

Think & Believe

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Be Creative – Be Fortified

by *Dave Nutting*

In the January/February issue of *Think & Believe* we included an article about Haeckel's Biogenetic "Law." We showed that, even though it had been disproved almost 100 years ago, it is still in many textbooks. When we share this information in seminars, many people react with shock or stunned disbelief. "Aren't textbooks periodically updated to reflect current scientific knowledge?" Some people have a hard time believing that textbook writers would still be using an old, outdated argument in favor of evolution.

Well, at a recent youth retreat of mostly public high school students, I was speaking on the main proofs for evolution and showed the problems with them. When I got to the section on the faked drawings of Ernst Haeckel, I quoted a Yale biologist saying that the theory was "dead as a doornail" and had been "exorcised from the textbooks in the fifties." Three hands immediately shot up and students exclaimed, "It's still in our textbooks!"

I played into the scenario with a look of disbelief and said, "Really? I can't believe it!" After they assured me it was true, I flipped to my next slide which had the words "It's still in the textbooks" flashing onto the screen. I think if they'd had their textbooks with them that night, they would have thrown them out.

It appeared that this was the first time most of these students on

this church retreat had heard about creation. Some of these students could easily have been taken in by the "scientific evidence" for evolution they heard in school. Because of a committed youth leader, who understands how evolution undermines faith, these students can now stand firmly on God's Word. Scripture says: "My people perish for lack of knowledge." This youth leader made sure they had the knowledge by being creative. He combined our Creation teaching with a Colorado ski retreat. This certainly did a good job of attracting these Texas youth.

Here is the point I want to convey: Don't let your youth (or adults) perish for a lack of knowledge. **Care enough to be creative in your efforts to get them to hear the Creation message.** Take every opportunity to bring them to an AOI event, or events offered by other solid Creation organizations like the Institute for Creation Research or Answers in Genesis. Sponsor an AOI event in your church or area, or bring your family or group to one of our Creation Mountain Adventures. We have had grandparents bring their entire family to hear the truth. If you can't come to any of these events, make sure you show your family or church our Discover Creation DVD series. Finally, get some Creation books and DVDs. Give them as gifts or loan them out.

Whatever you do, **do something**

to fortify your home and church family! The results? We hope you or someone close to you will experience what these people have written to us at AOI:

"It [Creation Mountain Adventure] changed me and my family forever!"

"I struggled with evolution. Now both sides of my heart can function together."

"My son has now come back to the Lord because of what you shared."

"My view of God has gotten soooooo big!"

It is a real joy for all of us at AOI to see God use this message to change lives! Who can you bring to hear the message? Be creative! Just get them there! **T&B**



Gems From Genesis Part 3: Our Active God

by Mary Jo Nutting

In the last issue, we looked at the broad sweep of the drama of creation. Now let's dig a little deeper and explore Genesis 1:1-2:3 in a bit more detail. If you can, take a few minutes now to read the passage, paying special attention to what you can learn about God, from just this section.

OK, ready? Here are a few of my observations. What more can you find?

Right from the start, God is there, taking the initiative, in control. He is "outside" of creation, separate and distinct from it, yet active and involved. Did you notice the number of action verbs associated with God in this chapter? God created, God said, God saw, God called, God made, God blessed, God rested. God is clearly the main character of this unfolding drama, the Master Craftsman, the One in charge.

It's interesting to note that Scripture makes no attempt to "prove" the existence of God

– it is assumed to be true – no questions asked. Apparently the author (ultimately God Himself) thought it was obvious. Isn't it ironic that so many sophisticated, "well-educated," people today refuse to accept this simple assertion, and waste countless hours trying to prove that God (Whom they claim they don't believe in) doesn't exist? The Bible has a choice word for such people (see Ps. 14:1) and says that they are "without excuse" (Rom 1:20).

The Romans passage also says that God's eternal power and divine nature (attributes, Godhead) are clearly seen in creation. Certainly, as we contemplate the creation account, we can learn much about God. His power, wisdom, and creative genius jump out of the narrative, along with His foresight, planning, and order. We watch Him work with purpose and design, caring for details and examining His work each step of the way. We learn His father-heart and His loving concern in providing for

and blessing all His creatures. We marvel at the high value He places on human beings, creating us in His own image, blessing us, and giving us a special job to do. Finally, we sense His satisfaction as He finishes His work, puts down His "tools," rests from His labors, and delights in a job well done.

