



Think & Believe

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DANGER: WATERFALL AHEAD!

(by Dave and Mary Jo Nutting)

Several years ago, while canoeing in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area of northern Minnesota, we had an unforgettable experience. Dave had just caught a small fish and released it back into the quiet bay of a beautiful blue lake. We watched as it flopped and tumbled in the water before it was able to right itself and swim away. All of a sudden, we got the sensation of speed and looked up to see the lake narrowing down and the banks ripping by rapidly. We grabbed our paddles and tried to head for shore, but made little progress against the strong current. We could hear the roar of the water ahead as the lake cascaded down a narrow, rocky channel. At the last instant, Dave saw the bottom and jumped into the water, holding onto the front of the canoe. The back end swung around and slammed against the rocks. Fortunately, Dave was able to hang on and pull it (with Mary Jo in it) to shore. We gratefully climbed the bank, shook for 20 minutes, and thanked God for saving our lives.

We are often reminded of this event as we look around society today. For many years, Christians have been floating peacefully in relatively calm waters, preoccupied with "flopping fish" and other mundane matters. Many have been caught in the current as the waters of change gather speed all around. Some have seen the "shore" rushing by and grabbed their paddles, but many are still blissfully ignorant of the rushing waters ahead.

All around us we see increasing lawlessness, moral degradation, societal decay, and big government intrusion into private affairs. Our freedoms are being squeezed from all sides and "Judeo-Christian" values are being scoffed at, trampled, and thrown out of public life. How did we get into this predicament? Though there have always been a few paddling against the

current, many Christians have been soaking up the sun and not paying attention to the world around them.

Over the years, the muddy waters of evolution and associated anti-God philosophies have flooded our schools, textbooks, museums, and media. Even many churches have compromised the vital foundational doctrine of creation and drowned in the swell of evolutionary philosophy and moral relativism.

Romans 1:18-32 clearly shows the consequences of not honoring and glorifying God as Creator. Study this passage carefully. Although written 2000 years ago, it accurately reflects today's society, caught in a rushing current and headed for disaster.

We learned from our "waterfall" experience to be alert even when floating in calm water. By praying, believing God's Word, and heeding His warnings we can avoid being trapped in the swift-moving current of our increasingly godless society. By sharing His way with others, we can help them escape too.



NOTES & QUOTES

■ The following short story was submitted by one of our readers and reprinted with his permission here. We're sure you will find it thought-provoking and to the point.

A Conversation with a Quarter

by Alan R. Hergert

I pulled a quarter out of my pocket the other day. I looked at it and said, "You know, George, this country you started is in a mess."

"It is? How do you mean?"

"Well, it all started when they began teaching evolution in our public schools..."

"Evolution?"

"Yeah, evolution. The say man came from an ape-like creature."

"They do!" George laughed. "Don't they read the Bible?"

"Not in school they don't. It's against the law."

"Against the law!" George seemed shocked.

"Yeah, they say it would establish a state religion."

"These United States of America were founded on the Bible. We founded this country to be a Christian nation, one that would bring glory to God."

"Well, its even against the law to pray in school now too."

"What kind of laws are these? Next you'll be telling me that the family is being attacked."

"Well George, half of the marriages today end in divorce and homosexuality is on the rise."

"Divorce? Homosexuality? These are abominations in the sight of the Lord!"

"I know, George. They even want to allow homosexuals in the Army."

"No! May it never be! Are there no moral standards in this country we started?"

"Moral standards? Are you kidding, George? They print magazines with children doing unspeakable things. It's called pornography."

"Children? There must be a law..."

"There is. It's called the Constitution of the United States of America. You know, 'freedom of the press'."

"They justify this in the name of 'freedom of the press'?" George seemed horrified. "That's not what that means. It means the government cannot dictate what is printed in the newspaper. Please tell me this is all."

"I wish I could, George, but they're killing unborn babies."

George struggled to get the word out, "How?"

"They call it 'a woman's reproductive right.'"

"Congress must stop this..."

"There's a law..."

"Congress passed a law?"

"No."

"The President?"

"No."

"Then how?"

"The Supreme Court. . ."

"The Supreme Court is not a legislative body!"

"I know, George, but they ruled that it was unconstitutional for the state to prevent a mother from aborting her unborn child."

