

Think Believe

Discover Creation...Worship the Creator

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False Gods Will Perish

by Mary Jo Nutting

I often find myself thinking about Jer.10:11 as I consider the importance and the seriousness of the creation message. The people of Jeremiah's day were worshipping idols of wood, silver, and gold which they made with their own hands. God, through Jeremiah, points out the futility of their idolatry.

He tells them: "Learn not the way of the heathen... for the customs of the people are vain. ... (Jer. 10:2-3)

"The gods that have not made the heavens and the earth, even they shall perish from the earth and from under these heavens."
(Jeremiah 10:11)

According to Webster's American Dictionary of the English Language (1828), one definition of a "god" is: "Any person or thing exalted too much in estimation, or deified and honored as the chief good." An idol could be defined as: "Anything on which we set our affections..." An idolater is defined as: "...one who worships as a deity that which is not God."

Most Americans today would not think of bowing down to a literal idol, but we have found that many people "bow down" at the altar of atheism as if it were a god. Others exalt the power of "science" and human reasoning above the Word of God. They exalt evolution over creation, chance over design, time as a miracle worker, and the power of natural selection over the power of God. How foolish! Romans 1:22-25 tells us: "Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to

birds, and four-footed beasts, and creeping things. ...Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed forever."

Some are just misinformed. They have believed the "vain customs" which have been perpetuated throughout society. They just don't know that evolution has serious problems and that the scientific evidence can readily be interpreted in a manner consistent

with Scripture. Others are more active in their fight against God – actively working to promote naturalistic evolution and atheism. In any case, though, they are putting the words of men and the reasoning of their own intellect above the unfailing, inspired Word of God.

So what can we do? First, God tells us not to "learn the way of the heathen." We must be careful not to incorporate the godless thinking of the world into our Biblical faith. Instead, we should stand firm on the Truth. Then we can be salt and

light in the world. We can pray for those caught in naturalistic thinking that their eyes will be opened. We can reason with them from the Scriptures and we can provide sound scientific evidence and interpretations that are consistent with Scripture. All of this, of course, should be done in a loving, Christ-like way. As it says in II Timothy 2:24-26: "And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will." (NKJV)

Ultimately, we need to recognize that this is a spiritual battle – a battle for the hearts and minds of children, youth, and adults. The dogmatic teaching of atheistic evolution provides an excuse which keeps many people from coming to know their Creator and His way of salvation, and it becomes a stumbling-block which causes others to fall away from their faith in God and His Word. The stakes are high. God will not be mocked. He desires "that all should come to repentance." (II Peter 3:9) In the end, all false gods (including the "gods" of time, chance, and natural processes) will perish from the earth, and God alone will be exalted. We encourage you to worship and serve this One True Creator-God today! **AOI**



Hurrah for Ants!

by Joyce Trump

Many of us are familiar with the children's counting song, "The ants go marching one by one..." Scientists have now discovered that at least some species of ants do appear to be counting their steps when they go marching out in search of food.

After training some desert ants to look for food in a specific location, scientists investigated how the ants could consistently locate the same source of food with seeming ease.

It is known that ants will leave scent markers to guide their nest mates back to a food source. This is a rather laborious process, however, and slows the ants down.

The scientists glued extensions on the legs of some ants, lengthening their strides. When these stilt-walking ants were released to search

We've been walking around all day. I'm getting hungry!



for food, they started out in the right direction, but overshot the food source every time.

Scientists then cut the legs off other ants at the first joint, shortening their stride. Again the ants were released to search for food. This time they stopped short of the food source. The scientists concluded the scout probably lays a scent trail initially, but then the workers memorize the number of steps needed to arrive at the food. This is surprising evidence of relatively complicated communication from such a tiny creature.

Ants have a variety of ways to tell each other not only of food, but also warn the colony of danger.



As mentioned above, scents, or pheromones, are an integral part of ant communication. Weaver ants have two scent glands in their abdomens and four more in their heads.

They can release one or more of these chemicals at a time to convey a variety of messages. Entomologists estimate

they can employ between 10 and 20 chemical "phrases" or "words" to communicate with their nest mates. These pheromone messages may be left on a hard surface or released into the air. Weaver ants also appear to use their feces to mark their territory. It is suspected there are scent components at work here, too.

A majority of species also communicate with sound. They can produce a high pitched squeak by rubbing a thin scraper located on their waist against a series of tiny parallel ridges on the adjacent abdomen. The signal is barely audible to humans. The squeaking is used for a variety of messages. Ironically, the ants are not influenced by the audible sound of the signal, but rather by the portion of the vibrations that come to them through the soil.

