



Think & Believe

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Why Believe the Impossible?

By Dave & Mary Jo Nutting

Why do so many people believe in evolution? Is it because the scientific evidence so clearly supports it, or are there other reasons? Listen to what George Wald, Nobel Prize Winner and Professor Emeritus of Biology at Harvard University says:

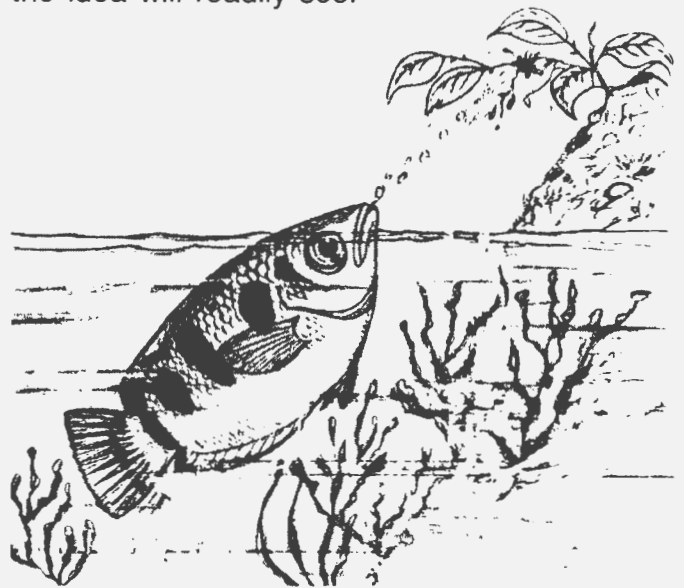
There are only two possible explanations as to how life arose: spontaneous generation arising to evolution or a supernatural creative act of God . . . there is no other possibility. Spontaneous generation was scientifically disproved 120 years ago by Louis Pasteur and others, but that just leaves us with only one other possibility . . . that life came as a supernatural act of creation by God, but I can't accept that philosophically because I do not want to believe in God. Therefore I choose to believe in that which I know is scientifically impossible, spontaneous generation leading to evolution. (*Scientific American*, 1978 as quoted by Ken Poure in seminar)

Notice what he is saying. He is philosophically opposed to creation, so he accepts evolution even though he knows it is scientifically impossible. How many others do the same?

Many students believe in evolution not because they are committed to it (yet) but simply because it's the only "scientific" model they've been presented with. An informal poll which was taken in a high school class in which Dave had recently been invited to debate shows the magnitude of this problem. About 85 per cent of the students in that class said they believed in evolution, and most of these didn't even believe that God was involved at all. Only about 15% per cent believed in creation. Why were the students so convinced? Had they carefully studied the evidence for evolu-

tion, compared it with the evidence for creation and then arrived at a logical, well-thought-out conclusion? Probably not! Most of them had probably never even seen the evidence for creation, but had been thoroughly instructed with plenty of one-sided evolutionary teaching. The schools, museums, and media have done a good job in portraying the scientific acceptability of evolution. Creation, if dealt with at all, is usually mocked or written off as a "religious idea only."

Through our lectures in schools, churches and other places we are attempting to educate people by showing them that evolution is not a sewed-up scientific case, but rather a leaky sieve. We believe the evidence points solidly to a Creator, as those who are not philosophically opposed to the idea will readily see.



THE ARCHERFISH — GOD'S SHARPSHOOTER
(See Spotlight on Science)

NOTES & QUOTES

■ Many are philosophically committed to evolution as though it were a religion and they state their doctrinal position:

- In the evolutionary system of thought there is no longer need or room for the supernatural. The earth was not created; it evolved. . . . Evolutionary man can no longer take refuge from his loneliness by creeping for shelter into the arms of a divinized father figure whom he himself has created. (Sir Julian Huxley, *(Associated Press Dispatch Nov. 27, 1959, as quoted in Morris, The Troubled Waters of Evolution, 1982)*
- As non-theists, we begin with humans, not Got — nature, not deity. . . . No deity will save us; we must save ourselves. (*Humanist Manifesto, 1973*)

■ Indeed, some evolutionists will actually admit their belief in evolution is based on faith:

- [The theory of evolution] forms a satisfactory faith on which to base our interpretation of nature. (L. Harrison Matthews, *Introduction to Origin of Species*, 1977 edition published by J.M. Dent, London)
- Today it is far easier to believe that organisms arose spontaneously on the earth than to try to account for them in any other way. Nevertheless, this still is a statement of faith rather than of demonstrable scientific fact. Scientists have only sketchy notions of how this evolution might have occurred. (Carl Sagan, in *Biological Origins: Theories Evolve*, by R. Cowen, *Christian Science Monitor*)
- Belief in evolution is thus exactly parallel to belief in special creation — both are concepts which believers know to be true, but neither up to the present has been capable of proof. (L. Harrison Matthews, *Foreword to Origin of Species*, 1971 ed. publ. by J.M. Dent and Sons, Ltd., London)