A tear rolled down George's cheek.

"That's murder," George said painfully. "I never dreamed this would happen. We thought we were so clear on the laws we established. We wanted a country people would love, a flag people would respect."

"George, they burn our flag now in the name of freedom."

"Please," George said, touched with emotion. "Put me back in your pocket. I need to weep and pray for our country. May God help you all."

Wiping tears from my eyes, I put the quarter back in my pocket and cried, "Is there any room in there for me, George?"

■ We all need to "crawl into a pocket" -- not to hide from reality, but to seek God's face, to confess our individual and corporate sins, and to "get our marching orders," but then we need to go out into the world to be "salt" and "light." The following books and videos will help you understand the times and prepare you to make a difference. (Order from Alpha Omega Institute. Please include 10% shipping. CO residents add 3% sales tax.)

America's Godly Heritage: Documents the Christian beliefs of our founding fathers and shows what has happened in this country since we have rejected this foundation. (\$19.95)

America: To Pray or Not to Pray: Contains over 40 charts showing what has happened since the Supreme Court threw God out of the schools in '62/'63. (\$6.95)

Genesis and the Decay of the Nations: Shows how the belief in evolution has lead to a decline in moral and social order and demonstrates the foundational nature of the Creation doctrine. (\$6.95)

Heritage Pack Special Offer: All 3 of the above for \$29.85. Save \$4.00!

Understanding the Times: The textbook for Summit Ministries' outstanding teen leadership training course. This book will help you understand the major worldviews impacting our society today and see clearly how ideas have consequences. (Hardback 900 pp, \$29.95)



SPOTLIGHT ON SCIENCE

In Wind and Storm

What a year it's been for weather -- hurricanes, blizzards, torrential rains, hail storms, floods, tornadoes! As the old saying goes, "Everybody talks about the weather, but nobody does anything about it." With all the advances of modern science, we still can't even forecast the weather accurately, but God not only knows about the weather, He controls it!

Even raindrops illustrate His love and careful design. Tiny water droplets stick to particles of dust, pollen, salt, or other debris, growing larger until they finally become heavy enough to fall. Fortunately, raindrops disintegrate if they get much over one-quarter of an inch in size. God has designed the physical properties such that gravity, surface tension and water density to interact in just the right way to produce rain that normally does not damage delicate plants (or human skulls -- imagine being hit by a raindrop the size of a bowling ball!).

Gentle rains water the earth and cleanse the air, but what about the more violent storms? Thunder and lightning certainly do illustrate the power of God, (and often encourage us to pray!), but they also perform a practical physical purpose. Lightning serves as one of the major ways in which atmospheric nitrogen is converted to a form usable by plants. (The other way is through nitrogen-fixing bacteria in root nodules of legumes.) According to Donald DeYoung, worldwide storms produce 100 million tons of useful nitrogen compounds each year, up to one-half of all the usable nitrogen in the soil. (By the way, he also reports that at least 2000 thunderstorms are occurring somewhere around the world at any given moment!)

Scripture indicates in numerous places that God often uses weather to discipline His people or punish disobedience. Sometimes He withholds rain, in order to call His people back to Himself. At other times He brings violent storms to get their attention (remember Jonah?) or to demonstrate His power over nature and false gods (e.g. the plagues of Egypt).

Science has become for many a "false god," and yet science has been able to do very little about the weather. The Lord asked Job, "Canst thou lift up thy voice to the clouds, that abundance of waters may cover thee? Canst thou send lightnings that they may go, and say unto thee, 'Here we are?'" How small and helpless we are in the face of a storm, yet Jesus stilled the storm and calmed the raging sea. What a mighty God is He!

Air Is Really Something!

When was the last time you thanked God for the air you breathe? Although it is colorless, odorless, tasteless and invisible (at least as God created it!), air is essential for existence. Clean, dry air contains 78% nitrogen, 21% oxygen, .93% argon, and .035% carbon dioxide. These percentages are not just accidental, but indicate planning and design.

Atmospheric nitrogen is not only necessary for life, but its great quantity dilutes oxygen to a safe level. A higher percentage of oxygen could cause spontaneous fires and the atmosphere might explode. At lower concentrations, we'd all suffocate.

