



# Think & Believe

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## HONOR HIM AND GIVE THANKS

(by Dave and Mary Jo Nutting)

"For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God, or give thanks; but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing to be wise they became fools..." (Romans 1: 21-22, NASV).

How often, as we talk to evolutionists and read their writings, we sense arrogance and pride. They frequently refer to creationists as "ignorant," yet when you begin to examine their ideas, you find so many "futile speculations" being accepted as "scientific facts" you wonder how it could be. For example, a famous astronomer once said, "In the beginning, hydrogen." Did he really believe that, given enough time, an odorless, tasteless, colorless gas could turn into people without any outside intelligent intervention? What's the evidence? Has anyone ever seen it happen, or is this a modern fairy tale?

People are often quick to reject God because they cannot see, hear or touch Him, yet they believe in other intangibles. The difference is they attribute all the order and complexity in the universe and living things to Chance, rather than to an intelligent, powerful Creator. Chance becomes their God. As biologist Ernst Mayr has said, "The chance of life evolving on earth is infinitesimal," yet he believes it happened. What's the evidence? Nothing, except that we are here.

The world around us exhibits incredible design, yet people continue to suppress the truth and reject this evidence of God. Romans 1:20 says that when they do this they are "without excuse," and that they become "foolish in their speculations" as they refuse to honor God as God and give thanks. "Professing to

be wise they become fools."

As creationists, it's easy to laugh at these "futile speculations," but we need to be on guard lest we become foolish and arrogant ourselves. Romans 1:21 implies that we will fall for futile speculations when we do not "honor Him as God, or give thanks." What does it mean to really honor God as God? Are we truly thankful for Him and all that He is?

We would challenge each of us to examine our hearts and see if we are really honoring Him as God, and truly giving thanks. God, the almighty Creator, humbled Himself and came to earth to live and die on our behalf. Yes, He came as a baby in a manger, but He is so much more. He is King of Kings, and Lord of Lords, the Sovereign Ruler of the Universe, Savior of our souls, and Supplier of all our needs. Let us together learn to honor Him as God -- our great Creator, Sustainer, Redeemer, and Lord -- and give thanks with a humble heart.



Immanuel: The Miracle of God With Us!

# NOTES & QUOTES

■ Several years ago, in a public high school debate in Wyoming, the leader of the team of evolutionists summed up their case with an analogy. He went into a long, detailed description of how, when you were a child, you believed in Santa Claus, but as you got older, hard as it was, you had to come to grips with the true facts and give up that childish belief. Obviously, he was implying that belief in a Creator was like belief in Santa Claus, but he never quite got around to saying so. Then it was Dave's turn. Talk about a ready-made conclusion! He said, "The Santa Claus belief in this case is evolution. All three of us creationists used to believe in evolution, but as we learned the true facts of science, we gave up that belief and turned to the reality of creation." What are some of the "Santa Claus" beliefs we had to give up? Try these for a starter:

□ Myth: All of the order and complexity in the universe came about as a result of a gigantic explosion of the "Cosmic Egg" billions of years ago. Reality: Since when do explosions cause order?

□ Myth: The fossil record proves evolution. Transitions between the major types of living things are well-documented in the fossil record. Reality: There are no clear transitions between kinds in the fossil or living world.

□ Myth: The fossil record for human evolution is complete and clear. "Every knowing person believes that man descended from the apes. Today there is no such thing as the theory of evolution, it is the fact of evolution." (Ernst Mayr) Reality: Much of the evidence for human evolution is very fragmentary, and reconstructions involve much artistic bias. When fossil evidence is more plentiful, it shows men as men, apes as apes, monkeys as monkeys, with nothing in between. Many competent scientists today reject evolution. They recognize it is not even a good scientific theory, much less a fact.

□ Myth: Structural and biochemical homologies (similarities) prove common ancestry. Reality: Common ancestry is not the only explanation of similarity. Purposeful design can explain the same features in a more direct way. In addition, totally different lines often display similar features (e.g. similar eyes in humans and squids). Evolutionists then abandon their "common ancestry" argument and resort to "convergent evolution," the idea that similar organs evolved numerous times in the past. This simply compounds the problems.

