



Think & Believe

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No Resources?

by Dave and Mary Jo Nutting

"There just isn't any good scientific information on creationism, so how can I teach it?"

"I'd like to include a fair presentation on creationism in my classes, but I don't know anything about it and I don't know where to find any information."

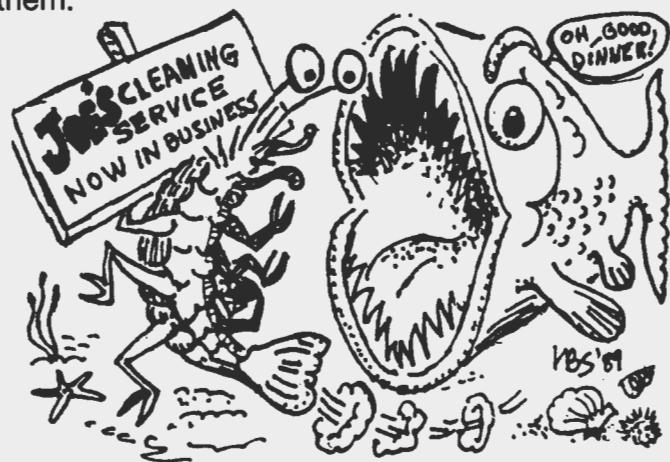
We frequently hear remarks like this from teachers and can sympathize with these complaints. Typically, they have not been exposed to creationist materials during their college education, and, if they have been, it has generally been presented in a very negative manner. To add to this problem, the textbooks used in public school classrooms are noticeably devoid of the creationist position, and most libraries are definitely lacking in this area. To make matters worse, media reports have frequently painted a negative picture of creationists. Even scientific journals, through their peer review process, have screened out reports of research which leans towards a creationist interpretation.

What can be done? Is there really a lack of resources? Unfortunately, at this time there are virtually no public school textbooks available that really give a fair treatment to the creationist position. (If you know of some, let us know.) A few attempts have been made, but without much success. Secular publishers have not been anxious to come out with such texts, and books published by Christian publishers are not likely to get a very wide distribution even if they present both sides fairly. So, in one way, teachers have a legitimate complaint.

However, any good teacher supplements the textbook with information gained from personal study and current research. There are many

excellent resources available to help in that study if teachers will take the time to search them out. Some deal strictly with the scientific evidence, and are presented in a very scholarly manner. Others are on a more popular level, but still contain much valuable information. Still others include a Biblical discussion as well. Thus, the teacher who truly desires to be fair in his classroom treatment of origins will be able to find good information if he looks for it. (See Notes and Quotes for some specific suggestions.)

Understandably, teachers are busy and often do not have the time necessary to make an in-depth search for materials. It is here that students, parents and other interested individuals can help, by talking with teachers, loaning or giving them books, and inviting them to special seminars. Other possibilities would be organizing a special in-service teacher workshop with creation scientists, arranging for creation scientists to present their views to the students, and donating resource books to the classroom, school, or church library. The resources are available. Let's make sure our teachers and students know about them.



*The Cleaner Shrimp —
Evolutionary "Dead End!"*

NOTES & QUOTES

■ At one of our latest seminars, we heard the comment several times, "I never knew there were so many books available on creationism." We thought maybe some of our readers are also in this position, so we decided to include reviews of some of our "favorite" creationist books. These are all excellent resources!

- *What Is Creation Science?* (Revised and Enlarged, 1987, Henry Morris and Gary Parker, Master Books, El Cajon, CA): This is still our favorite all-around introduction to creation science. It covers a wide variety of topics in a very readable fashion and is appropriate for high school on up. This is a good book for "open-minded" skeptics. (\$11.00)
- *Evolution: A Theory in Crisis* (1986, Michael Denton, Adler and Adler, Bethesda, MD): Know any "educated skeptics"? Denton, a medical doctor and molecular biologist, does not claim to be a creationist, but his book demolishes evolution as usually taught in schools. It is an excellent book to get somebody thinking about the problems of evolution. (Follow up with positive creation evidence.) (\$22.00)
- *The Genesis Record* (1976, Henry Morris, Baker Book House, Grand Rapids, MI): This unique "scientific and devotional commentary" on the book of Genesis is fascinating reading. Once you start it, you won't want to put it down. Written by Henry M. Morris, a scientist and Bible scholar, it gives an insightful perspective on this book of beginnings. (\$25.00)
- *Origins: Creation or Evolution* (Revised and Enlarged, 1988, Richard Bliss, Master Books, El Cajon, CA): This is a concise presentation of the major tenets of creation and evolution written on a junior high or high school level. It is well illustrated throughout. This book is almost exclusively non-religious in content and suitable as a reference in both Christian and public schools. (\$9.00)
- *The Genesis Solution* (1988, Ken Ham and Paul Taylor, Baker Book House, Grand Rapids, MI): This book powerfully presents the relevance of creation and its foundational importance to Christian doctrine. It is an excellent resource to share with those who have accepted a theistic evolutionary stance. (\$8.00)

