



Think & Believe

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Earth Day

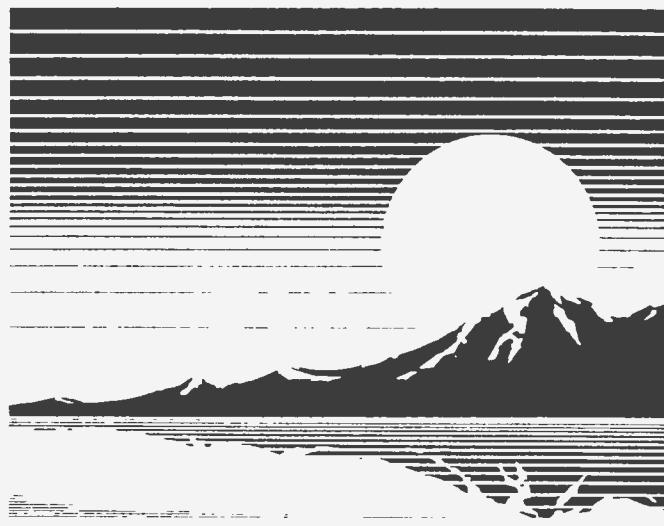
by Dave and Mary Jo Nutting

What a hoopla has been made over "Earth Day" this year! It seems everyone has gotten into the act — schools, media, even churches. For most, it involves a genuine and healthy concern for the environment, but some have become almost paranoid with worry over the condition of the earth, while others have returned to a form of nature worship.

How does all this fit with a Biblical view of the earth and mankind's place in it? The basic Biblical premise is, "The earth is the Lord's, and all it contains, the world and those who dwell in it" (Psalm 24:1). He "formed the earth and made it, He established it and did not create it a waste place, but formed it to be inhabited" (Isaiah 45:18). "And God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. And God blessed them; and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky, and over every living thing that moves on the earth!'" (Genesis 1:27,28). "Then the Lord God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it" (Genesis 2:15).

The earth and the living creatures are not the result of random accidents, but the result of the careful creative acts of God. Man is not the "most highly evolved" creature on this planet who thus holds ultimate control, but is the special creation of God, created in His image, and given the **responsibility to be stewards** of God's earth. Some have claimed that the so-called "dominion mandate" in Genesis 1:28 has led to the rape of the earth and the environmental problems we face today. We would propose, however, that these problems are the result of carelessness, selfishness and greed — not the proper outworking of God's mandate.

As Bible-believing Christians, we *should* be concerned about our environment, because we are stewards of God's creation who recognize that "the earth is the Lord's." Everything we have comes from Him, and it is our responsibility to seek His will in how we use and care for it. We are not free to use it wantonly for our own selfish desires with no concern for the needs of others or for generations to come. However, God did form the earth to be inhabited. It is not a museum. Thus, He expects us to use it to provide for our needs — but we must do so responsibly!



*Our Wonderful Earth: Design or Chance?
(See Spotlight on Science)*

NOTES & QUOTES

■ In the Sept./Oct. issue of *Think and Believe*, we discussed the problems the Institute for Creation Research (ICR) was having with the State of California. At that time, the state was threatening to deny ICR the necessary license to continue operating its Graduate School. On March 16, 1990, after nearly 2 years of threatening, the California State Department of Education finally formally denied ICR's application for reapproval. ICR has now begun the legal process of appeal through the courts. The underlying issue in this case is whether a Christian school has the freedom to teach science according to their interpretation of the facts and data from a Biblical perspective. The outcome of this case could have widespread consequences on all of Christian education. We encourage you to pray for a favorable judgment. For more information on how you can help, contact ICR, Box 2667, El Cajon, CA 92021.

■ Have you been looking for a concise, hard-hitting source of fully-documented quotes by leading authorities on creation/evolution? Then you will not want to miss the new revised, upgraded and enlarged edition of *The Quote Book*. This handy reference is published by the Creation Science Foundation of Australia (1990). You will be amazed as you read what evolutionists themselves are saying about evolution. Listen to some of the quotes included. (Numbers refer to the quote number in *The Revised Quote Book*.)

- It is easy enough to make up stories of how one form gave rise to another, and to find reasons why the stages should be favoured only by natural selection. But such stories are not part of science, for there is no way of putting them to the test. [#6, Personal letter (written 10 April 1979) from Dr. Colin Patterson, Senior Palaeontologist at the British Museum of Natural History in London, to Luther D. Sunderland; as quoted in *Darwin's Enigma* by Luther D. Sunderland, Master Books, San Diego, CA, 1984, p. 89]
- Biologists are simply naive when they talk about experiments designed to test the theory of evolution. It is not testable. They may happen to stumble across facts which would seem to conflict with its predictions. These facts will invariably be ignored and their discoverers will undoubtedly be deprived of continuing research grants. [#10, Professor Whitten (Professor of Genetics, University of Melbourne, Australia), 1980 Assembly Week address.]
- Facts do not "speak for themselves"; they are read in light of the theory. Creative thought, in science as much as in the arts, is the motor of changing opinion. Science is a quintessentially human activity, not a mechanized, robot-like accumulation of objective information, leading by laws of logic to inescapable interpretation. [#11, Stephen Jay Gould (Professor of Geology and Paleontology, Harvard University), "The Validation of Continental Drift" in his book *Ever Since Darwin*, Burnett Books, 1978, pp. 161-162.]