□ Myth: "The rock layers of the earth form the pages of earth's history." They record the slow, gradual evolutionary development of life over millions and millions of years. Reality: There are many "out-of-place" fossils. The fossil record does not show a clear, "simple-to-complex" progression of life forms. Life is complex and fully-developed wherever it is found in the fossil record. Major groups of plants and animals appear suddenly in the fossil record, with nothing leading up to them. Most rock layers and the fossils they contain can be explained in terms of a world-wide flood and subsequent events.

□ Myth: Radiometric dating methods are "absolute." They are accurate and reliable. Reality: Radiometric dating methods depend on numerous assumptions, many of which are very questionable. In addition, when used to date "recent events," they are very unreliable. How then can you depend on them to give accurate results when dating events of unknown age?

□ Myth: The human body contains many "vestigial organs," useless left-overs from evolutionary development. Reality: Though at one time, there was a list of over 180 organs listed as vestigial (including the tonsils, thymus, thyroid and pituitary glands), the vast majority of these have now been shown to have very important functions. For the few left on the list, maybe we just don't know the function yet. Then again, even if a few organs have lost function since the original creation, that would not prove evolution. To demonstrate evolution, you would need to show the development of new structures.

□ Myth: The peppered moth is good evidence of evolution. Reality: Color variations among peppered moths and changes of relative numbers in response to environmental conditions do not prove anything about evolution. They are easily explained by the creation concept of variation within a created kind. Nothing new has been formed. They were moths to begin with and moths they stayed.

■ Do creationists really believe in Santa Claus? No! The true facts of nature do not conflict with the Biblical account, but rather they affirm it. As we study the world around us, we see overwhelming evidence of plan, purpose and design. Our understanding of common, everyday events and inventions tell us that design requires a designer. To attribute such ordered complexity to evolution is akin to believing in Jolly Old Saint Nick and his reindeer.

# SPOTLIGHT ON SCIENCE

## The Miracle of the Incarnation

One of the greatest doctrines, and greatest mysteries, of the Christian faith is the incarnation of Jesus Christ, in which our holy, transcendent Creator took on human flesh and became man. Scripture clearly teaches this truth, and we accept it by faith, yet those of us with inquiring minds still have many questions.

Henry Morris, in his book, *Biblical Creationism*, discusses some of these questions at length. The following ideas are condensations of his suggestions. While we can never know the details for sure (at least in this life), his explanations at least seem plausible.

The real questions are, how can a holy God reside in human flesh. How could Jesus be "true man," yet without sin? The Bible teaches that "in Adam all die" (I Cor. 15:22). All people have inherited a sin nature from Adam -- yet in order to be the perfect sacrifice for sin, Jesus Himself had to be sinless. In addition, He was "without blemish and without spot" (I Pet. 1:19). How did He escape the inherited genetic mutations and defects which have accumulated since the Fall?

Scripture teaches that Jesus was born of a virgin, so He had no biological father to pass on a sin nature, but what about his mother? Wouldn't her cells too be affected by inherited sin and genetic mutations? The only answer which seems consistent with Scripture and with our knowledge of human reproduction and genetics is that God specially created the first cell of a body for His Son and placed it in Mary's womb. Just as Adam, the first man was specially made by God, so also the body of Jesus, the "second man," was a special creation. As it says in Hebrews 10:5, "a body hast thou prepared me." (Interestingly, the word for "prepared" is the same one used in Heb. 11:3 for the creation of the world.) Jesus, the Son of God, took up residence in this perfectly created human body, this unique "Seed" planted in Mary's body by God Himself. He was nurtured in Mary's womb and born in the normal manner. He was truly human in every way, yet without sin and its physical effects.

What a miracle -- Immanuel -- God with us -- and yet, an even greater miracle occurred when Jesus took our sin upon Himself at Calvary. The perfect Son of God became "sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him" (II Cor. 5:21). Can we ever really comprehend such a miracle? Probably not, but we can believe it and praise and worship Him for His great gift of love.

## The Miracle of Birth

Birth is such a common event we seldom think of it, but what a powerful testimony to creative design it is. Consider the fantastic events that take place as the infant goes in minutes from a warm, protected, watery environment to the cold, harsh, world.

In the womb, food and oxygen were supplied by the mother through the placenta. Carbon dioxide and other wastes were eliminated by the same system. Suddenly, at birth all this changes.

The first need is for air. In a normal birth, the infant takes its first breath almost immediately. What causes this is not known exactly, but it seems to be a reaction to sensory impulses upon arrival in the "cold, cruel world" and a somewhat asphyxiated condition due to the birth process.

