

Think Believe

Discover Creation...Worship the Creator

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Why Do So Many People Believe in Evolution?

By Dave Nutting

If evolution is so wrong and the evidence doesn't support it, then why do so many people accept it? I think there are at least 5 reasons:

1. It's all they have been taught.

I believed in evolution until my third year of college-level teaching when I finally studied the topic for myself. My early desire was to be a dinosaur paleontologist. By age 15, I had found fairly complete remains of 2 dinosaurs and parts of many others. Fossil books and, of course, school instructed me in evolution. I never actually studied the evidence, but merely accepted what I was taught.

When presented with the truth, my experience was much like that of a 6-year-old who was indignant when we showed him evolution wasn't true. He blurted out to the effect, "But my book said it's true, and my teacher said so too." Did he analyze the evidence or read technical scientific papers? No. Like me, he blindly accepted it. I think most people fall into this category.

2. Poor understanding of science.

Mary Jo challenged a university student who claimed he operated only by science, not faith: "I suppose you did a scientific test this morning to analyze the water coming out of the faucet before taking a drink – just to be sure no one poisoned it." No, he had faith that somebody was watching

out for water quality. (By the way, even if he had done a "scientific test," he would still be exercising faith in the equipment, in the process used, and in his reasoning power.) Mary Jo also pointed out that when he drove to the university, he operated on faith that the driver of the approaching car would stay in his own lane and not take him out. We all operate on faith!

In addition, evidence is only testable in the present and may or may not be helpful in unravelling events in the past. Instead, we must rely on history/eyewitness accounts.

3. Poor understanding of the Bible.

An arrogant university student proclaimed that he couldn't believe in creation and the Bible because "the Bible says that the earth is suspended on the backs of two turtles." Other atheist students around him were loudly whispering to him, "No it doesn't!" We asked him to bring that passage to us the next night, but quite predictably, he didn't show up. Sadly, way too many people, who never personally study the Bible, operate on false concepts of what it really teaches.

4. Personal reasons.

We encounter atheists who claim evolution is a fact but seem immune to any real evidence we present. Probing

deeper, we discover they are angry at God over issues such as: Why did God let my dad or sister die of cancer? Evolution provides an excuse to claim there is no God.

Others opt for evolution because they don't want to be accountable to God. One professor told Mary Jo that he "kind of liked Jesus, as a man, but he couldn't buy this divinity stuff." She asked, "Why not?" He responded, "Because I don't want anybody telling me what to do." She told him she appreciated his honesty. Most people who choose evolution for this reason are not so honest.

5. Acceptance of false information.

Students are taught, "Evolution is science whereas creation is merely religion." Therefore, wishing to be "scientific," they merely accept evolution. In our lectures, we point out that evolution is not science. It is really philosophy posing as science. There is a **lot** of good, scientific evidence that contradicts it and supports the Biblical account.

It really does matter what you believe! Acceptance of evolution is the #1 reason students give for rejecting the Bible and the Gospel. That's where AOI and you, our readers, come in.

Together we can help people study the issue so they may come to know God as Creator, Savior, and Lord. **AOI**





1. Are Genesis 1 and 2 different creation accounts?

Genesis 1 and 2 are not contradictory accounts, but rather, complimentary. Genesis 1 gives a chronological overview and Genesis 2 focuses in on some of the main details of the creation of Adam and Eve. This is a common literary technique – to give a broad overview and then relate specific aspects of it.



2. If God created the universe, why do so many believe in the unguided processes of evolution instead?

People will often see what they want to see. This issue is less about the evidence and more about the *interpretation* of the evidence. I believe many people are openly rebellious because, if there is a God, then humans are

accountable to Him (and are facing punishment). Because of this, people will try to ignore that there is a God or disprove God by proving naturalism. In reality, the evidence can be better interpreted according to Biblical Creation.

One example of how a piece of evidence can be twisted to prove naturalism, is when Mary Schweitzer found soft tissue within dinosaur bones. Because soft tissue has been observed to break down quickly, the obvious conclusion is that the bones aren't that old. However, secular scientists are now intensively studying how things like this can be preserved so well over so long a time period.