■ Evolution is often called a "proven scientific fact," yet it is clear that it cannot be tested and "proven." It is a belief system, a way to interpret the facts, just as creation is.

- With the failure of these many efforts science was left in the somewhat embarrassing position of having to postulate theories of living origins which it could not demonstrate. After having chided the theologian for his reliance on myth and miracle, science found itself in the unenviable position of having to create a mythology of its own: namely, the assumption that what, after long effort, could not be proved to take place today had, in truth, taken place in the primeval past. [#13, Loren Eiseley, Ph.D. (anthropology), "The Secret of Life" in *The Immense Journey*, Random House, New York, 1957, p. 199.]
- Evolutionism is a fairy tale for grown-ups. This theory has helped nothing in the progress of science. It is useless. [#19, Prof. Louis Bounoure (Former President of the Biological Society of Strasbourg and Director of the Strasbourg Zoological Museum, later Director of Research at the French National Centre of Scientific Research), as quoted in *The Advocate*, Thursday 8 March 1984, p. 17.]
- I have said for years that speculations about the origin of life lead to no useful purpose as even the simplest living system is far too complex to be understood in terms of the extremely primitive chemistry scientists have used in their attempts to explain the unexplainable that happened billions of years ago. God cannot be explained away by such naive thoughts. [#29, Ernst Chain (world famous biochemist), as quoted by R.W. Clark in *The Life of Ernst Chain: Penicillin and Beyond*, Weidenfeld & Nicolson, London, 1985, p. 148.]
- I know the question in the minds of many of you who have followed me to this point: "Does not science prove that there is no Creator?" Emphatically, science does **not** prove that! [#125, Paul A. Moody, Ph.D. (zoology) (Emeritus Professor of Natural History and Zoology, University of Vermont) in *Introduction to Evolution*, Harper & Row, New York, second edition, 1962, p. 513.]
- Today, our duty is to destroy the myth of evolution, considered as a simple, understood, and explained phenomenon which keeps rapidly unfolding before us. Biologists must be encouraged to think about the weaknesses of the interpretations and extrapolations that theoreticians put forward or lay down as established truths. The deceit is sometimes unconscious, but not always, since some people, owing to their sectarianism, purposely overlook reality and refuse to acknowledge the inadequacies and falsity of their beliefs. [#126, Pierre-Paul Grasse (University of Paris and past-President, French Academie des Sciences) in *Evolution of Living Organisms*, Academic Press, New York, 1977, p. 8.]

■ *The Revised Quote Book* contains numerous great quotes dealing with the fossil record, dating methods, origin of life and much more. It is a valuable, well-organized, illustrated resource. (Free upon request with any donation of \$10.00 or more: Alpha Omega Institute, Box 4343, Grand Junction, CO 81502.)

SPOTLIGHT ON SCIENCE

Our Wonderful Earth

When we study the universe and the other planets of our solar system, we marvel at what a truly amazing planet our earth is. Its unique position and design make it the only planet known which can support life. Is this just an amazing accident or is it the result of deliberate creative intelligence? Consider the following facts.

The earth is precisely the right distance from the sun to maintain temperatures suitable for life. Decreasing the distance even a few percent would cause drastic temperature raises. Increasing the distance would result in temperatures too cold for life.

The earth's axis is tilted 23½ degrees from the perpendicular relative to its orbit. This tilt causes the four seasons and allows for global circulation of air masses. With no tilt, temperatures at the equatorial regions would become unbearably hot all year and polar regions would be extremely cold. Cold and warm air masses would be relatively permanently fixed, and seasonal differences in temperature and moisture would disappear. Consequently, the amount of farmable land would be cut nearly in half. If the tilt was doubled, seasonal differences would be much exaggerated, resulting in extremely cold winters and unbearably hot summers. The observed tilt seems to provide favorable conditions for life on earth.

Our earth rotates once every 24 hours. If it rotated more slowly, we would have more extreme differences between daytime and nighttime temperatures. The 24-hour day results in the uniform heating of the surface we experience.

Looking at our atmosphere, we find that we have just the right mix of gases. The most abundant gas, nitrogen, is relatively inactive. Oxygen is present in what appears to be optimum amounts for life. More oxygen would result in faster weathering of rocks and more spontaneous combustion. Things would be bursting into flame all over. Less oxygen would make respiration difficult and would lower the amount of ozone in the upper atmosphere, resulting in the transmission of more ultraviolet rays to the earth.

Carbon dioxide is present in very minute amounts in the atmosphere, but it is critical for life. This carbon dioxide is the source of carbon for plants, without which life could not exist. It is also important in maintaining the acid-base balance of the oceans and in regulating the temperature of the atmosphere. A decrease in the amount of CO₂ in the atmosphere would result in a decrease in plant mass, hence, less food for animals. It would also cause the oceans to become more acidic and the climate to become cooler. Conversely,

increasing the CO₂ by much would cause an alkaline ocean and a warmer climate.

