



Think & Believe

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AN ANCIENT GODDESS FOR A NEW WORLD ORDER

by Terry Bridgman, Dave and Mary Jo Nutting

"Neo-Darwinism is extinct." Though many would disagree, something must be happening in the evolutionary world to prompt such a statement by a professor of evolution and genetics. What's going on?

To put this in perspective, it is important to understand what molds evolutionary thought. While many think evolution is a "scientific" theory, in reality it is very much dependent on the cultural and political mood of the times.

In 19th century England, when Darwin published On the Origin of Species, social and political change was viewed as a slow, gradual process. Lyell's idea of uniformitarianism was widely accepted and easily led to acceptance of Darwinian theories of evolution which also involved long periods of gradual change. As Steven J. Gould says, "Darwinism reflected the cultural and political bias of his time."

Later, in the atmosphere of the turbulent 1970's, Gould and others proposed a different tempo for evolution. They called it "punctuated equilibrium" -- long periods of stability with sudden spurts of rapid evolutionary change. Again, we see a tie between cultural, political biases and evolution theory -- the '70's were a time of Marxist revolution and Gould claims to have learned Marxism at an early age.

Now, "at the cutting edge of biology," we find something "new," the Gaia Principle. Named after an ancient Greek earth goddess, it has had followers in eastern religions and the New Age movement for some time. Recently, though, according to Time, "Scientists have begun to regard Gaia more seriously because the world has forced them to do so."

Once again note the cultural/political forces at work. New Age concepts now permeate society and although

change by revolution fits, atheistic evolution and the accepted Neo-Darwinian mechanisms involving slow mutational changes which are saved by competition and the struggle for survival does not. To fit the mood of the times, a new model of evolution, based on cooperation, not competition, is mandated. Enter the Gaia principle -- the Earth, our "Mother," is a living "superorganism" in which living things interact much as the cells of our body for the benefit of all.

As we look to the future, this emphasis on cooperation among peoples and nations to establish a "New World Order" should not surprise nor confuse Christians. Out of this blind hope for peace and cooperation will arise a "great tribulation" for the world. "While they are saying, 'Peace and safety!' then destruction will come upon them suddenly ..." (1. Thess. 5:3). Many false Messiahs will arise, but don't be deceived. There can never be true peace apart from Jesus, the Prince of Peace. "Of the increase of His government and **peace** there shall be no end." (Is. 9:7)



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NOTES & QUOTES

■ What is Berkeley law professor, Phillip Johnson, doing writing a book on evolution? According to the book jacket of **Darwin on Trial** (1991):

• ... Johnson looks at the evidence for Darwinistic evolution the way a lawyer would -- with a cold dispassionate eye for logic and proof. His discovery is that scientists have put the cart before the horse. They prematurely accepted Darwin's theory as fact and have been scrambling to find evidence for it -- mostly unsuccessfully. As the evidentiary difficulties have piled up, they have clung to the theory out of fear of encouraging religious fundamentalism, and in the process have turned belief in Darwinism into their own religion.

Darwinism, Johnson argues, has become another kind of fundamentalism -- merely dressed up in a laboratory smock and with a fierce and condescending refusal to listen to critics.

■ With that introduction, listen to what Johnson himself has to say about his qualifications and his reasons for writing the book:

• ... I am not a scientist but an academic lawyer by profession, with a specialty in analyzing the logic of arguments and identifying the assumptions that lie behind those arguments. This background is more appropriate than one might think, because what people believe about evolution and Darwinism depends very heavily on the kind of logic they employ and the kind of assumptions they make. (p.13)

• As a legal scholar, one point that attracted my attention in the Supreme Court case [1987] was the way terms like "science" and "religion" are used to imply conclusions that judges and educators might be unwilling to state explicitly. If we say that naturalistic evolution is **science**, and supernatural creation is **religion**, the effect is not very different from saying the former is true and the latter is fantasy. When doctrines of science are taught as fact, then whatever those doctrines exclude cannot be true. By the use of labels, objections to naturalistic evolution can be dismissed without a fair hearing. (p. 7)

• A second point that caught my attention was that the very persons who insist upon keeping religion and science separate are eager to use their science as a basis for pronouncements about religion.(p. 8)

■ Johnson carefully analyzes the major evidences for evolution, including the fossils, mutation, molecular evolution and more, and concludes that:

