



Think & Believe

A Publication of Alpha Omega Institute

Mar./Apr. 1992; Vol.9 No.2

THE ARROGANCE OF MAN

by Dave and Mary Jo Nutting

What arrogant creatures we human beings are! We think we know so much, and that given enough time, we can solve all our problems by science and education. Yet in reality, how frail and insignificant we are compared to our great Creator.

Remember the story of Job? He and his friends tried and tried to understand his suffering. Finally, after they had failed to come to a satisfactory explanation through their human reasoning, God answered Job out of the storm with a series of questions reminding Job of God's Sovereignty, Wisdom, Majesty and Power as Creator of the Universe. That was enough for Job -- he repented and quieted himself before God.

Over and over again in Scripture God claims that He is the Creator and Ruler of the heavens and earth, and that we are His creatures. The awareness of this should bring us to our knees in worship and awe. However, when we refuse to accept God's explanation for the world as it is, we arrive at alternate explanations that seem plausible only for the moment. In the long run, though, the feebleness of our thinking becomes evident.

How often, even in our lifetimes, have scientific "facts" been relegated to the scrap heap because of new discoveries (See NOTES & Quotes for a few examples). The obvious truth is that science is always changing, because we don't know everything and we are continually discovering new things. How foolish then it is to rely on science to give us answers in matters of eternal importance!

In Romans 1, Paul tells us that God has made Himself known in the natural world, and that men who reject Him will be held responsible. He says, "Professing to be wise, they became fools." How

foolish man's theories look when viewed through the glasses of time! Since we know that theories that were "modern" just a few years ago are now laughed at, how foolish then to think that we know better than God! His Word never changes. He is always the same.

"Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God!

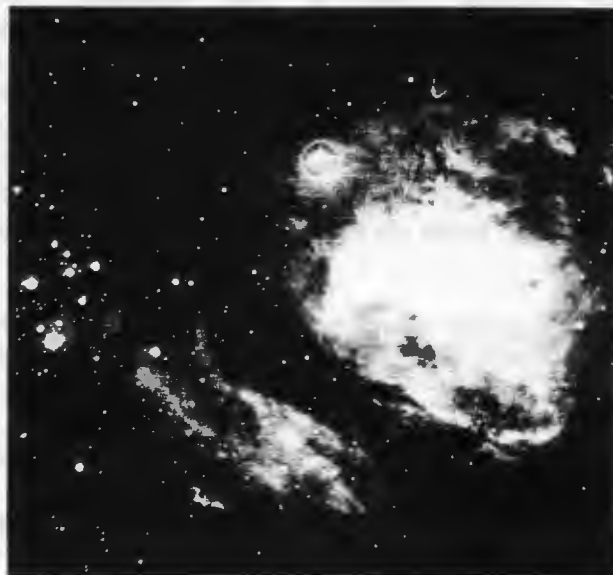
How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out!

Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counsellor?

Who has ever given to God that God should repay him?

For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen."

(Romans 11:33-36)



**Stars—Witness of God's Power
See Spotlight on Science**

NOTES & QUOTES

■ The pronouncements of scientists vastly affect the thinking of modern man, yet science is always changing. As new discoveries are made, old ideas are revised or discarded. This is because we humans are limited in our knowledge and will never know everything. Consider some of what science has taught in the past, and then reflect on how much we should depend on science for the answers to today's problems.

- Brontosaurus is no more. Recent discoveries show that the wrong head was associated with the skeleton. Brontosaurus is now considered to be a type of Apatosaurus.

- A curious layer of fossils was discovered several years ago. Paleontologists argued back and forth as to what they were -- some said clam shells, others bird beaks. Finally, they were determined to be opercula, the "trap doors" of snail shells.

- "Nebraska Man" was reconstructed from a single tooth -- which later turned out to be the tooth of a pig and not a man at all.