■ Not only is it a faith, but contrary to the faith of the Christian, there is precious little evidence to back up evolution:

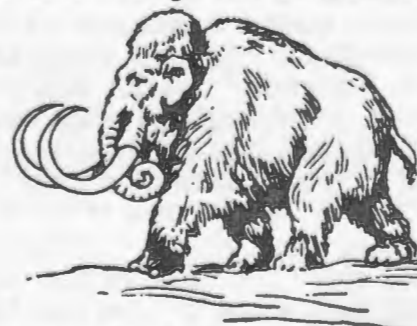
- There is . . . little evidence in favor of biogenesis and as yet we have no indication that it can be performed. It is therefore a matter of faith on the part of the biologist that biogenesis did occur and he can choose whatever methods of biogenesis happen to suit him personally; the evidence for what did happen is not available. (G. A. Kerkut, *Implications of Evolution*)

- With the failure of these many efforts, science was left in the somewhat embarrassing position of having to postulate theories of living origins which it could not demonstrate. After having chided the theologian for his reliance on myth and miracle, science found itself in the unenviable position of having to create a mythology of its own: namely, the assumption that what, after long effort could not be proved today had, in truth, taken place in the primeval past. (Loren Eiseley, *The Immense Journey*, 1957)

■ What happens when a scientist takes a good look at the evidence? It is interesting to note the comments made by Chandra Wickramasinghe, an atheist Buddhist, shortly after he and Sir Fred Hoyle had proved statistically that life could not have arisen on earth by accident:

- I am quite uncomfortable in the situation, the state of mind I now find myself in. But there is no logical way out of it. . . . I am 100 per cent certain that life could not have started spontaneously on Earth. . . . At the moment, I can't find any rational argument to knock down the view which argues for conversion to God. . . . I still have a hope that one day I may go back to favouring a purely mechanistic explanation — I say "hope," because I still cannot come to terms with my conversion. . . . We were hoping, as scientists, that there would be a way around our conclusion — but there isn't. Logic is still hopelessly against that. (*Daily Express*, August 14, 1981, London)

■ As far as we know, Wickramasinghe still has not come to grips with Who this God is, but at least he is being true to the facts as he sees them. Pray that he, and many others, will come to know God, the Creator, as He has revealed Himself in His Word and through His Son, Jesus Christ.



MASTODONS & MAMMOTHS
(See *Spotlight on Science*)

A Mammoth Problem

From the pages of the encyclopedias we are apt to read that mastodons and mammoths were ancient relatives of today's elephants which have been extinct for about 10,000 years. This has been accepted by virtually all the "experts" today and consequently is taught at all levels of education.

There are other experts, however, who suggest that these great creatures have been extinct for not more than a few hundred years. Many of these experts are historians who have read accounts of these creatures in historical records. One such historian is the popular novelist, Louis L'Amour. In his book, *Jubal Sackett*, Mr. L'Amour included an account of killing a mastodon close to 1700. When challenged on the point, he defended his position in the February, 1987, issue of *The Western Horseman*. After giving several historical records of mastodons and mammoths in North America, he writes:

The best story of the mastodon, though, is in the ethnographic records of the Smithsonian Institute. They tell about the Ponca Indians, who lived in the vicinity of Yankton, S.D., who used to make what they called The Long Hunt. . . . On one of these trips, perhaps the last one and it couldn't have been earlier than the late 1600s and it very likely was in the 1700s this happened, they killed a mastodon near Niobrara, Nebraska.

They tell about it, and not only that, they knew him well enough to have a name for him — his name was *pasnuta*, which in Ponca means "long nose." . . .

Not only the mastodon, they killed something else, they only describe, which had to be a giant ground sloth [supposedly extinct at the time].

If scientists would consult historians, they may be surprised that many creatures they believe are "pre-historic" may really have existed in the known past. We should not discount valid written documents merely because they tend not to agree with our preconceived ideas. Historians, which have often been disregarded by "scientists," certainly have a great deal to offer. Similarly, the Bible which has been documented over and over to be historically valid also needs to be accepted as valid history instead of being dismissed as a myth whenever it does not agree with the evolutionary preconceived ideas. Scientists need to consult with historical works and that certainly includes the greatest work of all time — The Bible.

Archerfish – God's Sharpshooters

From the waters of Southeast Asia comes a strong testimony of the Creator's ability to provide His creatures with all the necessary tools for survival. The intriguing archerfish has a unique method of catching its food. With amazing accuracy, it aims and fires its sniper weapon at an unsuspecting bug crawling on a leaf of a bush high above a pool of water. When the pulsating beads of water hit the mark (and the fish rarely misses up to 4 feet away), the bug falls off the foliage and into the water where it is quickly devoured by the fish.

