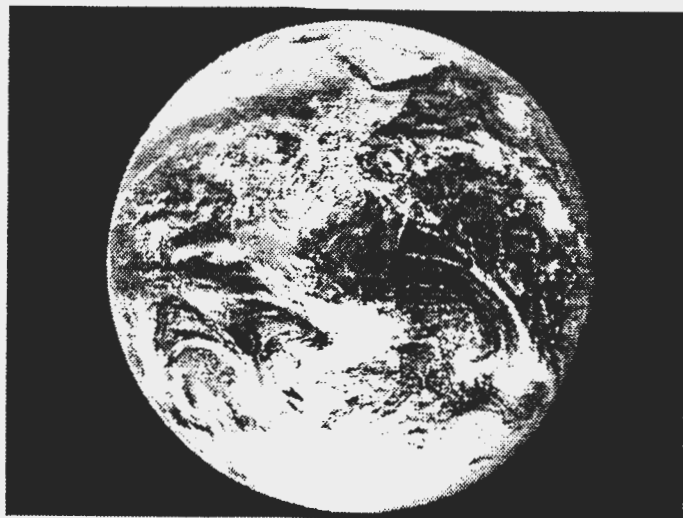
1. God is able to communicate clearly. He defines His terms in Genesis, ending the description of His creative activity on each day with the phrase, "there was evening, and there was morning." If God really meant a literal 6 day creation, how could He have made it any clearer for all people in all cultures in all times? A day in any culture involves a period of darkness and a period of light. Under any other circumstances, it would certainly not even be questioned. The plain and simple reading would indicate a literal day.

2. "Yom," the Hebrew word used for "day," means a literal day over 1200 times in the Old Testament. While it is occasionally used in a more general sense, this is usually quite clear from the context. Also, whenever "yom" is used with a specific numerical modifier elsewhere in Scripture, it clearly indicates a literal day. Finally, there are other terms that could be used to more clearly indicate an unspecified amount of time. Therefore, unless the context compels a more general interpretation, "yom" would normally be translated as a literal "day." (See Morris, *The Genesis Record*, or Stambaugh, *Ex Nihilo Technical Journal*, Vol 5, Part 1, 1991, for an in-depth discussion.)

3. Exodus 20:8-11 concurs with Genesis 1 on a six-day creation where God uses the literal six-day creation as the rationale for the commandment to keep the Sabbath. He says, "Six days you shall labor and

do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath of the Lord your God ... For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day." Interestingly, this passage was not only inspired by God, but supernaturally inscribed on tablets of stone. God Himself instituted the seven-day week as a reminder of the fact that He created in six days and rested on the seventh. (By the way, days, years, and months, are all based on the movement of our earth and moon in space -- there is no such physical yardstick for the week. It reflects God's creative work.)

Most Hebrew scholars agree that the Bible teaches a literal six day creation. Some may find that hard to believe, but our wise and powerful God could do rapidly what they think would take billions of years. After all, God doesn't have to work through the Environmental Protection Agency. He can get things done **much more quickly** than some might think!



Planet Earth: Young or Old?

NOTES & QUOTES

■ In the Sept./Oct. 1992 issue of *Think & Believe*, we had an article entitled "The Right Approach" and invited responses from readers. Daniel Schobert of Plover, WI, sent the following excellent comments:

□ How should young people react in the classroom when it comes to the presentation [of] evolution, etc? In speaking with a number of educators, including Duane Gish, a good approach is to not argue with a teacher, since most students are not in a good position to win such an argument...after all, the teacher is in charge and could pass or fail a student. Furthermore, most students ... especially the young ones, are not usually well prepared to present a good argument. What I've been recommending to those who bring this up when I speak is for the student to pay attention in class, even when the teacher is discussing evolution. There will come a time when the information (?) from the teacher and from the textbooks will be expected from the student, in the form of a test or a term paper, etc. At those times the students should say: "According to this person...according to the textbook...etc..." This tells the teacher that the student has not been asleep and is doing what is expected.

But I recommend the student not stop at that point. Here is the place and time for the student to add a paragraph or more and explain why the evolutionary concepts are rejected and to present a position in favor of creation. This approach has been used very successfully. Our main goal is to encourage discussion and to bring that teacher to a better understanding of the issue. In a number of cases, the teachers have actually had a change of mind.

The task we face, as those involved in creation ministries, is to encourage others to do some outside work, to do some outside reading and thinking for the data and arguments supportive of creation, as we know, are not usually in a typical textbook. This is something Steve Austin said he had to do as he worked through the problems, especially in his doctoral studies at Penn. State.

