

Think & Believe

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Withstanding the Onslaught: What To Do If You Don't Have an Answer

by *Dave Nutting*

In T&B and at our seminars, we give answers to many evolutionary arguments that seem to contradict the Bible. Many people have written that AOI has helped them or their children answer those “tough questions” and stand firmly on God’s Word. But what happens when a teacher slaps you with evidence for evolution to which you have absolutely no answer? What do you do if there just doesn’t even appear to be an answer? *Do you throw out the Bible?* NO! I recommend that you **STOP!** That’s right, you **STOP!** Now what is that supposed to mean?

S: Stand Firm!

1 Corinthians 16:13 says “Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong.” Stand on the Word of God rather than on the words of men. Many of yesteryear’s scientific “facts” are laughed at today. For example, Aristotle taught the false notion of spontaneous generation and people still believed it 2,000 years later. George Washington was killed by bloodletting—the accepted practice of the day—even though the Bible said that life is in the blood. Science is always changing but God’s Word doesn’t change. It doesn’t have to.

T: Trust the Lord!

Trust the Lord and His Word enough to believe what He has said. Proverbs 3:5 says “Trust in the LORD with all

your heart, and lean not on your own understanding.” Our own understanding certainly can get in the way! Isaiah 55: 8, 9 says, “For My thoughts *are not* your thoughts, *nor are* your ways My ways,” says the LORD. “For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.” God is saying He knows more than we do! We won’t be able to explain everything, because we don’t have all the knowledge or answers. That is OK. Trust that God can accomplish what He says even if you don’t understand how He did it.

O: Observe Options!

Are there questions I should be asking, like: What is the evidence? How much of the conclusion is actual data and how much is merely interpretation of that data? Is there another way to interpret the data? For example, it is always assumed it took millions of years for that “little” Colorado River to erode Grand Canyon. But, what if that “little river” was much bigger in the past than it is today? The sudden collapse of a large lake

upstream could result in catastrophic flooding and get the job done very quickly. (There is actually mounting evidence for that type of scenario!)

P: Pray With Patience

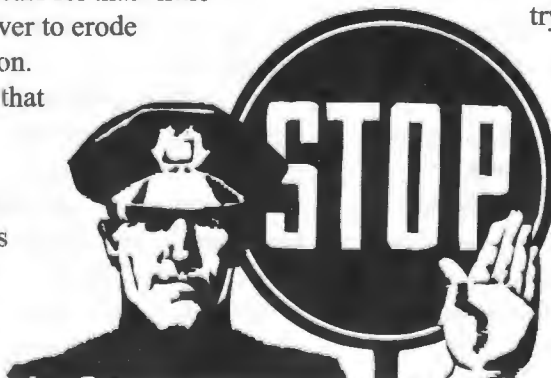
There are questions for which creationists had no acceptable answer for years. Now we have them. If you have been with us long enough, you have discovered that there *really are* answers for those “tough” questions” such as: “How do you explain the origin of the races? What about “junk” DNA or “junk” body parts like the appendix, tonsils, and wisdom teeth (which we found are not “junk”)? How can the universe be young when starlight from the remotest parts would seemingly take billions of years to reach us?

Very “compelling” evidences for evolution have either been proven wrong or now have very compelling creation answers, but don’t expect to hear them in the classroom!

Remember, you are in a battle for your mind! You won’t normally hear

both sides. People are trying to convince

themselves and you that evolution is a fact, that there can’t be a God, and that you can’t believe the Bible. Don’t fall for it. **STOP** and **STAND** firmly on God’s Word. **T&B**



“Thousands Not Billions”

by Joyce Trump, AOI volunteer

If you like in-depth, scientific research, then the DVD “Thousands...Not Billions” is for you. This video presentation summarizes the results of the eight-year project known as RATE (Radioisotopes and the Age of The Earth) sponsored by the Institute For Creation Research. Composed of some of creation science’s top researchers, this team carefully examined conventional dating methods and conducted extensive scientific research which now suggests that the earth is thousands, rather than billions, of years old.

The documentary opens with a dramatization of how a Christian college student’s faith is challenged by an evolutionary college professor, but quickly segues into the meat of the program: the research. Interviews with each of the scientists detail how they examined the reliability of measuring the age of the earth’s rocks using four different

radioisotope dating methods. They found that the different methods often disagree with each other. Dating rock layers in Grand Canyon produced widely differing dates for the same rocks. This data suggests that the radioactive decay rates may not have remained constant, as is currently assumed, but may have actually been accelerated at some point in the past. Additional research on uranium-helium decay rates and the formation of radio-halos further confirms that current decay rates may well have changed over time. Of particular interest was the segment on carbon-14 dating, which revealed that this isotope can actually be measured in ancient fossils, coal beds, and even diamonds. This should not be possible if these structures were formed millions of years ago.