Carbon dioxide makes up a tiny, but extremely important, percentage of our air. It provides the carbon needed for plants to grow and produce. It also traps radiation, helping to insulate the earth and moderate temperatures. Mixed with water, it forms carbonic acid which dissolves rocks and adds bicarbonate to the ocean. As with oxygen, carbon dioxide seems to be present in just the right amount for life on earth. If concentrations were lower, there would be less plants, hence less food for animals; and the climate would become colder. If carbon dioxide concentrations increased, plants would flourish, but temperatures would increase dramatically.

There is much talk today about the "Greenhouse Effect," a warming of the earth which is predicted to occur if carbon dioxide levels go up. Some studies show that carbon dioxide levels have increased in the last 50 years. Many attribute this increase to the burning of fossil fuels, and this may be a contributing factor, but natural processes like volcanic eruptions produce such tremendous amounts that human impact may be slight. In spite of the increase, global warming has not been verified. Many factors in addition to carbon dioxide levels are involved in temperature control and scientists are divided as to the seriousness of concern. This whole topic and the logistics of wise stewardship still need much research.

Our atmosphere, like the rest of our world, is marvelously complex and intricately designed to support life on earth. As Christians, we have a responsibility to thank God for it and learn to care for it as good stewards.

(References for these two articles:

DeYoung, Donald. 1992. **Weather and the Bible.**

Nevins, Stuart. **Planet Earth: Plan or Accident?.**

ICR Impact Series No. 14)

EVENTS

(Call local contact for time and place.)

Aug 1-6: Cimarron, CO: YWAM Discipleship Training School.
Contact 303-249-7004.

Aug 8-13: Colbran, CO: Twin Peaks Family Science Adventure.
Contact us, 303-245-5906.

Aug 15-20: Lake City, CO: Redcloud Family Mountain Adventure. Contact us, 303-245-5906.

Aug 23-27: Manitou Springs, CO: ICR Summer Institute.
Contact Summit Ministries, 719-685-9103.

Sep 3-6: Bailey, CO: Id-Ra-Ha-Je Labor Day Family Camp.
There is still room in this EXCITING camp.
Contact Rod Adams, 303-674-8442 TODAY!

Sep 19: Fruita, CO: Grace Community Church, Sunday School.
Contact Ron McMullin, 303-858-3954.

Oct 3: Rifle, CO: First Assembly of God, Church Seminar.
Contact Richard Nelson, 303-625-1505.

Oct 22-23: Breckenridge, CO: Colorado Christian Convention.
Contact Gene Barron, 303-794-6481.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

Praise God for safety and health during our many speaking trips this spring. Pray for His continued protection and renewed strength.

Pray specifically for the camps. While these times are fun, they can also be exhausting. Pray for good relationships among those who come.

Pray for open doors and God's guidance in scheduling fall and winter speaking engagements.

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Alpha Omega Institute

P. O. Box 4343
Grand Junction, CO 81502
(303) 245-5906

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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BOOK REVIEW

What was the climate of Jesus' time?

Was Greenland once green?

What causes a rainbow?

What is the ozone layer?

What is the greenhouse effect?

These are just 5 of the 100 questions tackled by Donald DeYoung in **Weather and the Bible**. DeYoung weaves together fascinating information from science and Scripture as he deals with the basics of weather, discusses possible future weather challenges, and considers why Christians should be concerned about the environment. His treatment is clear, concise and balanced. As Henry Morris says in the Forward, "This book is a real treasure." There is something for everyone in this book. We recommend it for all ages. (Home educators: this would make an excellent addition to your curriculum!) (\$7.95 plus \$1.00 S/H, CO Res. 3% tax)

LET'S HEAR FROM YOU!

Would you like a seminar for your church, school, homeschool group, retreat, or conference? Cost is minimal. Fall and winter scheduling is in progress. Call **today** for a packet of information on sponsoring a seminar in your area.

Skiing, Anyone? Several people have asked us to sponsor a creation/ski camp next winter. Sounds fun, doesn't it? Why not combine winter fun and fellowship with a creation seminar? We would keep costs as low as possible, while at the same time providing an exciting, quality family vacation. Interested? Let us know. If there is enough response we'll see what we can arrange.

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