I have often sensed in the people I meet a desire to impart a creationist perspective BUT the lack of desire to put forth the work to develop that perspective in their own minds. In other words, so many people want easy answers.

As I've looked at the whole discussion concerning evolution/creation, I have come to the conclusion that while the data is interesting, the issue is really: belief. And it amounts to the degree to which a person is

willing/able to believe a normal rendering of the Bible. At the point where a less than normal reading of the Word is accepted, the person's position is being tainted by external/non-biblical ideas. As creation educators, we have the task and joy of placing before the minds of others, information and perspectives ... but not everyone will believe ... these things are out of our hands. By and large, however, the efforts of the creation movement has been to encourage people to change their minds ... to see that the Bible is true and can be trusted.

■ Thanks, Daniel. We heartily agree and can add only a bit. While students should avoid arguing with their teachers, it is appropriate to respectfully ask questions and contribute to discussion. Sometimes it is best to talk with teachers after class, provide them with good creation materials, or suggest inviting a creation speaker to present an alternative view. Students should always do the very best work they can in class, do the extra study needed to learn creation evidences, and back up their words with a strong Christian lifestyle. Most importantly, they should pray for their teachers. Our goal is not to win arguments, but to lead people to Christ.

■ Thinking about coming to camp next summer? Maybe these comments from last year's participants will convince you to send in your registration TODAY!

□ [We] wish to say "Thank you so much" for all the work that you two did to make the Redcloud Family Camp the heavenly experience that it was.

When we got back, people asked how our week went. "It was probably the best week I've had in recent memory," I'd answer as they went on about their task at hand. ... if only there was a way for me to take what was in my head and put it inside of theirs, maybe they would fully understand what a week at Redcloud is like. (M.M., Kansas)

□ Here's a snapshot of Luke and you with a prized trophy fish! Thanks to you and your family for great leadership and teaching during the Twin Peaks Camp. We learned a great deal and were refreshed by the week. Now, how do we sign up for Redcloud for 1993? (M.N., Ohio)

□ Thanks a lot for the very enjoyable and informative Family Mountain Adventure at Camp Redcloud. What a creative format for presenting a seminar for the evidences for creation science. It was mentally stimulating and exciting, physically challenging and refreshing, and spiritually profitable and inspiring. (R.E., Texas)

SPOTLIGHT ON SCIENCE

Radioactive Dating Woes

Radioactive dating methods are commonly cited as "evidence" the earth is "billions of years old." They are often referred to in textbooks as "absolute" dating methods and are presented as being very reliable. In past issues of **Think & Believe**, we have discussed problems relating to the accuracy of these methods and the plausibility of the underlying assumptions. Now, even more problems have surfaced.

Rubidium/strontium dating is usually considered to be one of the most accurate of all the radioactive decay dating methods. However, research by Dr. Steve Austin on Grand Canyon rocks challenges this belief. Utilizing good research techniques, and with the necessary permits, Dr. Austin took samples of volcanic rock from Vulcan's Throne, near the top of the canyon, and Cardenas Basalt near the bottom. These were then "dated" by a major lab using standard procedures.

The volcanic material from Vulcan's Throne flows down into the canyon and thus is obviously more recent than the Cardenas Basalt, which underlies the canyon walls. Hence, we would expect that the rocks from Vulcan's Throne should give dates much more recent than those of the lava of the Cardenas layer. Strangely enough, though, using the rubidium/strontium decay dating method, the recent rocks turned out to be about a billion years older than the underlying rock layers.

What gives? When I asked a geologist park ranger at the canyon for an explanation, at first he denied the data. Later, he did some investigation and found there indeed was a problem. "However," he said, "There is a good explanation." He said that this "absolute" dating method is accurate only on "ancient" events and not on recent events. "How do you know that," I asked. He answered, "Well, every time we date something that is recent, we get horrible results!" I answered, "If you get horrible results on things of known age, how can you rely on them to give you accurate results on things of unknown age." He had no answer.

While we do not accept the "billions of years" interpretation, this data brings into question the accuracy of the method as a whole. Such a clear contradiction of expected results should make even evolutionary scientists question the method. For young-age creationists, it is just one more piece of data justifying rejection of radioactive dating methods as "proof" of an old, old, earth.

A Young Universe?

Is there really evidence of a young universe? Physicist Dr. Russell Humphreys, believes there is. In an article called "Evidence for a Young Universe," he lists and explains 15 natural phenomena conflicting with the idea that the universe is billions of years old as required for evolution. He says there are many others. The following items are condensed from his publication.