The density of our atmosphere is related to the size of the planet. If the earth was larger, it could support a denser atmosphere, but this would result in a warmer climate, and vice versa. Again, the earth appears to be right for supporting an atmosphere which is ideal for life.

Earth is the only known planet with a permanent reserve of liquid water. Water has many unique properties which make it the primary component of life. It serves as the solvent for many substances needed by living things, is essential in chemical reactions, and is involved in the shape and rigidity of cells. In addition, it is one of the few known substances that expands when it freezes. This permits a lake to freeze from the top down, leaving the bottom liquid and allowing for the survival of fish. Also, because of the heat-capturing and heat-retention properties of water, it is important in moderating temperatures on earth.

Even the crust of the earth shows evidence of design. The continents tower above the oceans because the continental crust is thicker but less dense than the oceanic crust. If this were not so, the entire earth would be covered with water and could support very little life. Also, studies of the crust show that oxygen is about eight times more abundant in the earth's crust than iron. More iron and magnesium in the crust would trap more oxygen from the atmosphere and make it impossible to have an oxygenated atmosphere.

The Bible tells us that when God created the earth, He did not create it to be a waste place, but to be inhabited (Isaiah 45:18). There is certainly abundant evidence of His careful planning and wisdom in designing our home. We can either recognize His creative handiwork and give Him the honor or attribute all these amazing attributes to lucky accidents. Which will it be in your life?

(Ref: Planet Earth: Plan or Accident? by Stuart E. Nevins, ICR Impact Series, No. 14)

Recent Events

What a spring! Shortly after returning from the Wyoming/California trip, Mary Jo underwent unexpected major surgery. Though she is recuperating well, Dave had to take several of the speaking engagements by himself. He found out how difficult it is to do a seminar when half the team is missing! Despite Dave's just about losing his voice, the full seminar for homeschoolers in the Colorado Springs area went well. It was very well organized and attended, thanks to the hard work of Chelly Gring and the others helping her. Also well-executed was the Christian Educators' Curriculum Fair in Grand Junction. Thanks, Liz Martin, Marian Osborne and all the rest of you who helped.

We were glad again this year to be a part of the Grand Canyon Adventure sponsored by ICR. We led one of the three hiking groups into the canyon (and back out again!) to study the geology and biology of the canyon from a creationist perspective. Though it was snowing when we left the rim, and we slid more than hiked the first day, altogether the trip offered a special time of fellowship and learning. Thanks, all of you who prayed for Mary Jo. God answered your prayers for strength. She had no trouble hiking out the 9.5 miles with almost a mile elevation change (just 6½ weeks after surgery).

Bug Man!

We have a special treat in store at the Twin Peaks Family Science Adventure and the Camp Redcloud Family Mountain Adventure this summer. Henry Michaloski, an amateur entomologist (that's a Bug Man) is scheduled to join us with his 3000-insect collection and his excitement about bugs. He will share his love for God and his enthusiasm about God's creation in the special "hands-on" science program for the children. If you haven't signed up yet, you'd better hurry. Space is limited!

Alpha Omega Institute

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Upcoming Events

- June 15-16: **HOME Conference**, Denver, CO. Contact Diane Maliszewski, (303) 935-3677.
- June 17-18: **Walsh, CO**. Contact Barb Burson, (719) 324-5815.
- June 19-20: **Kelen Baptist Church**, Borger, TX. Contact Pastor Wyatt Carpenter, (806) 274-7446.
- June 25-29: **Paluxy Dinosaur Adventure**, Glen Rose, TX. Contact Dennis Peterson, (916) 626-4447.
- July 1: **Countryside Christian Church**, Marysville, MO (tentative). Contact Church Office, (816) 582-8872.
- July 8, 15: **Monticello, MN** (tentative). Contact Lee Huber (612) 263-3404.
- July 28-29: **Lake Shetek Baptist Family Camp**, Slayton, MN. Contact Louise Sulack, (507) 376-9735.
- July 29-31: **Our Savior's Lutheran Church**, Madison, SD. Contact Laurie Rowland, (605) 256-6357.
- Aug. 1-2: **Rapid City, SC area**. Contact David Blackhurst, (605) 787-5358.
- Aug. 12-17: **Twin Peaks Family Science Adventure**, Collbran, CO. Contact us, (303) 245-5906.
- Aug. 19-24: **Camp Redcloud Family Mountain Adventure**, Lake City, CO. Contact us, (303) 245-5906.
- Aug. 26-31: **YWAM Discipleship Training School**, Cimarron, CO.
- Aug. 31-Sept. 3: **Family Camp**, TeePee Bible Camp, Rifle, CO. Contact (303) 876-2108.

Eastern Trip

We are attempting to put together a reasonable itinerary for an Eastern speaking trip late October and November this year. If you would like to arrange something in your area, contact us right away. We'll send you all the information you need to put together a seminar.

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