Ants have amazingly complicated communication systems. Are these the product of random chance, or complex by design? We don't have to guess; God has already told us "look to the ant" (Prov. 6) for instruction. We can only add, "Hurrah! Hurrah!" **AOI**

Book Review: The Fossil Record

by Dave Nutting

I like fossils, but my wife kids me about my "dead bugs" and "dead fish." "You bought another old dead bug?" she asks. "Dead bug? It's a fabulous trilobite with a complex eye – an enigma to evolution!"

Because of my love of fossils, I was excited to get **The Fossil Record** just released by ICR President and geologist, Dr. John Morris, and zoologist, Frank Sherwin. I remember sitting in Dr. Morris's office a year ago as he reviewed beautiful color plates and text showing how the fossil record is remarkably consistent with the Biblical record and is really incompatible with evolution.

I was excited about the book then and am even more so now that the book is complete.

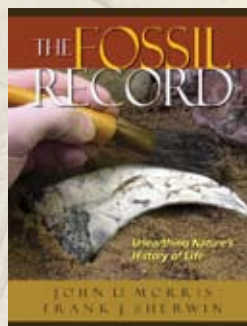
It contains up-to-date information relating to fossils found even in the past year. This is important to me since a lot of university students ask, "What about "xyz" fossil discovery?"

The Fossil Record has enough detail to satisfy the serious inquirer, and yet is easy

enough for most people to read and understand. If you ever come to one of my seminars, you know I use pictures and lots of them. Hence, another reason I like this book!

The Fossil Record is hot off the press and would be an excellent gift for you or others! While secular books of this quality are twice the price, this 192-page, full sized, full color, hardcover book is a real bargain at only \$20. See the enclosed order sheet or call AOI at

970-523-9943. **AOI**



Weaver Ants

by Joyce Trump

Weaver ants are among the rulers of the forest canopy. Unlike most species of tree-dwelling ants, they are not dependent upon finding hollow branches or gaps under the bark of their host. These industrious insects make their own homes in unique fashion.

When a fertile queen establishes a new colony, she finds a suitable leaf on an uncolonized tree. She lays the first brood of eggs and feeds and protects them until they reach maturity. At that point the workers take over the maintenance of the colony and the queen is reduced to merely laying eggs for the rest of her life. As the colony grows, workers begin to construct a clever nest within the leaves of the tree.

A worker will walk along the edge of a leaf, testing it with her mandibles (jaws). When she finds a sufficiently pliable leaf, she will begin to pull on the edge with force. Her activity attracts other ants, who join in pulling the leaf edge either in on itself or toward another leaf. More and more ants will join the work party, pulling the leaves together by sheer force. Sometimes the leaves are farther apart than one worker can reach. In that case, the workers form chains by grasping the waist of the worker in front of them. As the chain of workers is drawn in, the "anchor ants" detach themselves as each successive ant gains footing on the base leaf. Once the leaves are in place, other workers bring in the "weavers" from which

the species takes its name.

Each worker carries one larva in her mandibles. The worker will touch the larva against the leaf and gently squeeze it with her mandibles. The larva begins to extrude a thin strand of silk, attaching it to the leaf surface. The worker moves the larva to the surface of the next leaf, where the silk is again connected. The pair continues this dance, back and forth, until the larva has exhausted its' supply of silk. Other workers and larva are repeating the same procedure all along the leaf edges. Once the leaves are firmly connected, the workers turn their attention to the next leaf. They can construct a nest averaging in size between a man's hand and head in less than twenty four hours.

Large colonies of weavers can involve numerous trees, with multiple nests and queens, and potentially half a million workers.

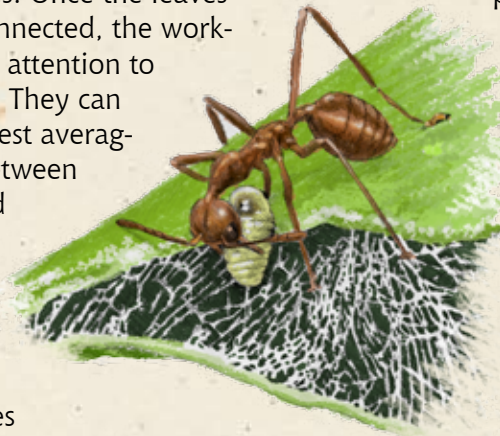
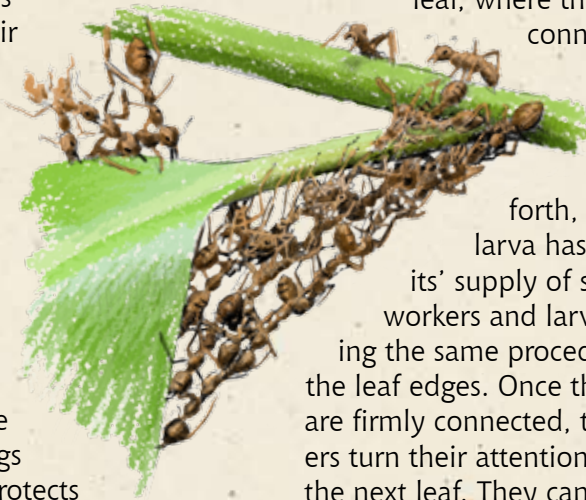
This weaving process is a major sacrifice for the larva. Only the larva in their final stage have silk glands, and only a limited amount of silk can be produced. Ordinarily the larva would use this silk to spin her own cocoon for her metamorphosis into a pupa. Giving up her silk allows her to ensure not only the survival of the colony, but herself as well. Protected by a strong nest, she can still reach maturity.

