

Think & Believe

Discover Creation...Worship the Creator

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Visiting Our National Parks

by Dave Nutting

In this issue of Think & Believe, our articles focus on Yellowstone National Park and the adjoining Grand Tetons. With over 3 million visitors to the area each year, I suspect that many of our readers will be venturing there even this year. If not, you will likely visit another one of our parks or museums this summer if you take a road trip vacation.

On the negative side of going to the parks or museums is the plain fact that you and your family will likely be inundated by evolutionary and anti-Biblical philosophy. It is hard to escape the evolution and all those "millions of years" that is so prevalent unless you never go into a visitor center or gift shop. Since there is a slim chance of that happening, I really recommend that you prepare your family well for the trip and the vain philosophies they will get. Remember the warning in Col. 2:8 not to be taken captive by philosophies!

On the positive side of going to the national parks is the tremendous teaching opportunity you have to point out the problems with evolution and the other philosophies

that permeate those museums and national parks. If you don't want to miss this opportunity, make sure you are prepared to help your family understand the evolutionary bias and contrast that to the Truth of God's

Word.

We mention the Yellowstone Guide in this issue, but there are also guides available through our office or website (DiscoverCreation.org) for the Grand Canyon and for Bryce Canyon

and Zion National Parks. Not only that, but we also have guide books to prepare your family before you go to zoos (Complete Zoo Adventure),

for museums (Museum Guide) and for aquariums (Complete Aquarium Adventure). With all of these resources at your fingertips, you can make this year's vacation a real vacation with a purpose!

Almost 20 years ago, we ran an article entitled Vacation Alert (T&B, volume 10 No.3). In it, we mentioned a trend in the parks to embrace and teach new age

philosophies, pantheism, spiritism, reincarnation, and nature worship. As you go to most of the parks, you will note that the trend has now become the norm. Much of this has crept in by the park's extolling of the Native American cultures. You will want to point this out to your family as well. Go to our website articles section and look in the back issues of **Think & Believe** to read that article.

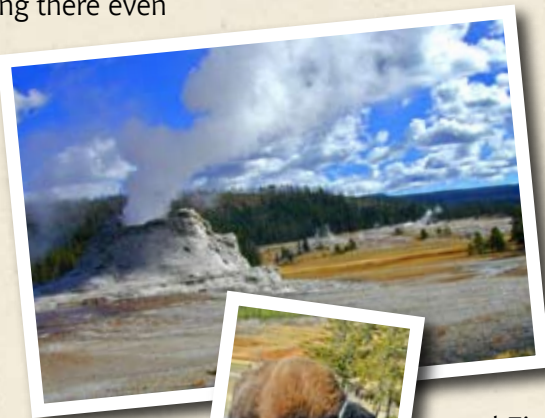
Mary Jo & I have recently returned from leading a group of 39 (besides us) on an extensive excursion through the American Southwest. This included several national parks as well as other sites. It was exciting for us to see the students begin to recognize the evidence for the Truth of God's Word while visiting those parks. You can have the same impact with your own family.

We reiterate what we have said before: When you pack for vacation this summer,

don't leave your mind at home! Enjoy what you see, but be alert! Vain philosophies are lurking out there. As you enter the "secular temples," teach your family to

use their minds and their hearts to evaluate what they hear.

Have a great summer family vacation with a purpose! **AOI**



The Fossil Forests of Yellowstone by Dave Nutting & Mark Sonmor

Yellowstone! The Tetons! Hot springs, bears, mudpots, hoodoos, waterfalls, and buffalo! Because of its thermal oddities and astounding geology, this area covering 3,400 square miles is like nature's Disneyland. For creationists, it's even better. There are so many features that cannot be accounted for by slow and gradual processes that, in some cases, even uniformitarian scientists are talking "catastrophe."

We've chosen a few highlights from the True North guidebook to invite your interest and to encourage your faith.

For instance, Specimen Ridge in Yellowstone National Park consists of many layers

containing standing petrified trees. These trees were assumed to represent 27 successive forests which were each buried by volcanic eruptions, separated by long spans of time. If this is right, why do trees in different layers have the same ring structure?

Where are the soil zones between forests? Why are the roots broken off? The 1980 Mt. St. Helens eruption answered our questions and altered our view

of the formation of Specimen Ridge forever. It ripped up trees from a single forest and deposited them in mudflows and also in Spirit Lake. There they became waterlogged, sank to the bottom, and were buried upright in distinct

layers as if they grew during different times.

The multiple forest interpretation of the layers in Yellowstone which assumes very long periods of time had certainly captivated many students causing them to reject the Biblical record or making them take a dimmer view of Scripture. As it turns out, Scripture holds! Actual observation showed how multiple layers with trees standing upright could form within merely a couple of years. Colossians 2:8 warns us not to be taken captive through vain philosophy. Evolution is certainly a philosophy; however, it poses as if it were science. Don't be taken captive! Stand firmly on the Word! **AOI**



Your Guide to Yellowstone and The Tetons

by Mark Sonmor

If you are planning to visit or want a new perspective on this amazing region, this True North guidebook is essential! Not only is it attractive, with colorful foldouts and appealing design, it gives a concise creationist viewpoint regarding the geology, ecology, and history of each of the area's attractions. With it, you will receive facts and interpretations that can be found in no other source.