Also included is a brief segment with Hebrew language scholar Dr. Steven Boyd, explaining his statistical research of Genesis 1:1-2:3. His

conclusion that the language should be taken as literal narrative helps support the scientists’ interpretation of their evidence from a biblical perspective.

All of this information is accompanied by graphics and animations, to visually illustrate the various points being made. This is especially helpful for viewers not well versed in chemistry or physics. The *Bonus Features* are also valuable, especially the *Research*

Update segment with RATE team leader Dr. Larry Vardiman. The *Graphics and Charts* segments could be useful in a classroom setting, and the interviews with each individual scientist will help expand on information given in the main video presentation.

The findings of the RATE research team are truly exciting and provide more evidence that, once again, the Bible can be trusted. **T&B**



Mistaken Identity

by Richard Stepanek

As a creationist, I believe that all humans, including the Neanderthals, descended from one man and one woman (Adam and Eve). Even the findings of secular scientists lended support to this conclusion — at least until the late 1990’s.

This is when a group of scientists compared mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) sequences from Neanderthals with sequences from contemporary Europeans. Their studies showed a considerable difference between the two. Their conclusion was that Neanderthals were a different species and

not related to humans. However, in *Scientific American* (8/2003 pg. 24) some of the problems were revealed.

First, in order to have a thorough study, many samples should be used. In this case, too few samples were used in the research to determine the genetic makeup of Neanderthal populations.

Secondly, the Neanderthal mtDNA actually *did* fall within the wide range of genetic variations of modern Europeans. This is what we would expect from DNA research.

Thirdly, scientists that performed the research were afraid of modern DNA contaminating the Neanderthal

mtDNA. Thus, they rejected any mtDNA sequences similar to modern human DNA and accepted only the mtDNA that was outside the modern human range. The article went on to say, “This requirement thereby

stacks the deck against Neanderthals that might have DNA like ours...”

Here’s a wise saying from an unknown author, “If you torture the data long

enough you can make it confess to anything.” When scientists promote data that seems to conflict with Scripture, STOP! and let the light shine on the truth. **T&B**



The Bible's Records of Creation - Written in Legalese?

by Dr. Dave Demick (Guest Writer)

Surveying the sordid history of our world, it's obvious that social relations between humans are often plagued by misunderstanding. A lot of this misunderstanding is due to unclear language.

To address this chronic human problem, we have established courts of law. Courts, in turn, have developed their own distinctive method of communicating clearly. Lawyers employ a language style known to non-lawyers as "legalese." One of the main features of "legalese" is repetition. An idea is repeated in using different words or phrases, so that the desired meaning will be as clear as possible.

"It shouldn't surprise us that the Bible sometimes uses a similar technique for truth-telling. This is especially the case where the Bible touches on the subject of creation. Perhaps because no human wit-

nesses were there to share in most of the creation events, and because they may seem strange and far outside of our everyday experience, God has taken care to tell us about creation in language similar to "legalese."

For example, we are told in Genesis 1 and Exodus 20:11 that God created the world in six days. Since the word "day" sometimes can mean an indeterminate period of time, the days are numbered, indicating that they occur consecutively and regularly.

Furthermore, each day is said to have an evening and a morning, which are the basic elements of a day. If there is any doubt about the message of Genesis 1, and whether the days are really ordinary days, we should stop and ask ourselves, "If God was trying to communicate the idea of ordinary days, is there any way he could have made it any plainer?"

The average person often has difficulty understanding legal documents because legalese tends to be wordy and complex. However, Genesis 1 uses relatively few words to tell us just what we need to know about the six days of creation. It does so with complete scientific accuracy and legal specificity. It tells the story with few words and so simply that a child can easily understand it. (Ironically, it's the learned theologians and scientists, exceedingly wise in their own eyes, who have the most trouble understanding and believing it!)

If lawyers or scientists had written Genesis 1, it would be tens of thousands of words long, and much harder for the average person to understand. Its remarkable combination of clarity, brevity, accuracy, and simplicity is a testament to the genius of its author. It is a document worthy of the claim of divine inspiration. **T&B**

First-RATE Findings

by Mark Sonmor

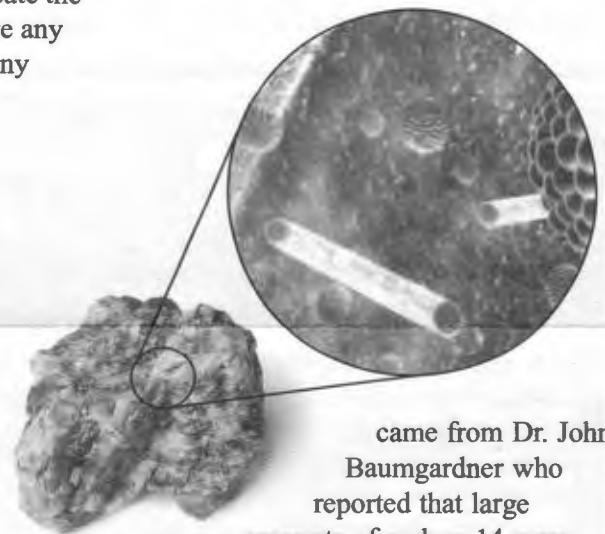
A sell-out crowd of 2,300 people gathered in San Diego on November 5, 2005 to hear the recent discoveries of the RATE research. Dr. John Morris began by thanking God and indicated this was one of the most significant and successful research projects in ICR's history.

