

Think & Believe

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Creation and the Fourth of July

by *Dave Demmick, Guest Writer*

For the past few years on the 4th of July I have had a recurring thought in the midst of the food and fireworks. The thought begins: "What are we celebrating?" The obvious answer: "The signing of the Declaration of Independence, the most important document of our nation's founding." The thought continues: "Doesn't the Declaration of Independence say something rather obvious about God as Creator?" If so, isn't this a bit surprising in these days when we are constantly told that we can't bring God into politics or public life? What does the Declaration say about the Creator God, anyway? A quick reading shows that it contains three references to God. Let's look at these in the order they appear, and see what they tell us about the beliefs of the men who endorsed them.

The first reference is in the introduction. "*When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth the separate and equal station to which the laws of nature and of nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.*" This opening statement shows that the Declaration's signers believed in a God who is sovereign over nature

and the affairs of men. The mention of "laws of nature" is a salute to the philosophers who explored the idea of natural law. However, the addition of "and nature's God" makes it clear that there is a God over nature who must be acknowledged and obeyed.

The second reference follows directly after the first. "*We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights . . .*" This remarkable phrase openly declares that God is the Creator of all human beings. Furthermore, it says that their dignity and worth as individuals comes as a supernatural gift from God. It is the God-given dignity and worth in every man and woman that provide a firm basis for equality in justice, representative government, and resistance to tyranny. All this is rooted in the Genesis teaching that man is created by God in the image of God. Note that the Declaration considers these creationist tenets to be obvious truths that need no justification.

The third reference to God is in the Declaration's conclusion. "*We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, Appealing to the supreme judge of the world for the rectitude (uprightness) of our intentions, . . . solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are and of Right ought to be Free*

and Independent States . . ." This passing mention of God as Supreme Judge is very important. It shows that the founding fathers saw themselves as participants in an unseen and universal court where God presides as supreme judge. They could and did appeal to Him for justice. Without this assurance of divine justice (either in this life or the next) they may never have dared to resist the vastly superior military forces of Britain. This shows that as a group they were not Deists, as many claim today, for the alleged god of Deism does not hear prayer, save people, or intervene in human history.

A straightforward assessment of the Declaration of Independence shows that its signers shared a strong, well-developed, and consistent Biblical creationist world view. They believed in a Creator God who is generous, just, and sovereign over all human affairs. In spite of what we are told today, they were not afraid to bring their religious views into politics. Their godly world view is openly stated for all to see in our most cherished national document. Such is the true American heritage that we need to remember, celebrate, and imitate on the Fourth of July. **T&B**

[Excerpts from the Declaration of Independence were taken verbatim from the National Archives website at www.archives.gov, and are italicized. Key phrases are in bold type for further emphasis.]

Gems From Genesis

Genesis 1 and 2: Conflicting or Complimentary Accounts?

by Mary Jo Nutting

After a lecture at a university this past year, a student told me that although he had a church background, he had become an atheist. When I asked him why, he said that one reason was because of all the contradictions in the Bible. I asked for an example, and he replied that there are two different creation stories, one in Genesis 1 and another in Genesis 2. Personally, I was glad that he chose this example of a so-called contradiction, because I myself had struggled with it in the past. My answer to the student seemed to connect with him.

On the surface, it does appear that the accounts are different. However, prayer and study have led me to believe that the accounts in Genesis 1 and 2 are complimentary, not conflicting, accounts. Each has a specific purpose and conveys important information, though the style and format is different.

Genesis 1 gives a comprehensive overview – a day-

by-day chronological account of Creation Week. It gives us the “big picture” and outlines in summary form what God did on each day. It is much like a day-by-day log of a trip or project. We are given just enough detail to ignite our curiosity and inspire our awe of God’s creative power and plan.

In Genesis 2, the style changes and the narrative zeros in on one aspect of God’s creative work – His focus, main purpose, or “favorite part” – the creation of Adam and Eve. Here the Author is not as concerned about the chronology, as He is about the details of the creation of mankind, indicating His personal involvement and purpose in every step. The approach in the two accounts is kind of like the difference between writing a day-by-day log of your vacation and writing passionately about your favorite part.