For example, visitors may drive past Mount Washburn and casually note that it is the highest point in Yellowstone. However, most will never know that the entire mountain is made up of layer upon

layer of Absaroka Volcanics (see pg.3) whose formation is best explained by a series of volcanic flows in an environment such as Noah's Flood.

Others gazing at Mt. Moran may never realize it is topped by the same sandstone that covers North America. This indicates it was once covered by continent-wide sediments and lifted up in the Flood's later stages.

Along with explaining the parks' geologic features, this handy guide helps you plan your trip to get the most out of the time you have. It also lists helpful travel information and items of interest that might be missed by casual observers.

Even if you aren't planning a

trip this year, there are nearly 3,500,000 others who are. Because so many have been, and will be influenced by the naturalistic explanations promoted throughout the parks, this guide book is essential. Sections 7 & 8 offer concise, easily-understood explanations of worldview, dating methods, fossilization, and unique design features of flora and fauna. (Did you know mistletoe eject their seeds up to 30 ft. at 60 mph?)

If you do know of someone who is planning to go – even a skeptic – it would make a great gift. This book is available from AOI for \$16 + Shipping & Handling. **AOI**



Flood & Volcanoes of Yellowstone

by Mark Sonmor

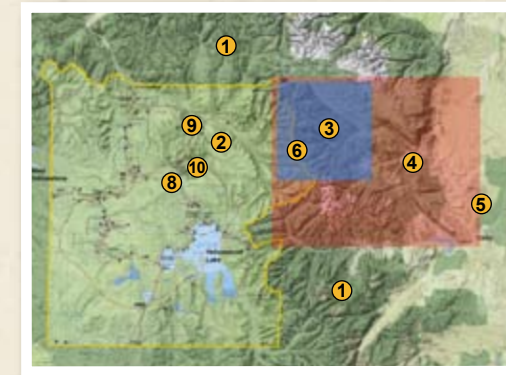
While fossilized trees are unique, so are the strata that encases them. Layers of volcanic and other rock debris mixed with underwater mudflows and landslides make up the the Absaroka mountains(1). This range extends from east of Jackson, WY and past the northern boundary of Yellowstone to Montana's Beartooth and Gallatin ranges. Imagine flow after flow of volcanic deposits reaching to heights of 6-11,000 ft. While you're at it, envision those deposits entombing large quantities of logs floating in the late-stage flood waters or a large postflood lake. (2) It's a mystery on a grand scale that you can begin to solve on your next visit to Yellowstone.

Petrified trees, however, aren't the only structures entombed under the Absarokas. At the northeast end of the park, they cover large carbonate blocks that have come to be known as the Heart Mountain slide. It is the largest landslide known to man.

According to researchers, a section of limestone (3) 425 square miles x 1,600 ft. thick, broke away and slid some 30 miles southeast on a nearly level layer of rock. It is estimated that it took only 4 minutes at a speed nearly 700 mph to break the slab into approximately 50 pieces and spread it over an area larger than the state of Rhode Island! (1,300 sq. miles) (4)

Since most slabs of rock don't normally slide on a 1-2° slope, even

under extreme conditions, most scientists have conceded it was initiated by volcanic activity. For it to slide, however, a slab that size would need some lubrication. One proposal is that friction heated the water in the lowest section of rock resulting in an increase of water pressure. Others have suggested that friction released CO₂ from the rock allowing it to float on a cushion of gas.



Yellowstone flowed north through a breached dam cutting a 1,200 ft.-deep canyon. Over time, the greater erosion in the main canyon caused the canyons of Tower Fall(8) and Upper Falls(9) to become "hanging valleys."

Presence of glacially-transported boulders on top of the rim and its V-shape, indicate the "Grand Canyon" of the Yellowstone was formed recently and after the Ice Age. **AOI**

Recommended Reading:

Oard, Journal of Creation, 20(3),2006
Oard, Journal of Creation, 24(2),2010

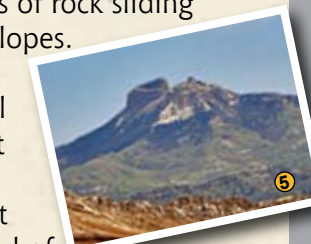
Teton Tectonics

According to the guidebook, the Tetons are the result of massive vertical shifting of the earth's upper crust. The total shift from the top of Grand Teton to a point underneath Jackson Hole is 30,000 feet!

On top of the Tetons are remnants of sedimentary layers found across the continent. Lack of erosional features between the layers indicate little or no time between deposition.

Rounded quartzite boulders are also found on top of the Tetons. Their presence indicates they must have been deposited prior to the uplift. Amazingly, these boulders were transported up to 800 miles

from their source in Idaho and Montana. This mass of boulders (some larger than basketballs) is believed to have reached a volume of 600 cubic miles. Again, events of this magnitude seem best explained by Noah's Flood. **AOI**



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“The camp saved our family!”

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Laptops Needed for India Outreach

Richard Stepanek reports that we need 2 quality laptop computers to supply AOI's outreach ministry in India. Individuals are being trained, but they lack the equipment. Perhaps you have one that is not being used. They need at least 2 GB of RAM. Please call AOI and ask for Scott.

Financial Need

If you see the importance of AOI's Creation ministry, please help. Winter and spring donations were much lower than needed. With summer months also notoriously low, we know we will need your help to spread the message.

Seminars

Call to host an exciting, affordable, fast-paced, and understandable Discover Creation seminar in **YOUR** area! They are fully-illustrated with high-quality visuals and can be tailored to children, youth, or adults.



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