Instead of following Occam's Razor (basically that the simplest answer is the better answer), they maintain that the bone is old and assume the difficult task of proving that its preservation must be extraordinary.

3. Why would God create the entire universe just for tiny little people on a tiny little planet out in space?

This argument assumes that God made a waste of space if we are the only ones here. People might also exclaim how lonely an existence that is. No, God focused His creation on the Earth. In fact, Genesis 1 says the word "earth" 20 times! In addition, Genesis 1 and 2 make it clear that we are God's prized creations. He created the universe around the earth to display His great power and glory so that, for believers, this is not a lonely existence. Instead, we know that God made us, gave us His Spirit, and designed creation to allow us to ultimately live with Him forever in a new, revitalized earth. **AOI**

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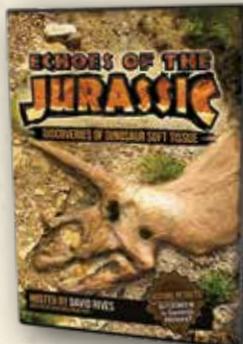
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Echoes of the Jurassic

(Review by Brian Mariani)

Looking for a beautifully-done, informative, and "fresh" look at how soft tissue, found in dinosaur bone, takes a deadly bite out of the evolutionary millions-of-years paradigm?

Echoes of the Jurassic clearly presents the testimonies of many experts proclaiming that this discovery is easily one of the biggest problems for evolutionary models.



This award-winning documentary allows you to participate with real scientists, who believe in creation, actually performing the experiments. The result is evidence that points to recent burial and fossilization – thus confirming the truth of Scripture.

As the host points out: "The discovery of soft tissue is a powerful reminder of observable and empirical evidence

that God created the universe in the beginning, just as stated in the Biblical book of Genesis. As shown in dinosaur soft tissue research, observable science is on the side of the creationist."

At just under an hour long, this documentary puts the whole issue in perspective and will strengthen your whole family in the truth of God and His Word. For even more clarification on this topic, the DVD also includes a few bonus features. Order several today! Single copy **\$16.00** plus \$3.00 S/H (total for each address). **AOI**

Amazing Birds of Costa Rica

by Dave Nutting

Toucans are one of the favorite birds for participants to encounter on our Costa Rica Creation Tour. Their amazing bill makes up 30 – 50% of the size of the Toucan yet comprises a mere 5% of its body weight.

Charles Darwin suggested the large, colorful bill was a mating advantage. However, modern research has shown it actually provides very sophisticated temperature regulation. National Geographic News reported: “The brilliantly colored bills of toucans aren’t just eye candy. Rather, they play an essential role in helping the birds control their temperature....” (Aug. 1, 2009)

It turns out that temperature-regulating sensors control exactly how much, and to what distance, blood is sent into the bill to give just the right amount of cooling in a tropical environment – both night and day! The beak and related feedback systems, are actually highly-engineered thermal regulatory systems. How in the world could this arise by evolution? It looks remarkably designed by an artistic engineer.

[Ref: Tattersall, G., Andrade, D., Abe, A., Heat exchange from the toucan bill reveals a controllable vascular thermal radiator, Science 325(5939):468–470, 2009]



of the pair dies, the other will not look for another mate.

Why not? Wouldn't evolution favor having multiple mates if survival of their species hinges

on passing on favorable genes? As with the colorful Toucan bill, perhaps there is also a “yet-to-be-discovered” reason. Personally, I believe the gorgeous plumage is meant for us to enjoy!

The Quetzal is another beautiful bird we search for in Costa Rica. It is highly prized by birdwatchers from around the world. Its beauty is even displayed on the Guatemalan flag and coat of arms. Before we attribute its beauty to mating advantage, consider the peacock.

Peacocks are native to India but, because of their size and beauty, have been domesticated and transported to



most parts of the world – including Costa Rica.



Darwin, and most evolutionists after him, attributed the peacock's intense beauty to slow and gradual evolution by means of natural selection.