■ Man's evolutionary history has changed frequently over the past 150 years. With each new discovery, we end up with a different ancestry:

- It's a new era in paleoanthropology. The things we thought we understood reasonably well, we don't. Bill Kimbel, one of the scientists most knowledgeable about A. afarensis and one of the first to see a cast of the new skull (the Boisei skull), acted for all of us the other day. At the end of the lecture on Australopithecine evolution, he erased all the tidy, alternative diagrams and stared at the blackboard for a moment. Then he turned to the class and threw up his hands. (Discover, September 1986)

■ This happens all the time in paleontology, and yet they want us to teach evolution as "fact" in the schools.

- Paleontology is not, contrary to the notions of some critics, a dead science with as little future as the extinct denizens it studies. Rather it is in a perpetual state of flux. Old concepts are constantly being relegated to obsolescence as new and exciting discoveries are made and fresh, oftentimes revolutionary, opinions and theories are postulated. (Glut, Donald F. 1982. The New Dinosaur Dictionary p. 9)

■ Paleontology is not the only science that is continually changing. In astronomy, the universe has aged billions of years in the past 50 years, the Steady State theory has come and gone, and the Big Bang theory is in big trouble.

■ People have also had some "interesting" ideas about living things in the past:

- For centuries, the idea of spontaneous generation was widely accepted, even by the "educated." People thought that rats came from dirty rags, snakes from horse-hairs that had fallen into the watering trough, and geese from goose-neck barnacles. Pasteur and others demonstrated this to be wrong ... a triumph for modern science. Most scientists today laugh at the idea of spontaneous generation, but how many accept unflinchingly the idea that the first living cells spontaneously came into existence from non-living molecules?

- The idea was widely held that human sperm cells contained a miniature human which itself contained a smaller human and on and on. More advanced microscopy showed the error ... another triumph for science. Isn't it reasonable to assume that much of our current scientific knowledge will someday also be shown to be wrong?

- Over 180 organs, including the tonsils, the thymus gland, the appendix, and the pituitary were thought to be useless leftovers known as "vestigial" organs. Doctors routinely removed tonsils from children whether they were infected or not. Now it is known that these organs are very important in immunity and disease fighting.

- Bloodletting was thought to be a cure for various illnesses and was routinely used, but it often resulted in serious weakening of the patient rather than curing the disease. In fact, this practice killed George Washington.

■ We are not knocking science or medicine -- we realize the power of the scientific method when used and interpreted properly. However, we do urge caution and humility when it comes to man's opinions versus God's Word. Are we so arrogant that we laugh at the ideas of the past and yet think we have all the answers? It is risky to reject God's Word on the basis of current scientific understanding! Science should be evaluated in terms of Scripture, not vice versa.

Light From Distant Stars

Opponents of a literal interpretation of Genesis 1 often state, "Given the size of the universe and the speed of light, it would take the light billions of years to reach the earth. Therefore the universe can't be young. If it was, we couldn't even see most of the stars." How can a young-age creationist answer this challenge?

First we believe that God is powerful enough to create a universe that can be seen! How He did this, we may never know. Some suggest that the light rays were created right along with the stars. Another idea we were given recently is that when God said "Let there be light, it permeated the universe. He then separated it, and later concentrated it on the fourth day into countless points called stars. While these explanations certainly recognize the wisdom and power of the Creator, some still question why there are exploding stars and supernovas. But as Dr. Morris tells us, even the concept of an exploding star is an interpretation of an increase in brightness, not a direct observation of the event. There may be other explanations for this increase in brightness.

Another possibility suggests that the originally created universe was much smaller than today, and that it expanded relatively rapidly to the present size, with the light rays also being "stretched" in the process. This idea seems consistent with Scripture and is currently under investigation.

Other possibilities involve how light travels through space. One idea is that light travels along curved pathways in "Riemannian space." Some calculations have shown that if this is true, it could reach Earth very quickly from any part of the universe. Another idea is that light travelled more rapidly in the past. Thus, light from the most remote stars would have quickly reached us. (See **Think and Believe** Vol.1 No.3 or Vol.6 No.4) While some researchers offer supporting evidence, others hotly reject it. The debate goes on.

Perhaps one or a combination of these explanations is right. Then again, maybe the true explanation is something completely different. Although we have only speculative answers to the challenge at this time, it is also important to realize that the evolutionists and "long-age" creationists also offer only possible explanations based on assumptions and reasoning, not on direct observation and measurement. Thus, in the end, the question becomes, "Which explanation seems most plausible and consistent with Scripture?", not "Which one has been scientifically proven?"

