

Think & Believe

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Creation and the Cross

by *Dave & Mary Jo Nutting*

People sometimes ask, “Why do you do what you do? Why travel around the country and the world talking about Evolution and Creation? Why don’t you just preach the Gospel?” Well, the reason we do it is because we believe God has called us to do it – and because we have seen Him use the message of Creation to change lives.

We realize that belief in Creation alone is not enough to save anyone. Salvation comes by believing the message of the Cross – that Jesus Christ is the Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world – that He is the only way to the Father. However, Evolution is a stumbling block that causes far too many people to doubt the Truth of the Bible, to question the very existence of God, and to reject or scoff at God’s plan of salvation. Sound, Biblical and scientific teaching about Creation and the Fall gives a firm foundation for understanding the nature of God, the condition of mankind, the reality of sin, the reason for Christ’s death on the Cross, and the Gospel message of John 3:16.

Think about it: What is the **Gospel in a nutshell**? It is just this – **the Creator of the universe died on the cross in order to save His sinful creatures**. Mankind was created in the image of God for fellowship with God. Sin brought death, separation, and the curse into the world. Jesus Christ, the Creator of the Universe

(see Colossians 1:16-17; John 1:1-3 and 14) took the penalty for sin upon Himself in order that we might be restored to life and fellowship with God. What Adam and Eve lost in the Garden, Jesus Christ gained back at the cross. One day He will come again to this earth to dwell among us – to reign and rule as King.

Academia, with all the supposed wisdom of this world, scoffs at this truth of Creation and the Gospel. Arrogant opponents of the Gospel sometimes call those of us who believe in Creation, ignorant, naïve, or foolish. They place a stumbling block before children, tripping up many who believe in Jesus Christ as Creator, Savior, and Lord, and hindering others from coming to Him in faith. Over the years, we have heard many statements similar to these:

“I wish you were here 5 years ago. My daughter was so active in the church. Then she went to college and was taught evolution. Now she won’t have anything to do with the church.”

“My son’s faith was stolen from him when he went to college.”

“Evolution is a fact. That means Genesis is false. If God can’t get the first book of the Bible right, how can I expect Him to get any other part right?”

AOI’s ministry is to teach the Truth of God’s Word, beginning in Genesis. We combat the lies of evolutionary dogma with sound Biblical and scientific evidence. We teach children and adults alike that trusting in God and His Word is the most intelligent choice they can ever make. What a joy it is to see Him use this simple message to change lives!

During this season of the year, as we focus on our Lord’s death and celebrate His resurrection, let us stand in awe of this One we call Savior – the very Creator of the Universe. May we bow before Him in simple faith, grateful thanks, and humble obedience – to worship Him and share His love with the lost and dying world. **T&B**



Gems From Genesis

Part 2: The Drama of Creation

by Mary Jo Nutting

Like a good movie, the Bible starts with intrigue – with a powerful attention-getter: “In the beginning, God created ...” With this verse, we are drawn into the story – left with a sense of wonder, awe, and a desire to know more. What was it like before creation? Why did He create? What was His purpose? What motivated Him? What did He create? When did He do it? How did He do it? How long did it take? What was it like when He finished? For the curious child or the serious student, the list goes on and on.

Many of these questions are answered to some degree in later verses and chapters of the Bible, but for a moment, let yourself be swept up and captured by the unfolding drama. Out of the mystery of eternity, God speaks ... and time begins. A series of awe-inspiring scenes capture

your attention. The Spirit moves, and light bursts forth. Waters above are separated from waters below, dry land is formed, and vegetation of all sorts springs forth from the newly formed ground. Suddenly, your gaze is irresistibly drawn to the heavens, where myriads of stars, the sun, and the moon appear. As you look back to the earth, you see the waters come alive with swarms of sea creatures, the heavens with birds, and the earth with living creatures of all sorts. Finally, an awed silence fills the air as man and woman are created – in the very image of God – and commissioned as stewards of His creation. God steps back, examines His handiwork, declares it “very good,” puts down His tools, and rests.

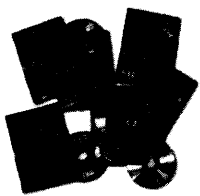
Can't you just hear the musical score as the angels sing in wonder? Do you hear the birds singing, the bees humming, and the happy laughter of Adam and Eve as they explore

their new home and delight in fellowship with God and one another? Do you see the awesome beauty of the newly created heavens and earth? Truly, this is a drama of epic proportions!