Just how does the archerfish accomplish this feat? How did it "learn" such an ability? Could it "evolve" such amazing behavior, and the physical characteristics needed to accomplish it? The archerfish just "happens" to have a groove along the roof of its mouth. Water is forced backwards through the gills and out through a firing tube formed by the tongue and this special groove. This gives short "machine gun" volleys which pulsate to the target with a substantial force. To complicate matters further, the archer must take into consideration the fact that light beams bend as they pass from air into water (due to the different refractive indices of air and water). How do these fish learn to compensate for this and perfect their aim? And where did the fish get the idea to become a sniper anyway?

This fish is strong evidence of creation. It clearly indicates one of the attributes of a created system — that structure and function go hand in hand. Imagine how it could be possible for this unique fish to have evolved. Perhaps it spotted a bug on the branch and being particularly hungry that day began to figure out how in the world it was going to get that bug. It first tried the psychological approach and figured mind must prevail over matter. So it began to really think hard, "Fall into the water, bug, fall into the water." After accomplishing nothing except for becoming a little hungrier, it tried other methods, all to no avail. Finally it began to realize that the only chance it had was to develop a sniper weapon. So it began to concentrate again. "I need a special mutation. Oh for a lucky mistake! It might not help me but it might benefit future generations." So after much thought of trying to get a beneficial mutation, did the fish get lucky and hit upon the perfect combination? Of course not! Mutations are random happenings and have no relationship to the "need" of the individual. The odds of hitting the "right one" (actually, many "right ones") by chance are extremely improbable.

No, this is not the product of series of lucky mistakes (mutations). YES, the archerfish is evidence of the creative design of God!



Science Fair



We are pleased to announce the first annual (we hope!) Alpha Omega Science Fair for Christian and Home School students. There is a great need in our country for Christians to take an active lead in science and return scientific thinking to a sound foundation based on a God-centered view of the universe. The 1988 Science Fair, on Feb. 23, will give students an opportunity to pursue individual research projects of their choice and exhibit their results. Projects will be evaluated by qualified judges and awards will be presented. Secondary school participants will then have the opportunity to enter their projects in the Mesa County Science Fair where they may perhaps win the privilege of taking their project to state and maybe even national competition.

We are excited that Dorothy Hahn has agreed to be the Science Fair Chairman. Dorothy is a former biology teacher who has taught in both Christian and public schools. She has sponsored successful science fairs in the past and is well-acquainted with the process of putting together good projects.

To assist parents and teachers, Alpha Omega will sponsor four workshops covering the basic steps in developing and carrying out a meaningful project. With some guidance and encouragement, completion of the project can be a rewarding and valuable learning experience for students. They can learn a great deal about persistence, organization, logical thinking, research techniques, and communication as well as studying one aspect of science in depth. We'd encourage all Christian and Home School students from Western Colorado and Eastern Utah to join us. Write or call for more information.

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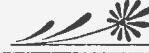
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Recent Events



We've had a busy fall with opportunities to speak to many groups. We're thankful to all those who have worked so hard to make these seminars a success. Seminars have included St. Paul's Lutheran, The Orchard Community Church, and Calvary Bible in Grand Junction; Pinedale Bible Fellowship, Pinedale, Wyoming; Four Square Church, Longmont, Colorado; and Gore Range Baptist Church, Kremmling, Colorado. We also had the opportunity to speak to the Ladies Outreach Luncheon in Grand Junction; the Rifle Baptist Ladies Group in Rifle, Colorado; and The Association of Christian Schools International convention in Denver.

In addition to the church seminars, we were invited to speak to classes and participate in a debate at two public high schools.

We've been encouraged by the enthusiasm with which the presentations have been received. People everywhere seem hungry to have an answer to the prevailing evolutionary dogma. Pray with us for continued open doors to present a clear alternative.

First Call For Family Creationism Camp June 26 - July 1

The dates of June 26 - July 1 have been set for the 1988 Family Camp. Mark your calendar NOW and write for more information. This year's Family Creationism Camp will be held at Meadowdale Christian Conference Center near Estes Park, Colorado, just minutes from Rocky Mountain National Park. Cost will be approximately \$375 total for a family of 4 including all meals, lodging and activities. Great accommodations consist of carpeted individual family rooms with baths.

Activities include a full creationism seminar as well as fishing, swimming, full ropes course and cable descent, field trip to Rocky Mountain National Park, lots of relaxation, good old fashion fun and eating! You can expect this to be one of your greatest family vacations with a purpose!

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