Isn't it amazing what we can learn when we "slow down" and observe a passage carefully? In future issues, we will look at some of the other things we can learn from Genesis, but for now, I encourage you to contemplate: What action verbs would you use to describe God's involvement in your life today? Have you paused to thank Him? I would encourage you to continue digging for "gems" – learning more about our great Creator God and His involvement with His creation, not only in the past, but also in your life today. **T&B**

Discover Creation DVD Series Study Completed!

Many of you have been eagerly awaiting the completion of the study guide to accompany the 12-part Discover Creation DVD Series we announced earlier. It is now being printed!

Each unit includes: an introduction, detailed notes, and pictures of many of the visuals used on the DVD series. At the end of each unit is a section which includes the key concepts, review points, discussion questions and suggested further activities. There is also

a section giving the additional notes, references cited, and complete quotes referenced in the session.

We hope this Study Guide will be used in conjunction with the DVD series in small groups, Sunday schools, youth groups, Christian schools and home schools throughout the country.

Please continue to pray that this DVD series and the Study Guide will have a significant impact on the lives of many people around the world. If you haven't seen the colorful brochure spotlighting this DVD series or want more to distribute, please call

the office. We continue to hold the introductory price of ONLY \$50 (includes shipping) for the ENTIRE SET of 12 sessions on 6 DVD's! The approximately 75 page (8.5 x 11) Study Guide is available for \$5.00 each (1-5) \$4.00 each (6 and up). FREE shipping!



The Molecular Sledgehammer

by Dr. David Demmick, Guest Writer

[In our last issue of *Think & Believe*, Dr. David Demmick explained the marvelous work and design of enzymes. (We apologize that part of the picture dropped out at the printer. The picture should have had two parts that fit together like puzzle pieces.) In this issue, Dr. Demmick focuses on just one of the many remarkable enzyme systems which illustrates God's ingenuity and makes life on Earth possible. This system has outperformed human chemists to break down atmospheric nitrogen into bio-friendly nitrogen. – DN]

Nitrogen is a key part of the amino acids which form all proteins, as well as the nucleic acids that make up DNA and RNA. Since the nitrogen comes from the atmosphere, getting it into a usable form (ammonia, or NH_3) is very important. However, from a chemical engineering standpoint, this is a very tough job. In pure gaseous nitrogen (N_2), each of its atoms is triple-bonded to another nitrogen atom. This triple bond is one of the hardest chemical bonds in all of nature to break. So, how is nitrogen brought out of the atmosphere and into a chemical state to be used in life?

Human chemists took up this problem over a century ago since nitrogen compounds are needed in most farming fertilizers and in industry. A large cash prize was offered by the French Academy of Sciences for anyone who could invent a workable process. Around 1910, German chemist, Fritz Haber, discovered a way to convert lots of atmospheric nitrogen to ammonia. He also won a Nobel prize for his efforts. His process used shavings of iron as a catalyst for the reaction, but also needed extreme conditions (900° heat and

300 atmospheres of pressure).

One might ask, if gaseous nitrogen is such a tough nut to crack, how is it that any nitrogen ever gets into the soil naturally? Some nitrogen is split and added to the soil by the huge energy of lightning strikes. However, the earth's ecosystem requires much more nitrogen than lightning can provide. How is the remainder produced?

An ingenious chemical method for cracking nitrogen molecules had been achieved long before Fritz Haber. It did not require unearthly conditions, and was already working efficiently to supply the earth's topsoil with an estimated 90,000,000 tons of nitrogen every year. This process didn't win a Nobel prize, nor was it acclaimed as the work of superhuman genius that it is. It was quietly working in the "lowest" forms of life on earth – bacteria and blue-green algae (Cyanobacteria).

These amazingly sophisticated microbes live in the roots of plants known as legumes. These include peas, soybeans, and alfalfa, long valued as crops because of their unique ability to enrich the soil. The microbes invade their roots, forming visible nodules in which the process of nitrogen cracking is carried on. Modern biochemistry has given us a glimpse of the enzyme system used in this process. Curiously, this system

uses the principle of metal catalysis, like the Haber process, but does so in a much more exact and efficient way. Several atoms of iron and molybdenum are held in a carbon-based framework so as to work at the site of chemical activity with surgical precision. In this way, a "molecular sledgehammer" (or better "molecular laser") is applied directly to the N-N triple bond. This tiny chemical marvel helps plant growth and steadies food production.