Supposedly, the most beautiful or stately males attracted a female by means of their splendid display of color. However, when the research was published involving 268 observations, the most splendid males did not win the attention of the females! This became hotly disputed because sexual favoritism has been the evolutionary mantra in textbooks, science papers, and classroom teaching for, not only the beauty of birds, but of bees and butterflies.

[Barras, C., Have peacock tails lost their sexual allure?, NewScientist.com news service, 4 April 2008.]

So if not for mating advantage, why is there such magnificence in all of these birds? Isn't beauty reason enough? If we ascribe beauty to a painting, we directly or indirectly give praise to the artist. When we ascribe beauty to a plant or animal, we do the same. Rather than seeing beauty as a mechanistic means for survival, I believe God wants us to thoroughly experience a sense of wonder as we see His glory found in each one of His creatures. **AOI**



Scarlett Macaws

have absolutely amazing plumage but why such intense beauty? Evolutionists have assumed that beautiful feathers were for attracting and impressing a potential mate. However, the male and female Scarlet Macaw have the same vivid coloration. Scarlet Macaws also mate for life. If one

If you'd like to see birds like these for yourself – as well as colorful butterflies, playful monkeys, amazing volcanoes, fascinating sea life, gorgeous flowers, and a whole lot more. Call 970-523-9943 to reserve your spot on the unforgettable Costa Rica Creation Tour (March 2-11). For more info visit: <http://www.discovercreation.org/camps-tours/costa-rica-creation-adventure/>

Director's Column by Dave & Mary Jo Nutting



The "New Year" is in full swing! We presume that many of you are already making vacation plans for the year. We'd

like to encourage you to consider one of AOI's Creation Vacations. These are all "vacations with a purpose" designed to give you and your family a great opportunity to experience God's amazing Creation – to learn and grow with like-minded individuals – and to turn your hearts to God in worship and awe. These camps and tours are filled with fun, fellowship, and plenty of creation teaching, so plan to come – by yourself, with a friend, with your family, with grandkids, whatever! Just come!



Costa Rica Creation Experience

The **March 2-11** Costa Rica Creation Tour is rapidly approaching. This is a wonderful opportunity to experience the amazing diversity of this ecologically-rich country. See the tropical rainforest, cloud forest, central valley, and beaches. Enjoy live volcanoes, stunning waterfalls, archaeological artifacts, and amazing biodiversity, including fabulously-designed birds and butterflies. Expect great accommodations, and delicious

meals. Learn from experienced Costa Rican guides and veteran creation teachers. Call **today** to reserve your space on this amazing adventure.

Canyon Country Adventure Tour

New this summer! – A creation seminar integrated with must-see sites at Arches, Canyonlands, and Mesa Verde National Parks; Colorado and Black Canyon National Monuments, and more.



Bring your whole family on this fun, informative adventure. Awesome

vistas, amazing archaeological finds, mountains, canyons, and desert – all interpreted within a Biblical Creation/Fall/Flood perspective. **Please call AOI to express your interest.**

Rock and River Creation Adventure

July 2-7 Join us and experienced outdoor guides for an action-packed week of whitewater rafting, inflatable kayaks, rock climbing, and mountain hiking, combined with creation teaching, worship, and fellowship. This unforgettable adventure is **great** for families or teens. (Bring a friend or come make some new ones who share your love of adventure!)



Yellowstone Creation Tour

August 31-Sep.4

Experience the amazing geological and biological wonders of Yellowstone with experienced Creation guides and teachers. Fascinating geysers, hot springs, and mud pots; stunning lakes and rushing rivers; peaceful valleys, soaring mountains, lush meadows, and beautiful forests; awesome wildlife, delicious meals, and wonderful fellowship combined



with creation presentations, make this a great tour for families with kids of all ages. Call to register: 970-523-

9943 or check www.discovercreation.org/camps-tours/ for more information.

Creation and Worldview Training

Learn to defend your faith and reach out to atheists, skeptics, and seekers. Online training, coupled with a week of practical outreach in Southern CA, including the University of CA, Irvine, or Boulder & the University of CO (Summer dates TBA). Do you have a youth-group-specific date request? Call Scott ASAP at 970-523-9943.



If you can help the ministry of AOI in any way, it is greatly needed right now and very much appreciated!



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