The Heavens Declare God's Glory!

Children wonder and scientists theorize, but Scripture too speaks of the stars, and gives some interesting information that ancient people would have no way of knowing apart from revelation.

Scientists estimate there are over 10^{25} (10 million billion billion) stars. Isn't it interesting that long before telescopes were invented when people still thought they could actually number the stars, the Bible talked about the stars being too many to be counted! Even if you could count 20 numbers per second, it would take at least 100 million billion years to count to 10^{25} . Yet God knows how many there are and in fact calls them each by name (Ps. 146:4).

To the naked eye, stars appear simply as sparkling "diamonds in the sky," except for minute differences in size and brightness. Scientists now recognize a wide range of differences. Through spectroscopic analysis of starlight, scientists believe they can tell how stars differ in surface temperature, chemical composition, magnetic field and other properties. What they are discovering is just what the Bible has said all along, that "one star differeth from another star in glory."

(1 Cor. 15:41)

Evolutionary science uses these differences to try to arrange the stars into stages of stellar evolution. However, just because one can arrange something in some sort of sequence according to physical characteristics, does not necessarily demonstrate evolution. Indeed, the evolutionary scenario for the development of stars is highly speculative -- no one has ever observed it, and in fact there are many serious difficulties with it. By contrast, there is nothing in science which contradicts the clear testimony of Scripture: **"By the word of the Lord were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth ... For he spake, and it was done; he commanded and it stood fast"** (Psalm 33:6,9)

(Ref: Morris, H. M. 1984. The Biblical Basis of Modern Science)

UPCOMING EVENTS

(Call local contact for time and place.)

March - May: Grand Junction, CO. Redlands Community Church. Adult Sunday School Elective. 245-9020.

March 20,21: Grand Junction, CO. ICR Back-to-Genesis Seminar. Contact Terry. 303-434-3036.

March 23-26 and 28-31: Moab, Utah. Canyonlands Mountain Bike Adventure with Christian Wilderness Excursions. Contact Frank Palcic 1-800-848-CAMP.

April 6,7: Bayfield, CO, Area Wide Seminar. Contact Marcy Keyser, 303-884-9673.

April 8,9: Pagosa Springs, First Baptist Church. Contact Grant Adkisson, 303-264-2211.

April 11-12: Slayton, MN, Contact Steve Harms 507-836-6583.

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!

BUILDING PURCHASE UPDATE

Many have wondered how our building purchase is going. At this point, we really don't know. The contract which had previously been accepted fell through. At that point we were asked to resubmit our offer, which we did, thinking it was just a formality. In the meantime, the owner accepted another offer to purchase. Where does that leave us? Still praying! The current offer is good through March 30. We are praying that it too will fall through and we will be given a chance to purchase. If we had had all the money in hand or pledged, we feel we would have been in a better position. Donations are still trickling in at this point, but we still need much more to make it happen. We are seriously committed to remain debt free. **KEEP PRAYING!** We know that God can overcome all the difficulties if this is His will for us, but the battle will be won in prayer.

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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) which includes an exciting creation seminar featuring creationist speakers. Dave & Mary Jo Nutting! **HURRY!** We keep these camps small and they fill fast.

NEW! May 22-25: Wet and Wild Adventure NEW! Memorial Day Weekend! Starting near Grand Junction, CO: Imagine you and your family experiencing a hands-on creation seminar while canoeing and rafting through some of the country's most majestic canyons. Alpha Omega is excited to offer just such an opportunity in a co-operation with Christian Wilderness Encounters, a Christ-centered ministry whose aim is to direct individuals into a closer relationship with Jesus Christ through wilderness experiences. Join us for a truly memorable learning adventure. Call them at 1-800-848-CAMP for details and registration.

Aug. 9-14: Twin Peaks Family Science Adventure 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. Fun, fellowship and learning in a beautiful setting.

Aug. 16-21: Redcloud Family Mountain Adventure 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!

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