

Think Believe

Discover Creation...Worship the Creator

A Publication of Alpha Omega Institute

July/August, 2018; Vol. 36, No. 4

What Kind of Evolution?

By Mary Jo Nutting

When people tell you that they believe in evolution, how do you respond? It might be a good idea to ask them some questions before launching into a sermon about creation, evolution, and the Bible. Asking questions can be a good way to go deeper with the conversation to find out what they really believe and why. That can make a big difference in how you respond to them and how willing they are to talk further with you. It can be counter-productive answering questions they aren't asking, or contradicting things they don't believe in.

For example, if you ask, "What do you mean by evolution?" or "What kind of evolution do you believe in?" it can give you a better idea of what they really believe. For example, do they mean "mega/cosmic evolution" that includes the naturalistic origin of the universe and everything in it (usually starting with some sort of big bang)? Or do they mean "macroevolution" involving the origin of new types of animals and plants (e.g., fish to amphibians, amphibians to reptiles, reptiles to birds and mammals, etc.)? Or, maybe they mean relatively minor, "microevolutionary" changes within a basic type of organism (e.g. Darwin's finches, Peppered Moths, antibiotic-resistant bacteria, etc.).

The question, "Why do you believe it?" may give you some idea regarding what they believe. It will also give you an idea of whether they have really studied the issue or if they just have vague surface knowledge. It may also help to find out how firmly they are entrenched in their views – whether their perceived reasons are based on supposed evidence or whether it's because of philosophical, religious, or personal reasons. There can always be other reasons under the surface that will come up later in the conversation.

Next, you might want to ask: "Do you believe it was an entirely naturalistic process, or was there a supernatural force or spiritual being (like God) involved?" This question can tell you a lot about their worldview and about their conception of God. It can also help you discern if they would be more open to a conversation starting with the Bible or if hearing some evidence might be a more helpful starting place. If it seems they would be open to a philosophical/religious discussion, you can ask them to tell you more about their perception of this force or being. This can help you

understand their view of the nature and character of God.

Of course, these are just a few questions that you can use to get an idea of where people are coming from in their beliefs. Our friend, Bill Jack, teaches students to use several more general questions such as, "What do you mean by _____? How do you know that you are right? What if you are wrong and you die? What difference does that make in your life? AOI's own Scott and Brian have been using a 10-question survey to help in their discussions with college students. If you would like to receive that list, send us an email at aoi@discovercreation.org (attention: Gail).

Remember, the goal is not to "win an argument" or prove you are right. We don't need to "prove" the Bible. It stands true, no matter what people think or say about it. Our goal should always be to exalt the Lord Jesus Christ in our thoughts, words, and deeds – and to fulfill His commission: "Go into all the world and make disciples." Our desire should be to declare Christ, to lead people from darkness to light, and help them find true freedom and abundant life in Him. As His disciples, our hearts should be filled with love, our character should be free from manipulation or false motives, our speech should be seasoned with grace, and we should always strive to speak the truth in love, knowing Whom it is we serve. Remember, we are privileged to be His ambassadors, but the results are in His hands. **AOI**



Campus Ministry – First Year Update by Brian Mariani



Finals and graduation have passed and most students have moved home for the summer. We are currently debriefing with our leaders and brainstorming how to minister more effectively to college students! We started late but ended the year building a presence! People became familiar with us as we handed out roughly 900 business cards, 1,500 flyers, and 800 really good treats (cookies, brownies, cinnamon rolls, etc.) Aimee is in high esteem with the college students (and with AOI staff!)

Many students filled out surveys which, in turn, resulted in some lengthy conversations. This was further facilitated by offering a free dinner with discussion

time on Thursday nights – tacos, burritos, pizza, hamburgers, hot dogs – anything to draw students in! (Sorry no steak nights as we are trying to stretch our budget!) It takes time to get a campus ministry established but these efforts are building a reputation.

Now that we have some experience, we are planning to hit the ground running when school starts this August. Hopefully, we can bring in students before they get sucked into party life or stuck in a rut with their normal routine.