As we dig into Genesis, I encourage you to “enter into” the drama. Play it fast forward to be swept up in power, awe, and majesty; play it slow motion to discover fascinating, intricate details – but don't miss the credit that reads, “Based on a true story.” Yes, there are facts to find, lessons to learn, and drama to enjoy -- but most of all, there is a GOD to discover – a GOD to know, to worship, and to love. This is not just a story – not just a myth nor old dead history. This is true HIS-story. This is GOD's story. This is OUR story. Come along and enjoy the adventure! **T&B**

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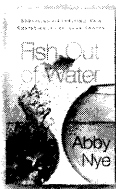
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Enzymes – Elegantly Designed for Cell Chemistry

by Dr. David Demmick, Guest Writer

The origin of life is a main focus in the creation/evolution debate. Evolutionists argue that living cells came from non-living stuff. Their arguments are groundless because scientific law contradicts this evolutionary belief. This law, called the “law of biogenesis” (all life comes from other life), has been established ever since Pasteur’s famous experiments (1860). Now, modern biochemistry is helping us see why the law of biogenesis is so powerful and universal. To better understand the issue, let’s look at the most important functional parts of cells -- the enzymes. What are they? What do they do? Why couldn’t they evolve by chance?

Over a hundred years ago, it was noticed that “simple” cells could do some mighty complex chemistry. Naturally, chemists were curious about this, and began taking cells apart to see how they worked. It was shown that non-living extracts from cells could sometimes produce the same reactions that their source cells could perform. The first such extract, isolated from yeast, was given the name “enzyme,” from the Greek “enzymos” (leaven). Since then, thousands of different enzymes have been isolated and studied. They are giant carbon-based molecules owing their remarkable chemical activity to **very exact construction**.

Enzymes are “catalysts,” meaning that they direct and speed up chemical reactions, but they also may have “switches” to turn reactions on or off according to cell

needs. They must have an exact fit to the molecules they work upon (the latter are called “substrates”). Their close fit to their substrates has been likened to a key fitting in a lock, or a hand in a glove.

Also, like the tumblers in a lock, they usually have chemical triggering parts, called “active sites.” Enzymes are actually hi-tech nanomachines (extremely tiny). They control each cell’s chemistry with great speed and high efficiency.

They convert food to energy, regulate metabolism, manufacture products for export to other cells, and build or maintain thousands of cell parts.

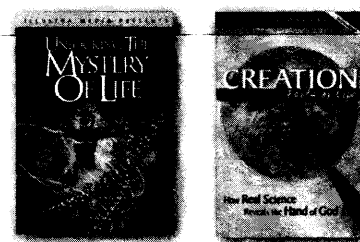
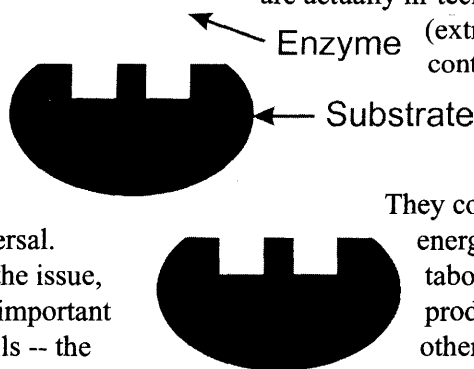
Here’s a brief lesson in how to recognize enzyme names. Enzymes are usually named for their main substrate, with an “-ase” suffix. Thus, an enzyme breaking down table sugar (sucrose) is “sucrase,” and a protein-digesting enzyme is a “protease.” One that multiplies a DNA strand is DNA polymerase. Some enzyme names and functions seem quite exotic. My own favorites are “flipase” and “scramblase” (not used for cooking eggs, but for orienting and spacing cell membrane proteins).

Why couldn’t enzymes evolve by chance chemistry? Three main reasons: (1) Carbon-based molecules tend to break down rather than get bigger. (2) If a few bigger ones do happen to form, they’re molecular junk rather than precise nanomachines. (3) If (by an evolutionary miracle) a functional enzyme ever happened by itself (and nothing even

remotely close to such an event has ever been observed), it would have to survive under hostile chemical conditions while hundreds of other precisely coordinated enzymes, assembly proteins, and genes were also showing up to make a cell. Mathematically, such an event is very, very, very close to absolutely impossible. Practically, it is beyond the reach of chance. (The analogy of spontaneous generation of living cells to a tornado in a junkyard forming a Boeing 747 is very good.)

So, life must have had an Author (*Acts 3:15). In a way, it’s true that we shouldn’t speak of “intelligent design,” for the term “superintelligent design” would better describe the wonders we see in cells. They are engineering marvels far beyond human intelligence. Modern cell biology is an echo of Isaiah 55:9, “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.” **T&B**

* Acts 3:15 “You killed the author (prince, KJV) of life, but God raised him from the dead. (NIV)” The use of the Greek word “archegos” here for Jesus Christ is interesting, as it denotes both an originator and a ruler.



Reference for further study: **Unlocking the Mystery of Life (DVD)** provides excellent visual effects showing enzyme and DNA/RNA activity. **Creation: The Facts of Life (Book)** by Dr. Gary Parker has a good section on enzymes. (Both are available from AOI: www.DiscoverCreation.org.) See the order form with this issue.