• ...The prevailing assumption in evolutionary science seems to be that speculative possibilities, without experimental confirmation, are all that is really necessary. ... Nature must have provided whatever evolution had to have, because otherwise evolution wouldn't have happened. It follows that if evolution required macromutations then macromutations must be possible, or if macromutations are impossible then evolution must not have required them. The theory itself provides whatever supporting evidence is essential. (p. 43)

• We can see from these examples why neo-Darwinism retains its status as textbook orthodoxy despite all the difficulties and even the imputations of moribundity. If neo-Darwinist gradualism were abandoned as incapable of explaining macroevolutionary leaps and the origin of complex organs, most biologists would still believe in evolution ... but they would have no **theory** of evolution. Materialist scientists are full of scorn for creationists who invoke an invisible creator who employed supernatural powers that cannot be observed operating in our own times. If evolutionary science must also rely upon mystical guiding forces or upon genetically impossible transformations, a philosophical materialist like Charles Darwin would call it rubbish. (pp. 43-44)

■ Michael Denton, the skeptical molecular biologist who wrote the devastating critique of evolution, **Evolution: A Theory in Crisis**, says:

• **Darwin on Trial** is unquestionably the best critique of Darwinism I have ever read. Professor Johnson combines a broad knowledge of biology with the incisive logic of a leading legal scholar to deliver a brilliant and devastating attack on the whole edifice of Darwinian belief. There is no doubt that this book will prove a severe embarrassment to the Darwinian establishment.

■ Even though Johnson does not "understand the concept of creation as narrowly as Duane Gish does" (p. 113), this book helps the reader understand the philosophical underpinnings of evolution and the nature of the arguments put forth by evolutionists. We highly recommend it. (\$21 --Includes shipping from us.)

SPOTLIGHT ON SCIENCE

Rock Layers & Soldiers

Anyone who was involved in the Gulf War just one year ago can certainly picture the life of the soldier, but what do soldiers and rock layers have in common? A lot, according to Derek Ager in his book, **The Nature of the Stratigraphic Record** (Halsted Press). The book's concluding sentence reads, "In other words, the history of any one part of the earth, like the life of a soldier, consists of long periods of boredom and short periods of terror." What does Ager mean?

According to traditional views in geology, the principal of uniformitarianism applies to the geologic record. This idea says that the same processes operating at similar intensities as today formed the rock layers and carved the landforms over millions of years. However, after observing rock layers and erosional features all over the world and seeing some common patterns, Ager realizes that most of these came about suddenly rather than over long periods of time. He suggests that very little sedimentation results from the gradual processes but instead the bulk occurs rapidly in sudden periods of terror. He states (p. 47):

In Particular we must conclude that sedimentation in the past has often been very rapid indeed and very spasmodic. This may be called the *Phenomenon of the Catastrophic Nature of much of the Stratigraphic record.*

Regarding a specific layer that greatly puzzled him, he actually states (p.41):

In fact at one stage in this study our thoughts ran on catastrophes of a biblical kind and we pictured half-seriously a universal conflagration for the black band.

Ager joins the ranks of many more who hold the same "neo-catastrophic" view after observing the evidence. Even though he recognizes the periodic catastrophe as being a chief agent in forming the major episodes in Earth history, he makes it clear he won't accept the Biblical explanation. To us, the facts brought out in his book give loud testimony of the universal flood.

As we pointed out on the first page, gradualism is out, sudden bursts of evolution are in. The same is unfolding for geology. Uniformitarianism needs those sudden periods of terror to survive.

Mark Twain - On Geology

In his book, **Life on the Mississippi**, Mark Twain presents some interesting data on the length of the Mississippi River. Armed with the observed data he opens fire on the traditional uniformitarian geology:

"Therefore the Mississippi between Cairo and New Orleans was twelve hundred and fifteen miles long one hundred and seventy-six years ago. It was eleven hundred and eighty after the cut-off of 1722. It was one thousand and forty after the American Bend cut-off. It has lost sixty-seven miles since. Consequently, its length is only nine hundred and seventy three miles at present.