One of my goals for this coming year is to partner with other Christian ministries on campus and encourage them to use AOI (including our free dinner and discussion nights) as evangelism opportunities to start conversations

with their skeptical friends. We are praying for God's direction and His will to be done! [Editor's note: At the end of the year, while speaking at CMU, I talked with one of the skeptical students whom Brian had shared with and who had come to several events. Although he still has questions, he has apparently abandoned his atheist leanings and is endorsing a lot of what Brian and the rest of us are proclaiming! Praise the Lord! You never know which seeds will sprout when you plant, water, and trust God for the harvest! I asked Brian (and this is something for all of us to consider): "If only one person comes to the Lord as the result of your sharing on the campus, is it worth it?" I think so! Our efforts are never in vain in the Lord. – Dave Nutting] **AOI**

National Park Guidebooks

Review by Dave Nutting

For those of you heading out on trips yet this summer or looking ahead to next summer, make sure you plan to take in some national parks. However, please don't take in the evolutionary, humanistic teaching that is so prevalent in those parks. To help, we recommend one or all of the North Star National Parks Guide series: **Your Guide to Grand Canyon, Your Guide to Yellowstone and Grand Teton, and Your Guide to Zion and Bryce Canyon.**

These books are like taking me (as a geologist) and Mary

Jo (as a biologist) to these sites as personal guides – and perhaps better! Why? My pointer doesn't reach across the Grand Canyon! Many fold-outs show you exactly what you're looking at – circling important features and giving the significance from a Biblical Creation worldview. If you are not going to these parks, you

will still like this set, as you can learn a huge amount – definitely more than any tourist visiting there. **AOI**
Individually: **\$15** each
Set of three : **\$40** set



Impacts and Implications

by Mark Sonmor with Brian Mariani

Shooting stars, or meteors, are rare, amazing sights that evoke wonder and intrigue as they flash through the night sky. Meteors are small asteroids that normally burn up in earth's atmosphere. If, by chance, they make it to the surface, they are called meteorites. Every year, tens of thousands of small meteorites hit the earth. Some, however, like the one that created Meteor Crater near Flagstaff, AZ, leave sizeable impacts. As we consider these meteor strikes, can we find any clues that support the biblical account of earth history?

Scientists have found evidence of at least 110 large-impact craters preserved within the sedimentary rock layers of the earth. The Acraman impact crater, for instance, in southern Australia, resulted from a large meteorite (possibly 2.5 miles wide) whose impact distributed a debris layer 16 inches thick, up to 280 miles away. This fossil crater is preserved in what many creationists believe to be the initial deposits laid down by the Flood. If so, what were the conditions like as Genesis relates, "the "windows of heaven were opened" and the "fountains of the deep were broken up?" Were meteorites actually instrumental in triggering the Flood?

Mainstream geology, of course, has a different interpretation. Assuming these rock layers represent long ages, scientists report that

71 of these craters were formed over 600 million years and the rest occurred within the last 30 million. If we average that out, there would have been 3.5 meteor strikes every 30-million-years until the most recent period where we see an incredible spike of 39 impacts! If the universe is old, and the product of a big bang, we would expect to see a general decline of meteorite activity. An increase

of this magnitude does not fit uniformitarian assumptions.

However, if the 71 meteorites were crashing into rising Flood sediments, the remainder could be assigned to the ending stages of the Flood and the time since. Viewed in this way, the data would indicate an overall decrease in the rate of impacts since the onset of the Flood.

In a quarry in southern Sweden, scientists have discovered 40 chondrites (stony, non-metallic meteorites) in limestone 10.5 feet thick. This particular section of limestone has been categorized into twelve different layers or "beds." Between each bed is a contact surface that is believed, by mainstream geologists, to represent 100 – 1,000 years of inactivity. Because many of the meteorites were found on these contact surfaces, they're categorized into twelve separate impact events.

However, there's a problem. Standard geology assumes this particular limestone formed at the rate of 0.08 inches per 1,000 years. If that's true, it would require these meteorites to fall in the same exact spot, in twelve different episodes, across a span of more than 1.5 million years!

It seems, rather, that these features are products of a rapid accumulation of limestone during a single barrage of meteorites.¹ (For more on rapid limestone formation, see the Nuttings article in T&B Nov./Dec. 2004.)

More meteorite mysteries exist on our moon. Curiously, one side of the moon is marked by dark sections called *maria*, the Latin word for "sea."



NASA/ASU

Lava flows called *maria discolor* the moon's surface and preserve remnants of past meteorite strikes called "**ghost craters.**"

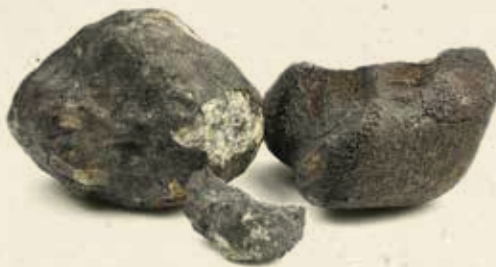
Galileo assigned this term to them thinking they were bodies of water. Since then, astronomers have concluded that these dark areas are lava flows produced by meteorites large enough to crack the moon's surface to a depth that would allow the molten interior to flow out onto the surface. The result is an infilling of dark lava that takes up nearly a quarter of the moon's surface.

