



Think & Believe

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Liberty and Independence

(by *Dave and Mary Jo Nutting*)

Each year on the Fourth of July, citizens of the United States of America celebrate the signing of the Declaration of Independence, which signaled the birth of this nation and the beginning of religious freedom. But hold on! While we celebrate our independence with picnics and parades, something is leading us and our children back into slavery.

For years, the Humanists have taught us, that the universe created itself, evolution is fact, and humans are just glorified slime. Largely because of this, we are seeing an unprecedented number of adults and youth claiming they don't need God and no one is going to tell them what to do! This same group is even claiming (falsely and without major opposition) that our Constitution even says we can't teach about God and creation in the schools.

Since we as a nation have fallen for this lie and banned God from the classroom, many people have gotten the mistaken idea that freedom is the right to do whatever we please, independently of God. We have confused the independence of our nation with individual independence and misunderstood and misused the idea of liberty. **Our forefathers fought for independence and liberty so we could freely worship the living God, not so we would declare independence from Him.**

If we are going to curtail the moral decline in this country, we need to go back to teaching the Biblical truth about the Creator and the real meaning of liberty. The Bible tells us that we are created beings who are totally **dependent** upon our Creator for everything. The universe came into existence by His Word (Heb. 11:3) and is sustained by Him (Col 1:17). We are entirely dependent upon Him for life -- for food, clothing, air -- even the very atoms that make up our physical bodies are held together by Him. "In Him we

live and move and have our being." (Acts 17:28) In truth, we are dependent -- only God is independent.

The problem is that Adam signed a "Declaration of Independence" from God for us all. Since then, every human being has been born into the "State of Independence," and has "taken up arms" to defend it. How foolish and futile this is!

God wants us to "lay down our arms" and recognize our complete dependence upon Him. He has instituted the terms of reconciliation and provided the means through the death of His Son. He urges us to be reconciled to Him -- to repent of our sins and receive the gift of eternal life by faith in Jesus Christ. Then we become citizens of the only truly free country, the Kingdom of God, and we begin to learn to walk in liberty. True liberty comes not by independence, but by dependence; not by the "Spirit of 76," but by the Spirit of the Living God. "Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty." (II Cor. 3:17) Now that deserves a real celebration!



Don't be independent! Sign the "Declaration of Dependence on God." Do it Today!

Notes & Quotes

❑ In his book, **Darwin's Black Box: The Biochemical Challenge to Evolution** (The Free Press, 1996), Michael Behe presents a fantastic case for intelligent design. His clear reasoning, easy-to-follow logic, and use of everyday examples make complex topics understandable. Since Behe is not a creationist (p.5), his book should appeal even to evolutionists (if they are at all open-minded). The following quotes from the book should whet your appetite:

- ...understanding how something works is not the same as understanding how it came to be. (ix)
- It was ... expected that the basis of life would be exceedingly simple. That expectation has been smashed. (x)
- Science has made enormous progress in understanding how the chemistry of life works, but the elegance and complexity of biological systems at the molecular level have paralyzed science's attempt to explain their origins. (x)
- The complexity of life's foundation has paralyzed science's attempt to account for it; molecular machines raise an as-yet-impenetrable barrier to Darwinism's universal reach. (5)
- ... the canyons separating everyday life forms have their counterparts in the canyons that separate biological systems on a microscopic scale. ... unbridgeable chasms occur even at the tiniest level of life. (15)
- Biochemistry has pushed Darwin's theory to the limit. ... It is the astonishing complexity of subcellular organic structures that has forced the question, How could all this have evolved? (15)
- ... if a poll were taken of all the scientists in the world, the great majority would say they believed Darwinism to be true. But scientists, like everybody else, base most of their opinions on the word of other people. (30)
- ... too often criticisms have been dismissed by the scientific community for fear of giving ammunition to creationists. It is ironic that in the name of protecting science, trenchant scientific criticism of natural selection has been brushed aside. (30)
- ... Dawkins can simplify to his heart's content, because he wants to convince his readers that Darwinian evolution is "a breeze." In order to understand the barriers to evolution, however, we have to bite the bullet of complexity. (48)
- In private many scientists admit that science has no explanation for the beginning of life. (172)
- Darwin never imagined the exquisitely profound complexity that exists even at the most basic levels of life. (173)
- Since we have just seen that the professional biochemical literature contains no papers or books that explain in detail how complex systems might have arisen, why is Darwinism nonetheless credible with many biochemists? A large part of the answer is that they have been taught as part of their biochemical training that Darwinism is true. (179-180)
- Many students learn from their textbooks how to view the world through an evolutionary lens. However, they do not learn how Darwinian evolution might have produced any of the remarkably intricate biochemical systems that those texts describe. (183)
- Like everybody else, scientists know things either through their own experience or through authority. ... All scientists rely on authority for almost all of their scientific knowledge. (185)
- Since no one knows molecular evolution by direct experiments, and since there is no authority on which to base claims of knowledge, it can truly be said that ... the assertion of Darwinian molecular evolution is merely bluster. (185-186)
- To a person who does not feel obliged to restrict his search to unintelligent causes, the straightforward conclusion is that many biochemical systems were designed. (193)
- The conclusion of intelligent design flows naturally from the data itself -- not from sacred books or sectarian beliefs. Inferring that biochemical systems were designed by an intelligent agent is a humdrum process that requires no new principles of logic or science. It comes simply from the hard work that biochemistry has done over the past forty years, combined with consideration of the way in which we reach conclusions of design every day. (193)
- The knowledge we now have of life at the molecular level has been stitched together from innumerable experiments ... The result of these cumulative efforts to investigate the cell -- to investigate life at the molecular level -- is a loud, clear, piercing cry of "*design!*" (232-233)
- ❑ Behe says we can infer design even though we don't know the Designer. That's true, but Romans 1 says we can go further -- we can clearly see His eternal power and Godhead through what has been made. We should then respond by *honoring Him* and *giving thanks! Amen!*

