



Think & Believe

A Publication of Alpha Omega Institute

May/June 1991; Vol.8 No.3

THE EXERCISE OF FAITH

By Terry Bridgman, Guest Writer

Most readers of this newsletter are aware of the importance of the creation ministry in our churches, personal lives, and especially as a witnessing tool in a society that is becoming more and more dominated by evolutionary thought. One unsettling fact of our present situation is that many within the church do not recognize this importance and in fact practically dismiss it altogether. It has been one thing for me to be aware from an intellectual standpoint of the compromise within the church -- quite another to experience it as I've met with many pastors in recent months. We must keep in perspective the importance God places on honoring Him as Creator and honoring His Word as revealed.

Hebrews, Chapter 11, is just one of many records God uses to show His emphasis on creation. This is the "great faith chapter," where all the "ancients" were commended for their faith in God. Note that each of these people acted on their faith thus showing it was not dead (James 2:17). We see that Abel offered, Noah built, Abraham obeyed and went, Moses left Egypt, Rahab welcomed the spies, and so on. But pay attention to verse 3 which introduces all this. Although it contains the first of some twenty "by faiths," it is rarely emphasized as we quickly skip on to those great examples of faith from the Old Testament. However, the word "**we**" is listed before the others when it says it is **by faith we understand** God is Creator.

This verse also tells **us** how **we** are to act on this faith: "by faith **we understand**." The others listed in this great chapter exercised one or more of their body parts in a physical way in response to their faith -- Noah hammered and sawed, the people marched through the sea, and Abel sacrificed. We, however, are to exercise our minds to **understanding**.

We must **understand** evolution is a belief system in opposition to God's Word. It interprets facts on the basis of its beliefs and biases -- facts which otherwise offer little or no support. **We must also understand our thinking begins with God's Words -- not men's.** In Genesis 1 we find that "God created" -- of this we are certain (Hebrews 11:1). By exercising our mind in response, we begin to **understand** its truth. Our understanding is imperative because the "flood" facing us is from the intellect of those who either reject God or compromise His Word. By exercising our minds we attain the understanding of His truth as revealed in His Word and supported by His Creation. This is our defense and ark in a hostile world.

[Ed. Thanks for your insight, Terry. -- Dave & Mary Jo Nutting]



The Amazing Camel
(See Spotlight on Science)

NOTES & QUOTES

■ Sometimes we are overwhelmed with the piles of work awaiting us when we get home from a long speaking trip, but letters like these encourage us to "keep on keeping on." We are excited that so many of you are passing on what you are learning and thank God for the privilege of sharing with you. Thank you for standing with us in this work.

■ I am a freshman at [college]. ... This semester I decided to pursue my interest in the ever-changing condition of our planet by becoming an environment/ecology major. I have noticed just how much of the teaching in the sciences is based upon the presupposition of evolution as fact. While I learn it, I must say that it has not changed my radical thinking and belief that God created us rather than chance. ...

Many of the people I've met here [at college] are agnostics or humanists. ... My faith has become so strong as I continually try to witness to these people ... Your publication has greatly aided in providing examples that are harder to justify from the evolutionistic standpoint (such as the "missing link.") Thank you.

I am going to ask our librarian if it would be permissible for the [college] library to carry Think and Believe in the periodical section. I believe it could be very beneficial for other students who also have difficulty persuading others to have faith. (College Student, Colorado)

■ I keep meaning to write but I've been busy mainly with college and still am. I really enjoyed your messages at Red Cloud two years ago and even wrote a report about Creation vs Evolution for English and received an A. (College Student, New York)

■ I am enclosing a gift ... for your ministry. It is part of the Lord's portion of an inheritance from my mother. It gives me joy to honor both her and the Lord by making it possible for children and adults to hear the TRUTH about our wonderful Creator God. Thank you for your ministry. It has encouraged me more than you can imagine! (Colorado)

■ Thank you so much for your time ... Your information is convincing and brought forth much discussion among our high school students. It is amazing how many "Christian" students have bought into the idea of evolutionary creation and are unwilling to see another perspective. (Ahhh, but you planted the seed of inquiry!) (Principal, Christian High School, California)

■ Thank you for your newsletters ... As I go to a secular university and am constantly bombarded with humanism, your newsletter really reminds me Jesus really did do all the Bible claims.

In the weeks that followed your seminar, I was able to talk to my lab partner about what we were taught in class and to give him a new perspective on the subject. I related some of the flaws in the "facts" we were given. He still hasn't come to a decision, but at least now he has something else to think about. (College Student, Ohio)

■ You have provided us with not only some specific answers to questions that we have, but have provided us with the deeper belief that we do not have to be fearful of standing for what we believe. There truly is a Creator and he did create not only this wonderful world but everything in it. You have given us the confidence to ask "where's the evidence," to approach others who believe in evolution out of love to tell them the greater story. (Colorado)

■ A note of encouragement for you. My friend, who also attended your seminar ... has been praying and working to get Creation Science materials into [a church school] to replace the secular books currently being used. She is using materials she pooled, that we obtained from your seminar, along with a video series featuring Dr. Wilder-Smith [Origin Series- see book list] that another home school family had invested in. After much apathy & discouraging meetings, she has finally found the clergyman whose heart God has evidently prepared, who also has some authority to make changes. I'll keep you posted! (South Dakota) [Ed.: Isn't it awful when people have to fight to get these materials into Christian schools? What a grip evolution has had!]

■ The class in Creation Science has been well received and attended at our church. Many church members who normally don't attend Sunday School are coming regularly. (Colorado)

■ We hope these letters encourage you like they do us. Multiplication of effort is vital. Many lives can be touched if we all work together.