"Now, if I wanted to be one of those ponderous scientific people, and "let on" to prove what had occurred in the remote past by what had occurred in a given time in the recent past, or what will occur in the far future by what has occurred in late years, what an opportunity is here! Geology never had such a chance, nor such exact data to argue from! Nor "development of species," either! Glacial epochs are great things, but they are vague - vague. Please observe:

"In the space of one hundred and seventy-six years the lower Mississippi has shortened itself two hundred and forty-two miles. That is an average of a trifle over one mile and a third per year. Therefore, any calm person, who is not blind or idiotic, can see that in the Old Oölitic Silurian Period, just a million years ago next November, the lower Mississippi River was upward of one million three hundred thousand miles long, and stuck out over the Gulf of Mexico like a fishing rod. And by the same token any person can see that seven hundred and forty-two years from now the Lower Mississippi will be only a mile and three-quarters long, and Cairo and New Orleans will have joined their streets together, and be plodding comfortably along under a single mayor and a mutual board of alderman. **There is something fascinating about science. One gets such wholesale returns of conjecture out of such a trifling investment of fact."**

UPCOMING EVENTS

(Call local contact for time and place.)

- January 12: Grand Junction, CO.** Prince of Peace Lutheran. Contact Norm Barnett. 303-241-5444.
- January 19: Wellington, UT.** First Baptist Church
Contact Tom Jones. 801-637-5225.
- January 27,28: Brighton, CO,** Zion Lutheran Church & School. Contact Dennis Fangmann. 303-659-3443.
- January 29,30: Fort Collins, CO.** Morningside Fellowship. Evening Seminars and Hands on Science Workshops During Day. Contact Carol, 303-226-4901 or 224-2201.
- February 2: Basalt, CO, Basalt Bible Church**
Contact Bill Hofto. 303-927-4342.
- February 9: Rangely, CO.** Rangely Christian Church.
Contact Ramona Smalec. 303-675-2355.
- February 16: Rifle, CO,** Rifle Southern Baptist,
Contact Mel McClellan, 303-625-2511.
- February 21: Grand Junction, CO,** (Note Change!)
Alpha Omega Science Fair, Contact us, 245-5906.
- February 23: Grand Junction, CO:** Redlands Christian Church, Contact Merle Miller, 858-7731 (Tentative)
- February 23: Grand Junction, CO:** Young Life Leadership, Contact us. 303-245-5906
- March 1: Paonia, CO:** North Fork Baptist
Contact Albert Harris, 303-527-4644.
- March 6,7: Indianapolis, IN,** Indiana Home School Conference, Contact Jeff Myers 719-685-9103.
- March 8-10: Indianapolis, IN Region.** Still waiting for our scheduler for details. Contact us 303-245-5906.
- March 20,21: Grand Junction, CO,** ICR Back-to-Genesis Seminar, Contact Terry, 303-434-3036.
- April 5 or 8,9 Pagosa Springs,** First Baptist,
Contact Grant Adkisson, 303-264-2211 (Tentative)
- April 6,7: Bayfield, CO,** Area Wide
Contact Marcy Keyser, 303-884-9673.
- April 24-May 3: ICR Grand Canyon Adventure.** Grand Canyon, AZ, Contact ICR, 619-448-0900. We are leading part of this tour.

PLEASE KEEP THIS SCHEDULE AND PRAY FOR US!

Alpha Omega Institute

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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CREATION VACATIONS

NOW IS THE TIME to reserve your spot in one of our exciting **FAMILY ADVENTURES**. You can have an action packed vacation (or a laid back one if you prefer) and also have a great time of learning with a full creation seminar featuring creationist speakers. Dave & Mary Jo Nutting! Previous participants have voted this the absolute best and affordable vacation they had ever taken. **HURRY!** We keep these camps small and they fill fast.

Aug. 9-14: Twin Peaks Family Science Adventure near Colbran, CO: Especially for homeschool families, but enjoyable for everyone. Explore western Colorado's famous dinosaur country, Colorado National Monument, and beautiful Grand Mesa with its 200 mountain lakes.

Aug. 16-21: Redcloud Family Mountain Adventure near Lake City, Colorado: Always a favorite for all families or singles. An action packed week of mountain activity in the famous San Juan Mountains -- exploring, rappelling, mountain biking, horseback riding, fishing, and even relaxing! Equipment provided! Colorado doesn't get better than here!

BUILDING PURCHASE UPDATE

Many have wondered how our building purchase is going. The owner is looking our way since the other party isn't doing so well with finances. If we had had all the money in hand or pledged, we feel they would not have granted the other party an extension but they did. Evidently the Lord knew we needed time for some large donations to come in since we are seriously committed to remain debt free and not borrow to make it happen. **HE CAN PROVIDE! KEEP PRAYING!** However, if HE chooses not to, we will return your hard earned money!

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