Spotlight On Science

Those Incredible Dolphins!

“By all rights, life in the sea should leave a dolphin baked, crushed, and sterile. This graceful mammal avoids such a fate only by slipping through loopholes in the laws of physiology.” With such a come-on, who could resist reading “The Dolphin Strategy,” in the March, 1997, issue of *Discover*? The discoveries revealed in the article proved to be fascinating and exciting.

One puzzle for scientists was the problem of oxygen consumption on a deep dive. Research showed that “it was simply physiologically impossible for dolphins to do what they do.” Despite various oxygen-saving “tricks,” calculations showed that “a dolphin should run out of oxygen and drown in mid-ascent.” Obviously that doesn’t happen, so investigation continued. Further research revealed that at 70 meters the pressure of the surrounding water becomes so great that dolphins’ lungs collapse and the great creatures just “fall” like a rock. They are able to survive several minutes at depths up to 200 meters. Then, upon ascent, the heart races for a few seconds until the 70-meter mark where the lungs open, the body again becomes buoyant, and they glide to the surface.

Think of the problems this involves, though. When the lungs collapse, so does the rib cage, squeezing the heart and forcing blood out of it with so much pressure that it would “literally blow the dolphin’s brains out” if it had a normal carotid artery. “Instead, the blood flows from the aorta into a mesh of capillaries called a rete mirabile — Latin for ‘miraculous net.’ The effect is like water from a faucet pouring into a sponge; as the blood surges into the fine vessels, it slows down. Only then does it gently flow into an artery that dives into the spinal canal and up to the brain.” The author calls this a “remarkable piece of cetacean anatomy.” Wouldn’t you agree? (By the way, a similar system is found at the base of the skull in the giraffe. Did dolphins evolve from giraffes or is this another example of remarkable design?!)

One “trick” used by dolphins to help conserve oxygen during long dives is to restrict circulation to the skin and extremities. While helping with the oxygen problem, though, this creates another problem. Dolphins, like other mammals, must finely regulate internal heat. A thick layer of blubber protects from cold, but how then does the dolphin

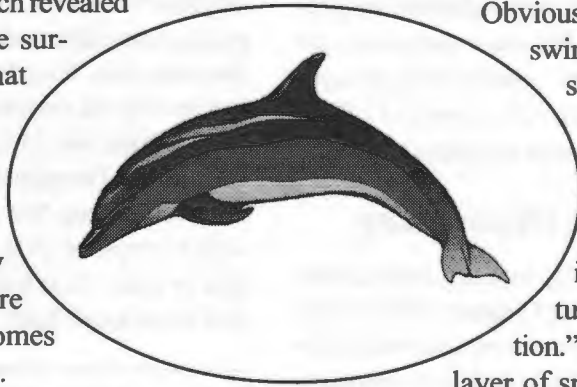
get rid of excess heat produced during heavy muscular activity? Research has shown that blood vessels in the dorsal fin and tail fluke are involved in cooling. If these vessels are closed during long dives, though, how is the excess heat dissipated? The article states, “the dolphin’s remarkable physiology had devised an elegant solution to the conflicting problems of oxygen conservation and heat buildup.” The excess heat is stored until surfacing; then the blood vessels in the extremities open and release it very rapidly.