If these craters occurred randomly over billions of years, we would expect them to be more evenly distributed. Instead, their grouping points to a single event. Ph.D. Astronomer Danny Faulkner also relates, "It looks as though the meteorites struck the northern part of the moon in just a few days before the moon had time to rotate very far."²

Within this curious concentration of craters, we also observe "ghost craters" – remnants of smaller craters within the maria. Scientists believe that as these massive meteorites struck the moon, smaller meteorites followed whose craters were preserved in the lava. For this to happen, the impacts would have to be in rapid succession before the lava had a chance to harden.

In addition, there is a lack of fresh craters over the top of the hardened lava fields. This lends additional support to the idea that these events happened quickly and that it was a unique, catastrophic event.

As we consider the implications of these impacts, it appears that the standard, long-age perspective has difficulties explaining the data. More so, when taken together, these impacts may give us an amazing snapshot of a single, biblical cataclysm that not only affected the earth but the moon as well. **AOI**



Meteorites are classified into to three groups: Iron, Stony-Iron, and Stony. These **Chondrites** are stony meteorites named after the spherical, silicate-rich particles they contain.

¹Andrew A Snelling, Did Meteors Trigger Noah's Flood? January 1, 2012, Answers in Genesis, <https://answersingenesis.org/the-flood/did-meteors-trigger-noahs-flood/>, accessed March 16, 2017.

²Danny R. Faulkner, Ghost Craters – Evidence of a Young Moon, January 1, 2012, Answers in Genesis, <https://answersingenesis.org/astronomy/moon/ghost-craters-evidence-of-a-young-moon/>, accessed March 16, 2017.

Director's Column by Dave & Mary Jo Nutting



As this leaves for your mailbox, I would like to repeat what I shared with some of our prayer partners earlier this summer. As appreciative as they

were of the reminder, I include it now for your encouragement, too!

It is always good to think back and thank the Lord for what He has done! When we had our regular board meeting on May 24, one of our board members noted that one year ago we did not have our own building. He expressed gratitude in how our God has so graciously provided for AOI in just one year's time.



AOI's Ministry Center one year later. Praise God for the provision of this strategic building! Will you consider how God might use you to help us pay it off completely?

Exactly one year prior to that meeting, Mary Jo "accidentally" turned down the "wrong" street and noticed "our" building. She called me at 11:00 AM, May 25 and asked, "How committed are we to expanding our ministry to Colorado Mesa University students?" "What do you have in mind?" I asked. That question launched a series of clear "God steps."

Three hours later, at our *scheduled* staff meeting, we brought it up for prayer. At 4 PM, we toured the building with the realtor. That very evening, during AOI's previously "God-scheduled" board meeting, the board prayerfully considered this venture and clearly sensed God's direction all over this. They asked me to pursue a contract on it. A day and a half later, we had our initial offer submitted and barely one week from seeing the building, had the officially signed contracts. Miraculously,

that very day (prior to our signing the contract), AOI received a donation for \$141,250 to cover the full down payment stipulated in the contract! We have never had a donation that large ever before in the history of AOI!

Through the whole process, we did not have to push on any doors. They were opening before us and we moved in on August 17. Very shortly after, we had a business rent the entire part of the building we were not yet planning to use.

All of this "blew away" the realtor we were working with. She actually told us after the closing, that she could have sold the building 2-3 times after our official contract was accepted. (This is even more miraculous as the

building had sat vacant for over a year. It looks like God was saving it for us!)

Rejoice with us as we look back on what started one year ago and keep asking the Lord to use this building and the ministry going out of it even more mightily. (See Brian Mariani's campus ministry update on Page 2 to see how the college outreach is progressing! You will be blessed!)

Thank you to all of you who have undergirded AOI in prayer and with financial support to make this project and the overall ministry move forward! It takes a team to make ministry happen. **AOI**

Become an AOI Ministry Partner.
Donations are always greatly needed and appreciated!

Upcoming Events

Be sure to check our website for upcoming events. If you don't see one in your area, contact us about bringing AOI to your church, school, or other group!

Website and Social Media



Check out our posts on FaceBook, Twitter, YouTube, and our website (DiscoverCreation.org). Sign up for our Blog, Follow us, Like us, Share with Friends. Educate yourself and your family and help us spread the message of Creation.



Note date change!

Costa Rica
Creation Adventure

- **March 23 – April 1, 2019.**

Mark your calendar. Check the web for more information. This is an amazing opportunity to discover the beauty and diversity of Costa Rica from a creation perspective. Call today to reserve your spot.



Last call!

Yellowstone
Creation Tour

- **Aug 31 – Sep 4**

Hot springs, geysers, boiling mud pots, and wildlife – plus experienced creation guides, great food, fun, and fellowship. Don't miss out! Call today to register for this amazing, affordable adventure!