At birth, the air sacs in the lungs are collapsed and held together by the surface tension of fluids they contain. The first breath must be extra powerful to open the lungs and clear passages of fluid. It also sets off a host of other physical responses.

Immediate adjustments are needed in the circulatory system to change from the fetal to newborn condition. In the fetus, special shunts (the foramen ovale between the right and left atria of the heart and the ductus arteriosus between the pulmonary artery and the aorta), allow for a large blood flow through the placenta but very little through the lungs. All of a sudden at birth, this changes. The placental blood flow ceases, causing the infant's systemic blood pressure to almost double. As the lungs expand for the first time, their blood vessels, which had been compressed, expand causing an almost fivefold decrease in resistance to blood flow to the lungs. These changes in pressure help to close the small valve which covers the foramen ovale and initiate muscular constriction of the ductus arteriosus. (Although this system usually works perfectly, occasionally a baby may need surgery to close the "hole in the heart" or the ductus arteriosus.)

Numerous other chemical and physical changes take place in both the newborn and the mother. Each event is coordinated with the others in a way that shouts out for intelligent design. Complex and wondrous as it is, though, physical birth is just the first birth. The "new birth" by the Spirit of God is even more miraculous and less-understood. Just as dramatic changes take place at physical birth, so even more dramatic changes take place as a person becomes a child of God through faith in Jesus.

## EVENTS

(Call local contact for time and place.)

- Jan 21-22: Austin, TX: Area Conference.  
Sponsored by CHEA. Contact Chris Long, 512-280-3632.
- Jan 23: Kingsland, TX: First Baptist Church.  
Contact Church, 915-388-4507.
- Jan 24-25: Fredericksburg, TX: Fredrick. Bible Church.  
Contact Velna Jackson, 210-644-2380.
- Jan 26-27: Boerne, TX: Tentative  
Contact Jack MGinnis, 210-981-8188.
- Jan 28-29: San Antonio, TX: Area Conference.  
Sponsored by FEAST. Contact 210-692-7214.
- Jan 30: Fredericksburg, TX: Tentative  
Contact Velna Jackson, 210-644-2380.
- Jan 31- Feb 1,2: Alamo, TX: Alamo Community Church.  
Contact Church Office, 210-787-2474.

### Also mark your calendar for the following special events:

- Feb 25: Grand Junction, CO: Alpha Omega Science Fair.  
Contact us, 245-5906.
- Mar 21-25: Estes Park, CO: National HS Basketball Tourn.  
Contact FEAST, 210-692-7214.
- Mar 26: Loveland, CO: Agape Family Schools Education Fair.  
Contact Julie Soricelli, 303-587-5020.
- Apr 4-9: Winter Park, CO: Snow Mountain Family Adventure.  
Contact us, 303-245-5906.
- Apr 23-May 1: Grand Canyon: ICR Grand Canyon Adventure.  
Contact ICR, 619-448-0900.

PLEASE KEEP THIS SCHEDULE AND PRAY FOR US!

If you see that we will be in your area, please tell others. Also, call us if you'd like a seminar for your church, school, or group. We may be able to squeeze you in.

## *Alpha Omega Institute*

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**ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED**

### In This Issue:

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## Important Books!

Here's one we've been waiting for -- Biblical Creationism -- a complete study of all the major passages in the Bible dealing with creation and the Flood. We've been wanting to do this study for a long time, but weren't diligent enough. This comprehensive work by Dr. Henry Morris will be a valuable resource for pastors and laymen alike. We thank God for Dr. Morris and the way he honors God in his life and works. (Available from Alpha Omega Institute for \$21.95 + \$2.00 s/h. Colorado residents please add 3% tax.)

Another exciting book which ties in well with this month's articles is Life Before Birth by Dr. Gary Parker. It's an informative, delightfully-illustrated family book teaching the wonder and dignity of human life and dealing with topics like abortion and birth defects in a consistent Biblical view. (\$10.95 + \$1.00 S/H. Colorado residents: 3% tax.)

## 1994 Creation Vacation Dates

- April 4-9 Snow Mountain Winter Family Adventure
- July 3-8 Twin Peaks Family Science Adventure
- August 14-19 Redcloud Family Mountain Adventure I
- August 21-26 Redcloud Family Mountain Adventure II
- September 2-5 Id-Ra-Ha-Je Labor Day Family Camp

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