So far so good, but now another problem arises. Dolphins are mammals which bear live young, but here again we run into heat problems in both the males and females. Sperm require temperatures slightly lower than normal body temperature. In most mammals, this need is solved by the location of the testes in a sac outside the body cavity.

Obviously this solution would not work in a swimming animal with a hydrodynamic shape. So, the testes of dolphins are contained within the body cavity, but now they are surrounded by massive muscles generating enormous amounts of heat. What, then, is the answer to the heat problem? It turns out to be another “elegant solution.” The testes are surrounded by a thick layer of special vascular tissue. Veins carry cooled blood from the dorsal fin and tail directly to this region. These veins then divide into smaller and smaller vessels, which lie directly adjacent to tiny arteries carrying hot blood. The whole system works as a countercurrent heat exchanger, warming blood in the veins, cooling blood in the arteries, and cooling the testes at the same time.

In females, the problem is the excess heat produced by the high metabolic rate of the fetus in the womb. The cooling system works in a manner similar to the male. Blood from the tail and dorsal fin flows directly to a heat-exchanger arrangement near the womb, removing excess heat and protecting the fetus from heat damage.

Though the author of this fascinating article apparently accepts the standard evolutionary scenario, he could not help using words and phrases like “design,” “architecture,” and “elegant solution” in describing these amazing creatures. We, too, recognize design, but do not believe that chance and accidents would ever produce such remarkable systems. The only adequate cause is our great Creator God. We praise Him for His awesome power and ingenuity expressed through His creation!



Upcoming Events

Please pray for these seminars, camps, and conferences.

Thanks!

- July 31: Grand Junction CO:** Northeast Christian Church Day Camp
Contact Karen Taylor, 970-243-6672
- Aug 4-8: Molina, CO:** Molina Baptist Church VBS
Contact Sarah McBroom, 970-268-5596
- Aug 10-15: Lake City, CO:** Redcloud Family Mountain Adventure I
Aug 17-22: Lake City, CO: Redcloud Family Mountain Adventure II
Contact us, 970-523-9943
- Aug 17-20: Glorieta, NM:** Glorieta Homeschool '97 Conference
Contact 1-800-797-4222
- Aug 23-24: Vail, CO:** Steeling the Mind of America Conference
Contact Compass Conferences, 1-800-977-2177
- Aug 25-29: Manitou Springs, CO:** ICR Summit Creation Week
Contact Amanda Bowers, 719-685-9103
- Sep 1,2: Grand Junction, CO:** Summit Youth Leadership Training
Contact Amanda Bowers, 719-685-9103
- Sep 5: Grand Junction, CO:** Focus on Creation Family Night
Contact us for location, 970-523-9943
- Sep 21-22: Grand Junction, CO:** Spirit of Life Church
Contact us, 970-243-8312 or 523-9943

AOI staff and interns do exciting and informative programs for children and adults. We have programs for churches, schools, homeschoolers, community groups, clubs, camps, retreats, youth events, you name it! Call for information on scheduling one in your community!

Creation VBS Training Opportunity

The Johnsons are now scheduling training seminars for individuals or groups interested in doing Creation VBS or other programs for children. This normally involves observing their regular 5-6 hour creation seminar for kids and participating in a full day of training in puppets, crafts, slide shows, etc. plus studying suggested reading and videos. If you are interested in such training, please contact us ASAP so we can get it on the schedule.

Special Opportunity to Reach Mongolia!!

In 1995, God gave us the opportunity to speak Mongolia. Now He is giving us the opportunity to further impact this formerly communist country by training two Mongolians to teach creation. Listen to a portion of a letter we recently received from Bazarsad, a former university physics teacher:

“When you visited Mongolia there was conversation regarding training [a] couple of Mongols in [the] Creation-Evolution field. ... I am very interested if it's possible. ... Missionaries who are working in Mongolia [have] concentrated mainly in translation of the Bible and other Christian literature and [are] doing a great job. But some times they don't understand our Mongol people's psychology. As you know most people here [are] either unbeliever or Buddhist, so it's very important [to have] Creation-Evolution literature. But missionaries here [are] not paying attention in that matter. ... they are working with [the] minority rather than with [the] majority. [They] need to work on several direction[s] at a time, instead [of] being narrow[ly] directed ...”

Bazarsad and his friend, Boldbaatar, (a former atheistic engineer trained in Russia) have both been involved in Bible translation and translation of creation books and other Christian materials. They feel strongly that creation teaching is vital to reaching the majority of the people in Mongolia.

Would you join in reaching the country of Mongolia? We will need to provide airfare and living expenses while they are in the States. We'd also like to be able to send them back with a computer, slide projector, and teaching materials. Could you or your church adopt this mission project? Please pray and let us know how you can help! Thanks!

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