- *Darwin's Enigma: Fossils and Other Problems* (Revised and Enlarged, 1988, Luther Sunderland, Master Books, El Cajon, CA): Transcripts from interviews with leading paleontologists show how inconsistent evolution is with the actual fossil record. This book is suitable for public school classrooms or to give to skeptics. (\$9.00)

■ The following books are especially suitable for children of all ages:

- *The Great Dinosaur Mystery and the Bible* (1987, Paul Taylor, Master Books, El Cajon, CA): Kids love dinosaurs, and this is one of the very few books that gives them a picture of dinosaurs which is consistent with the Bible. This is an excellent, well-illustrated book appreciated by children and adults alike. (\$11.00, Hardcover)
- *Noah's Ark and the Lost World* (1988, John Morris, Master Books, El Cajon, CA): This colorful and well-illustrated book answers any questions about the ark, both then and now. It includes John Morris' personal account of searching for the ark and a Foreword by astronaut and ark explorer Jim Irwin. It is a fascinating book for children and adults. (\$11.00, Hardcover)
- *Life Before Birth: A Christian Family Book* (1987, Gary Parker, Master Books, El Cajon, CA): This book tastefully and accurately describes the development of life before birth. It firmly supports the dignity of all human life and deals with the topic of abortion in a firm but loving way. This book is suitable for upper elementary and junior high levels. (\$10.00, Hardcover; 80 minute Read-Along Tape \$6.00)
- *Dry Bones . . . and other Fossils* (1979, Gary Parker, Master Books, El Cajon, CA): Dr. Parker creatively deals with fossils and their significance in this enjoyable, cartoon-illustrated book. Children and adults can learn much from this Biblical perspective on fossils and the flood. (\$6.00; 70 minute Read-Along Tape \$6.00)

We believe these books are powerful tools for personal use and sharing with others. Check your personal shelves and church library. Then order the ones you need. **All** of the above books are available from Alpha Omega Institute, P.O. Box 4343, Grand Junction, CO 81502. Please include \$1.50 per book (maximum \$5.00) for shipping. Colorado residents add 3% sales tax. (Prices subject to change after September 30, 1989.)

SPOTLIGHT ON SCIENCE

Assumptions: How Good Are They?

Whenever a scientist begins an experiment, he accepts certain basic, unprovable assumptions. Sometimes these assumptions may seem quite believable — other times, they may be a shot in the dark. If the assumptions are good, the results are probably reliable. If the assumptions are bad, so are the results. Consider the following examples.

In the past, functions of various body organs were not understood. Since evolution was assumed true, many organs were assumed to be “vestigial” — evolutionary leftovers with no function today. Organs such as the pituitary gland, the thymus, the tonsils and over a hundred other “vestigial” features were mistakenly listed. In fact, this assumption led to medical malpractice. Tonsils were often removed even though they were not diseased since they were thought to be useless. It is now known that the tonsils are important for immunity, and functions have been discovered for the other “vestigial organs” as well.

Another example involves the Carbon 14 dating method. It is usually assumed that the atmosphere is ancient and, therefore, the level of radiocarbon in our atmosphere must have had plenty of time to stabilize. Consequently we assume that the amount of radiocarbon in the atmosphere is the same today as it was thousands of years ago. Observation, however, shows this assumption to be false. (See *Think & Believe*, Vol. 1 #4.) Can we trust the results when they are based upon false presuppositions?

Finally, consider the current problems associated with the disposal of hazardous wastes. Scientists have assumed that the earth is very ancient and that many geological structures have been quite stable over time. Thus, some have endorsed dumping these wastes into salt domes. However, what if these structures are not old and stable? The results for future generations could be disastrous.