This literary technique is common, not only in Hebraic writing, but even in “modern” writing. It is common to first give a broad overview, and then focus in on one aspect of particular importance or interest. Genesis 1 and 2 are not conflicting reports, they are

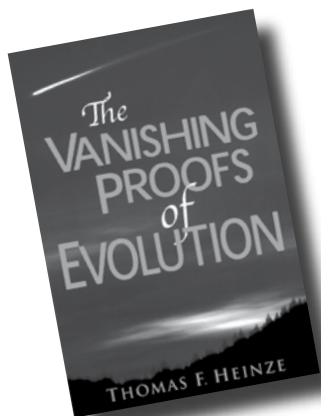
complimentary – each with a specific purpose and style.

But let’s not miss the significance of the message in the discussion of the format. In all the vastness of creation, our powerful Creator took time to become personally involved with His creation of Adam and Eve. Human beings are not objects of time and chance – we are the handiwork of a wise and loving God. We are not “just animals” (though we share some similar biology) – we are so much more. We are created in the image of God, and our lives have a special purpose and meaning because we bear His image. What a wonderful heritage we have! What a sacred privilege! What an awesome responsibility! **T&B**



The Vanishing Proofs of Evolution by Thomas Heinze

Book Review by Dave Nutting



Face it! Most students will not normally read a long book on Creation vs. evolution. Unfortunately, they are still getting hammered in their classes and really need information to keep them from becoming another evolutionary statistic. This small book is a great answer. It is short, to the point, and shows why many of the main “convincing” arguments for

evolution are untrue. It is inexpensive and easy to read, yet scientifically accurate. Arm your students this fall and order extras to give away! Special Price \$5 each. (With each book, we will also include a booklet by Thomas Heinze entitled *In the Beginning Soup?* This would be excellent to give to a classmate.) See the enclosed ad for details. **T&B**

Darwin's Absolute Breakdown

by Thomas F. Heinze, Guest Writer

Darwin felt that natural selection working on slight modifications had formed all the animals and all of their organs. He wrote: "If it could be demonstrated that any complex organ existed which could not possibly have been formed by numerous, successive, slight modifications, my theory would absolutely break down."

Here's an "absolute breakdown" surprise for him! Butterflies are not formed by successive slight modifications to caterpillars, or to any evolutionary ancestor; neither are their complex organs.

When a butterfly egg hatches, a caterpillar steps out, eats, grows, and then builds a little house around itself where it passes into the pupal stage. Inside the leather-like shell of the pupa, or larva, the caterpillar dissolves. I don't mean he dissolves in tears, or has a squishy feeling. His eyes, legs, and intestines, bristly fuzz, all those things that gave him his distinguished identity as a caterpillar, are digested from within and melt down to form a thick liquid. Exceptions are his heart and the tiny "imaginal disks" that will direct the transformation into a butterfly.

What spins a cocoon, turns to liquid, and whacks the theory of evolution out of the ball park?

Darwin said that if any complex organ existed which could not possibly have been formed by numerous, successive, slight modifications, his theory would absolutely break down. In the chart on the right, compare the organs of the caterpillar that crawled in into the cocoon with those of the butterfly that flew out.

The butterfly's organs were made out of goo. They were not formed from slight modifications to previous organs, whether in primitive ancestors or even in the caterpillar. Darwin knew nothing of the master plan written in the DNA. Darwin's theory broke down, and in more ways than just this.

Darwin thought natural selection had lifted all plants and animals up from a single cell by eliminating the less fit and keeping the more fit alive. What is the least fit substance you can think of? Thick liquid? Well, even those who don't want to admit that they know liquid goo has no selective advantage over a voracious caterpillar crawling efficiently through the brush

Caterpillar Organs	Butterfly Organs
12 legs	6 legs
13-segmented body	3 segments: head, thorax, abdomen. Thorax has 3 subsections.
6 simple eyes	2 compound and simple eyes
No sex organs	Sex organs
Chewing jaws	Coiled sucking tube
0 wings	2 pairs of wings

avoiding predators with protective coloration and a covering of disgusting stiff fuzz! But don't stop there. No one knows of a primitive ancestor to the butterfly, so follow the evolutionists' tradition and make one up. Can you think of any possible ancestor that could successfully eat, live, and reproduce that would have been less fit than thick goo?