One of the most significant findings was the research on helium diffusion in radioactive crystals. As the radioactive material in these crystals decays, it gives off helium. Helium is a "slippery" molecule that diffuses quickly. Very little should be found in rocks if they are millions of years old. However, large amounts of helium still remain. Dr. Russel Humphreys

believes this indicates that radioactive decay must have occurred more rapidly at some time in the past and lends strong support for a young age of the earth.

After studying metamorphic rocks, Dr. Andrew Snelling proposed a hydrothermal fluid transport model showing that polonium radiohalos likely formed rapidly under catastrophic conditions. This is very intriguing research that lends further testimony to the belief that radioactive decay was accelerated sometime in history, perhaps during the time of the Flood.

One of the most astounding reports



came from Dr. John Baumgardner who reported that large amounts of carbon-14 were found in diamonds — "as much as 100 times the expected threshold!" Since carbon-14 doesn't last very long, this is more compelling evidence for a young earth.

For more information, the book and DVD, *Thousands not Billions* are available from AOI. For a first-hand look at the RATE research, go to icr.org or creationresearch.org **T&B**

Director's Column

by Dave Nutting



I am really glad that many of you bought the absolutely crucial book we highly recommended in the last

issue. It was called "Fish out of the Water." It revealed the true battleground on the university campus from the perspective of a girl that was in the midst of it.

As we enter another year, make sure you remember you are in a battle for your mind – a battle of worldviews. Also tell others! People frequently only hear an anti-god philosophy and are drawn away from God into believing evolution. Most young people do not realize that it's not the evidence that is convincing them that God isn't relevant, it's

the one-sided naturalistic interpretation given to that evidence. Both creationists and evolutionists are looking at the same evidence, the same rocks, the same fossils, the same biological systems. The struggle is not over the evidence, but over the interpretation of that evidence.

That interpretation is dictated by the worldview we are given. Unfortunately, in our slanted educational system, or on television, you won't hear both sides!

Your mission, should you decide to accept it, is to help people hear the other side. Who can you pass this material on to or encourage to come to one of our events? Perhaps you would like to be a local resource person in your area. If so, let us know so we can help you. Let's all make an impact in 2006. **T&B**

Upcoming Events 2006

L&MJ = Johnson, D&AK = Korow,
D&MJN = Nutting, RS=Stepanek,

- 1/8 & 1/22, Grand Junction, CO**, Spirit of Life, Jim Hale, (970) 464-0772, **D&MJN**
1/15, Colona, CO, Colona Community Church, Dean Free, (970) 240-3720, **D&MJN**
1/22-23, Juneau, AK, First church of God, David Swofford, (907) 789-9314, **L&MJ**
1/25-27, Juneau, AK, Valley Chapel, Patrick Brayton (907) 789-3513, **L&MJ**
1/29, Nogales, AZ, First Baptist Church, David Canada, (520) 281-1677, **RS**
1/29-30, Wasilla, AK, MidValley Christian Center, Bob Byron (907) 376-6445, **L&MJ**
1/31-2/4, Nogales, MX, Nogales Baptist Seminary, Ramon Rodriguez, (520) 287-2112, **RS**
2/1-3, Palmer, AK, Palmer Assembly of God, Randy Bjerker (907) 745-7729, **L&MJ**
2/4-5, Dove Creek, CO, First Baptist Church, Mike Farren, (970) 677-2230, **D&MJN**
2/8-9, Pending – Pagosa Springs, CO, 970-523-9943, **D&MJN**
2/9, Tucson, AZ, Southern AZ Origin Science Assn., Mark Stockwell, 9520) 663-3556, **RS**
2/11, Phoenix, AZ, AZ Origin Science Assn., Joseph Kezele, (480) 585-6612, **RS**
2/12-14, Gunnison, CO, Bethany Baptist Church, Josh Vigil, (970) 641-2144, **D&MJN**
2/15-17, North Pole, AK, First Baptist Church, Johnnie McCoy (907) 488-2240, **L&MJ**
2/18, Scottsdale, AZ, Rodney & Beth Cox, (480) 513-2989, **RS**
2/20-24, Grand Junction, CO, AOI Intern Training Week, (970) 523-9943, **STAFF**
3/11-24, Southwest Field & Ministry Trip, Jackson Hole Bible College, (970) 523-9943, **D&MJN**

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