- 1. Galaxies wind themselves up too fast.** According to observed rotational rates, the spiral shape of our galaxy indicates that it could not possibly be billions of years old.
- 2. Comets disintegrate too quickly.** As they near the sun comets lose material. Calculations show that they could survive no longer than 100,000 years maximum, and many types no more than 10,000 years.
- 3. Earth's continents erode too fast.** It would take only 15 million years for all the land to be eroded into the sea. [Whoops-there goes the fossil record of evolution!]
- 4. Not enough sediment on the sea floors.** Even at the current rate of sedimentation, the maximum age for the ocean floor is less than 15 million years. [During the Flood, rates would have been much higher.]
- 5. The ocean accumulates sodium too fast.** Assuming that the ocean had no sodium to begin with, and assuming present-day rates of accumulation, it would be much younger than presently suggested.
- 6. The earth's magnetic field is decaying too fast.** Projecting back on the basis of current rates, a maximum age of 10,000 years is obtained.
- 7. Multi-layer fossils straddle too many strata.** These "polystrate" fossils indicate that all the layers they penetrate must have been deposited within a few years maximum, not millions of years.

That should be enough to pique your interest! Note that the ages given are maximum ages based upon current rates. If conditions in the past were different, as in the creation/flood model, these rates could have been much more rapid. In fact, Dr. Humphreys says that each fits well with a Biblical time scale of 6000 years! Write to us for a full copy of Dr. Humphreys' excellent, referenced, 4 page article. (One copy free, but donations to help defray cost are appreciated.)

EVENTS

(Call local contact for time and place.)

- Jan 29,30: Denver, CO:** Vineyard SW HS Support Group
Contact Tom or Donna Stoner, 303-922-1641.
- Jan 31: Westminster, CO:** Westminster Reformed Presbyterian.
Contact John Duke, 303-466-7657.
- Feb 2: Arvada, CO:** Maranatha Christian Center School
Contact Allen Polsen, 303-431-5653.
- Feb 3,4: Wauneta, NE:** Area-wide Seminar
Contact Rod Wheeler, 308-394-5594.
- Feb 5,6: Sterling, CO:** First Baptist Church
Contact Pastor John Roberts, 303-522-9002.
- Feb 7: Boulder, CO:** Calvary Chapel.
Contact Pastor Richey Furay 303-442-8671.
- Feb 10,11: Estes Park, CO:** Abundant Life Christian Center
Contact Pastor Bill Hite, 303-586-4340.
- Feb 14: Vail, CO:** Vail Bible Church
Contact Church, 303-949-6585.
- Feb 21: Glenwood Springs, CO:** Church of Christ
Contact Mark, 303-945-6202 or Karen, 984-2569.
- Feb 26: Grand Junction, CO:** Alpha Omega Science Fair
Contact Frances Hatcher, 303-241-3059.
- Feb 28: Montrose, CO:** Victory Baptist
Contact Church, 249-6874.
- Mar 1-5: Lake City, CO:** Camp Redcloud Winter Adventure
Contact us, 303-245-5906.
- Mar 14: TBA Denver Area**
Contact Us, 303-245-5906.
- Mar 21: Vernal, UT:** Bethel Chapel (Tentative)
Contact Preston McNutt, 801-789-7777.
- Mar 28-30: Idaho Falls, ID:** Calvary Baptist.
Contact Pastor Herb Stoneman, 208-522-3601.
- Ap 2-4: Houston, TX:** Area and Church Conference.
Contact Tom Henderson, 713-482-7888.

PLEASE KEEP THIS SCHEDULE AND PRAY FOR US!

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

In This Issue:

- Six Days?
- Creation Vacation Brochure Enclosed!
- Student's Right Approach

CREATION VACATIONS

Our "Creation Vacations" are packed with fun and learning for the whole family. Each includes a fully slide-illustrated creation seminar with Dave and Mary Jo Nutting, praise and worship singing, special programs for kids, exciting recreational activities, and plenty of delicious food. There's something for everyone. Grandparents, how about sending your kids and grandkids to camp this summer? Better yet, join them for a memorable relationship-building experience together. These high-quality, affordable vacations fill early, so register ASAP. (See enclosed brochure for details and registration form.)

Redcloud Winter Family Adventure, March 1-5.
Twin Peaks Family Science Adventure, August 8-13.
Redcloud Family Mountain Adventure, August 15-20.

ATTENTION HOME EDUCATORS!

We are available to assist you in providing a biblical framework for teaching science. We have spoken to many homeschool groups, conferences and "Teen Tracks." Our seminars are fully illustrated and aimed at educating the whole family. Call or write for more information on sponsoring a seminar for your group.

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