Weaver ants are fanatically protective of their host trees, killing most other insects that come within their territory.

They will even bite birds and mammals that they consider a threat. Indeed, farmers in Asia have used them as biological pest control since about 400 BC, encouraging them to colonize in fruit orchards.

Weaver ants have a highly specialized lifestyle. Is this evidence of creation or evolution? Even though ants appear to be the most intelligent of insect species, some say they are little more than biological robots. Most of their behavior is thought to be the result of instinct, rather than conscious thought processes. How then did they come up with the idea of using their own young to weave together the nests that shelter the colony? How do they know which stage of larva can produce silk? Who taught them to use their own bodies to make chains for construction purposes? Remove any of these steps, and the entire colony is at risk of destruction. I believe their complex society is not the result of a series of happy accidents, but a carefully designed and orchestrated

plan. Only God could have conceived such brilliant survival strategies and set them in motion. **AOI**



Director's Column

by Dave Nutting




Reading through Joyce Trump's articles on the ants (pp. 2-3 of this issue) sparked a few thoughts. First of all, thank

you, Joyce for your excellent and informative articles! I am glad you were able to apply Proverbs 6:6 to "Go to the ant" to learn and share that with us! Joyce's writing of those articles also saved us a bunch of time that was profitably used to give many presentations on Creation. (Our spring schedule has been packed!)

How the weaver ants and so many other species of ants work in close cooperation makes me think of AOI speakers working in concert with the rest of the AOI staff and with

our prayer and financial supporters. The result is a woven "safety net" for students and adults who are getting blasted with evolution. Since we first got excited about the creation ministry, we have also seen many more creation ministries putting additional pieces of the "net" together. Everyone is a part of this "ant colony!"

I was also fascinated by the research of putting stilts on ants which caused them to go farther than they had planned. Our dear readers and supporters, this is important! Your prayer and financial support is much like putting "stilts" on the speakers. With your support, we can go much further and reach out to many more people with the important message of the one true God – the Creator of the whole world! Thanks for giving us "stilts!" We appreciate you! 

Last call for 2010 Creation Mountain Adventure at Redcloud!

Fun – Facts – Food – Fellowship in the spectacular beauty of God's magnificent Colorado mountain country. Comfortable lodge, exciting activities, devotional times, and gourmet meals complement AOI's in-depth creation teaching for all ages. As this goes to press, we still have room for YOUR family. Don't miss out! Call TODAY! You can also visit www.DiscoverCreation.org and click on the family camp button. 



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- past issues of Think & Believe
- special section for children
- 2 powerful search options (one for our site, another for other solid creation sites)
- product highlights, camp info, upcoming events, and more.

Has AOI's Ministry impacted you?

If so, please mail us a short testimony to be posted on our website. (AOI@DiscoverCreation.org) Thanks!

AOI's new blog and Twitter

are up and running. "Join" AOI speakers "on the road again," hear "News from the Front," testimonies, devotionals, etc. Sign up for our RSS feed and Twitter at <http://discovercreation.org/blog/today>, or email us at AOI@DiscoverCreation.org and include "Request E-mail Notification" in the subject line.

AOI Seminars

are informative, fast-moving, well-illustrated, family-friendly, and affordable. We still have a few openings in the fall and are working on itineraries for 2011. Fall speaking is currently planned in CO, IL, MN, NE, WY, and SD. We'd love to include your group. Contact us NOW about having a seminar in your area.

Planned Giving

or simply putting AOI in your will is a great way to help AOI's future ministry (we don't expect the battle to end anytime soon!). Ask Scott at AOI (970-523-9943) for details and for necessary wording to use.



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