In Noah's time, people assumed that life would go on as always, and ignored warnings of impending judgment. They assumed that because the world had never been flooded before it would not be in their time either. Their assumptions were false! Many people today live their lives under the same assumptions that this life is all there is, and things will go on as they always have. In doing so they ignore the warnings of impending judgment in the Bible. What if their assumptions are wrong? What if Scripture is really right? The assumptions could have eternal consequences. What are you willing to assume?

Speed of Light Revisited

A major area of research among creationist physicists concerns the speed of light. This has a real significance to the creation-evolution debate. Astronomers have frequently argued that, given the known speed of light and the apparent distance of most of the stars in the universe, the universe must be extremely old, just by virtue of the fact that we can see it. One major assumption of the argument is that the speed of light has always been a constant. If that one assumption is wrong, then much of modern physics and astrophysics will have to be rewritten. It seems amazing how much science is dependent upon this one assumption.

Over the last several years, Barry Setterfield, an Australian scientist, has been publishing papers in which he claims that the speed of light is decaying. Other very noted and competent creationists, wishing to be entirely scientific by not merely jumping on a new idea, have carefully analyzed Setterfield's work and published objections. Discussion has crossed back and forth.

In the March 1989 issue of the *Creation Research Society Quarterly*, Setterfield answers the latest round of objections. Interestingly, the article makes note of an apparently independent work on the same subject by a Soviet scientist. V.S. Troitskii of the Radiophysical Research Institute published an article in 1987 in *Astrophysics and Space Science* (139:389-411). According to Setterfield, Troitskii's conclusion was that the initial value of the speed of light was about 10 million times faster than it is now. I am sure this result, if true, would shake even Carl Sagan out of a few of those “billiyuns” of years.

We must sit back now and wait while the experts in this subject go back into their corners and contemplate what the latest round in this arena has produced. Let us caution you, our readers, to remain open to any outcome since this type of science in progress is likely to go on for quite a while. We consider it exciting. We just may be on the brink of a new era in modern science! (See *Think and Believe*, Sept./Oct. 1984)

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How Do We Explain

This Behavior?

A certain type of ocean dwelling shrimp has the peculiar habit of crawling into the mouth of would-be predator fish and cleaning their teeth! Studies have shown that these "cleaner shrimp" have very long antennae which are waved back and forth to attract the attention of a fish who needs a good dentist. The fish then parks next to the shrimp and allows it to perform its service. Amazingly, the fish lets the shrimp back out even though some fish have actually been observed feeding on other similar sea creatures right after they visited the dentist.

How can evolution explain this type of behavior? Just imagine what would happen to the very first batch of cleaner shrimp that suddenly realized they had this special trait and began waving their antennae to attract the long time connoisseur of fine shrimp. Perhaps they even announced, "Joe's Cleaning Service — now open for business!" Is this survival of the fittest, dumbest or the luckiest?

The obvious and only logical answer is that this behavior was planned from the start. The cleaner shrimp portrays an attitude of servanthood from which we could all learn. Yes, it is sometimes dangerous, but shouldn't we, too, be willing to get out of our comfort zone to serve and help others?



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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

What's Happening?

July 12-13: **Teepee Bible Camp**, Rifle, CO
July 31-Aug. 4: **YWAM Discipleship Training School**, High Park Ranch, Cimarron, CO
Aug. 6-11: **Family Science Adventure**, Camp Id-Ra-Ha-Je, Somerset, CO. Call (303) 245-5906 for more information.
Aug. 13-18: **Family Mountain Adventure**, Camp Redcloud, Lake City, CO. Call (303) 245-5906 for more information.
Sept. 10-11: **Seminar, Valley Bible**, Montrose, CO. Call (303) 249-6898 for more information.
Sept. 12-13: **IFCA Pastor's Conference**, Twin Peaks Bible Camp, Collbran, CO. Call Cal Sheppard (303) 434-8308 for more information.
Oct. 1-3: **Seminar, First Baptist Church**, Golden, CO. Call Ron Bridges (303) 279-4605 for more information.
Oct. 5-6: **ACSI Convention**, Denver, CO. Call (213) 694-4791 for more information.
Oct. 15 : **Seminar, Sunlight Foursquare**, Glenwood Springs, CO. Call Bernie Masimer (303) 945-9657 for more information.

Support Level

Many are wondering how the support level is doing — it is on the way back up but keep on praying!

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