I rest my case. Darwin was right! His theory absolutely breaks down, crushed under the overwhelming weight of one of God's lightest creations: The Butterfly. **T&B**

[Thomas F. Heinze served for 34 years with the Conservative Baptist Mission in Italy. He is the author of several Creation books including The Creation vs. Evolution Handbook (translated to 9 languages), How Life Began, The Vanishing Proofs of Evolution, and a booklet, In the Beginning ... Soup?. Tom has degrees from Oregon State College and Dallas Theological Seminary.]



Director's Column

by Dave & Mary Jo Nutting



We rejoice with Ken Ham and Answers in Genesis on the opening of their state-of-the-art Creation Museum

in Kentucky. It has taken great vision, steadfastness, and persistence – and the donations and hard work of a huge number of people – to get to this place. We are grateful to see this dynamic addition to the efforts of other creation ministries, museums, and scientists worldwide.

The Creation Museum is already receiving national and international recognition and media attention. Many commentators are impressed by the scope of the project and the professional quality of the exhibits. Predictably, the bold Biblical message is a bit more controversial – eliciting enthusiastic applause by some, but provoking loud opposition by others. This is to be expected in

view of the stranglehold that evolutionary dogma has held on the media, education, national parks, zoos, and museums over the past years. The Creation Museum provides a clear, educated, and professional presentation of another view.

Only time will tell the impact of this museum on the course of history in this country and the world. We hope it will be great but we confidently believe it will have a major impact on the lives of many individuals and families. We pray that through this museum, and the on-going work of other creation museums and ministries, people of all ages will be encouraged to stand confidently on God's Word, challenged to grow in their personal relationship with Him, and equipped to impact this world with His truth. May it all be to HIS glory! **T&B**

Upcoming Events

G= Galbraith, LJ=Johnson, DN=Nutting, RS=Stepanek

- 7/22-27, **Wilmot, SD**, Zion Community Church, Stephanie Cambell, (605) 938-4766, LJ
 7/25, **Grand Junction, CO**, Canyon View Vineyard Church, Seth Cooley, (970) 242-7970, RS
 7/28-29, **Wood River, NE**, Wood River Mennonite Church, Annette Holvinger, (308) 384-4664, LJ
 7/29-8/3, **Lake City, CO**, Camp Redcloud, Gail Tompkins, (970) 523-9943, DN, RS
 8/5-8/10, **Lake City, CO**, Camp Redcloud, Gail Tompkins, (970) 523-9943, DN, RS
 7/31-8/3, **Shawnee, KS**, Grace Christian Fellowship Church, Teresa Theisman, (913) 268-6300, LJ
 8/5-6, **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
 8/15, **Manitou Springs, CO**, Summit Ministries, DN
 8/19-20, **Klawock, AK**, Hollis Community Church, Rhonda Jones, (907) 530-7038, LJ
 8/28-29, **Manitou Springs, CO**, Summit Ministries, DN
 9/9, **Marble, CO**, Marble Community Church, Lafe Murray, (970) 704-1218, DN
 9/23-26, **Grantville, PA**, Alliance of Christian Home Ed. Leadership Conf., Nada Rothgaber, (717) 469-0459, LJ

You Can Do It!

If you are tired of seeing kids and adults being bashed by evolution, you can do something about it. You can multiply the outreach of this ministry by teaching others! Consider teaching a Sunday School or homestudy class on Creation. The DVD curriculum is the fastest way to get you going. With the 75 page color Study Guide [8½ x 11] and now a Teacher's Supplement, you have everything you need to make a huge impact on the youth and adults in your church and community. You can do it! How about giving it a try? **T&B**



"The number one reason students give for rejecting the Gospel is Evolution."

– Mark Cahill, Youth Evangelist

The **Discover Creation Series** from Alpha Omega Institute will help fortify you, your family, and your church against evolutionary, humanistic teaching.



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For those who already have the series and study Guide, and wish to request a *free* Teacher's Supplement, send us an email at AOI@DiscoverCreation.org. If you don't have email, please write or call us.



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