Creationists are often accused of having the same "God's remarkable design" answer for any origins issue. But, what answers

do evolutionists give to explain the origin of marvels like this? All they can say is, "We know evolution did it, we just don't know how." They can't explain their origin scientifically, so they just worship the power of blind chance and pretend to be scientific, hoping their hypocrisy won't be noticed. However, the scientific verdict is that dead matter

obeying existing laws of chemistry could never create by itself such a masterpiece of chemical engineering – a mechanism far beyond our own engineering skill. To believe that it was created by a wise and caring Creator, who provides all necessary things for the life of His creatures is far more reasonable than the mystical evolutionary alternative.



Director's Column



You may have heard us say that Bill Gothard and other sources report that 85-90% of the young peo-

ple who grow up in evangelical churches drop out of the church by the time they graduate from college. A large reason for this is evolutionary teaching. That is why we invested so much time over the last several years developing the Discover Creation DVD Series.

Now that it is completed and the Study Guide is ready, you might think we would breathe a sigh of relief and put our feet up. However, we can't do that. The battle is still fierce all around us and many more church groups, youth groups, and universities

need to hear. So we plan to "keep on keeping on" as one of our readers who was deeply affected by AOI ministry several years ago encouraged us to do.

Yes, the battle is big, and we need your help. I am not talking only financial (although that would be great!) but I am stepping into a recruiter role: "Uncle Dave needs you!" We need you to help carry the message to your own families and churches. AOI staff will keep dropping those depth charges on the evolutionary strongholds and continue to train others to do the same in their own communities. Will you take an active role in this battle for hearts and minds? If so, let us know so we can come along side of you. "Uncle Dave Needs You!" **T&B**

Upcoming Events

G= Galbraith J=Johnson, N=Nutting, S=Stepanek

- 6/4-6, Hood River, OR**, Horizon Christian School, Laurie Bell, (509) 493-4807, LJ
6/6-9, Hood River, OR, First Baptist of Hood River, Ken Swager, (541) 490-9414, LJ
6/10-11, White Salmon, WA, First Baptist of Bingen, Wes Custer, (509) 493-3123, LJ
6/11-15, Chariton, IA, Freedom Bible Camp, Gary Walters, (712) 623-9615, RS
6/17, Corydon, IA, Corydon Bible Church, Mike Felber, (641) 872-1581, RS
6/19, Braddyville, IA, Ryan Potts, (712) 589-3645, RS
6/24, Springfield, MO, Springfield Bible Church, Curt Zachary, (417) 869-0463, RS
6/25-29, Craig, CO, Yampa Valley Baptist, Rossie Potter, (970) 824-5424, LJ
6/26-28, Springfield, MO, National IFCA Youth Convention, Travis Huseby, (715) 845-2315, RS
7/1-6, Collbran, CO, Twin Peaks Bible Camp, Gail Tompkins, (970) 523-9943, RS, LJ
7/23-27, Columbus, NE, Highland Park E Free Church, Kevin Bennett, (402) 564-5853, LJ
7/25, Grand Junction, CO, Canyon View Vineyard, (970) 242-7970, RS
7/29-8/10, Lake City, CO, Camp Redcloud, Gail Tompkins, (970) 523-9943, DN, RS
7/31-8/3 Shawnee, KS, Grace Christian Fellowship, Teresa Theisman, (903) 268-6300, LJ
8/5, Shawnee, KS, Grace Christian Fellowship Church, Phil Ellsworth, 903) 268-6300, LJ
8/10-11, Sitka, AK, Sitka Bible Baptist, Dale Hansen, (970) 747-6498, LJ
8/12, North Ketchikan, AK, Clover Pass Church, Mike Cooke, (907) 247-2360, LJ
8/13-17, North Ketchikan, AK, Clover Pass Church, Jo Ann & Bill Alsip, (907) 247-1990, LJ
8/19-20, Klawock, AK, Hollis Community Church, Rhonda Jones, (907) 530-7038, LJ
5/18-19, San Antonio, TX, FEAST Homeschool Conference, (210) 342-4674, DN
5/20, Fredericksburg, TX, Fredericksburg Bible Church, Pam, (830) 997-8834, DN
 Summits...(5)

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Discover Creation Seminars

Would you like to have an exciting Discover Creation Seminar in your area? It's easy and affordable! Normally we ask only that the host church or group provide expenses for our speakers and take a love offering for AOI. If a church is able to provide an extra honorarium for AOI, it is certainly appreciated, but not required. With this policy, even small churches can afford to have a Creation seminar. Publicity fliers and seminar set-up help are available. Call or e-mail today to indicate your interest (800-377-1923 or aoi@DiscoverCreation.org). We'd be happy to work with you to make it happen. **T&B**



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