Think and Believe is published bi-monthly by Alpha Omega Institute, P.O. Box 4343, Grand Junction, CO 81502. Editors: Dave & Mary Jo Nutting. Single copies are free upon request. Please write for permission to reprint material in this publication. Alpha Omega Institute is a tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Your donations are tax deductible.

SPOTLIGHT ON SCIENCE

HOW DESERT ANIMALS BEAT THE HEAT

Deserts! Lizards, rattlesnakes, and cacti come to mind. Can anything else survive? Yes! Many animals have either learned how to cope or come equipped with ingeniously designed systems to "beat the heat."

Many animals cope by avoiding the heat as much as possible. They limit activity to the cooler morning or evening hours, and spend much of the day in a cool, moist burrow or in the shade of rocks or vegetation. Others minimize heat absorption by aligning themselves parallel to the sun's rays, or seeking the shade of a telephone pole! When the going gets really tough, larger animals may migrate to cooler areas while some smaller ones go into estivation, a condition similar to hibernation.

Desert animals exhibit various temperature regulation methods. Many have light coloration which reflects much sunlight or heavy fur which insulates against intense heat. In some, the basal metabolic rate can decrease to minimize heat production during the hottest part of the day. In others, the blood flow to the skin increases to dissipate body heat (The large, heavily-vascularized ears of the jackrabbit act like radiators!). Some animals expose thinly-haired belly regions to the "cooler" air to dissipate body heat, while many take advantage of evaporative cooling by panting or wetting their fur in puddles or streams or by drooling.

There are also many ingenious solutions to cope with the water shortage. Certain small animals have extremely efficient water conservation mechanisms. For example, the kangaroo rat is able to live its entire life on dry seeds, without ever taking a drink! Its many complex specializations help conserve the tiny bit of water produced in the breakdown of its food -- its efficient kidneys and intestines excrete extremely concentrated wastes and the convoluted passages in its nostrils prevent water loss from the lungs. Some larger animals are able to tolerate extensive dehydration. Camels and donkeys, for instance, can tolerate water loss up to 25% of their body weight. (By comparison, humans can stand only 12%.) Amazingly, donkeys can rehydrate from a 25% water loss in less than 2 minutes!

Are these amazing specializations the result of time, chance, and natural processes? Not likely! Complex, highly coordinated systems and specialized behavior as seen in desert animals reflect the handiwork of an Intelligent Designer.

CAMELS: SHIPS OF THE DESERT

Camels are some of the most important beasts of burden known to man. They have been used for thousands of years as the chief means of transport in desert regions. Most people know that camels can go a long time without water, but few understand just how amazing these "ships of the desert" really are.

Indeed, camels can go for a week or more without water. They can withstand dehydration of up to 25% of their body weight and then rehydrate amazingly rapidly by drinking up to 25 or 30 gallons in less than 10 minutes! By contrast, man can withstand only about 12% dehydration, before his blood thickens to the point that it puts too much stress on the heart and circulation is reduced to the point of death. Fortunately for the camel, its blood volume does not decrease as it becomes dehydrated; moisture is lost from other body tissues and fluids instead.

Camels have an amazing ability to conserve water and "beat the heat." At first glance, the thick wool coat seems to be a mistake, but in actuality, it helps to cool the animal by insulating it from the beating hot desert sun. The hump is of special significance. No, it is not filled with water -- it is made up of stored fat which can be used as an important source of energy when food is scarce. Some water is a by-product of metabolism, though. The hump also helps in heat regulation, by concentrating body fat rather than distributing it under the skin. This allows body heat to escape more readily. Camels conserve water through their very efficient kidneys which excrete extremely concentrated wastes. In addition, they lose very little through sweat, since their "normal" temperature fluctuates more than humans, ranging from 93 to 105 degrees and they do not start to sweat until body temperature reaches the upper end of the range.

Besides all this, camels are specially suited for desert travel. Their wide hooves and long bony toes covered with tough skin help keep them from sinking into the sand. In addition, they are equipped to deal with blowing sand: their nostrils close part way to keep out sand, their long eyelashes protect their eyes, and an inner eyelid acts like a windshield wiper if any sand does manage to sneak by. As an added bonus, their mouths are so tough that they can eat almost anything, even a thorny old cactus.

Camels, like people, are "fearfully and wonderfully made." They clearly demonstrate the intelligence and ingenuity of our great Creator God.

UPCOMING EVENTS

(Call local contact for time and place.)

- June 2: Clifton, CO**, Clifton Christian Church, 303-434-7392
- June 12,13: Conifer, CO**, Grace Bible Fellowship, 303-838-0120
- June 14,15: Denver, CO**, Christian Home Educator's Conference, 303-777-1022
- June 23, 30, July 7: Grand Junction, CO**, Calvary Chapel, Contact Terry, 303-434-3036
- July 14-19: Cimarron, CO**, YWAM Discipleship Training School, 303-249-7004
- August 4-7: Joplin, MO**, Villa Heights Christian Church, 417-624-6771
- August 25-30: ICR Summer Institute at the Summit**, Manitou Springs, CO, Contact ICR 619-448-0900
- September 8 & 15: Grand Junction, CO**, Messiah Lutheran, 303-245-2838
- September 26 - November 14: Midwest/Eastern Speaking Circuit.** Some dates are still available. Contact us immediately 303-245-5906.
- September 27,28: Omaha, NE**, Public Seminar sponsored by Grace College of the Bible, Contact Deb Boettcher, 402-449-2800.
- September 30, October 1: Tyler, MN**, Tyler Alliance Chapel, 507-247-3824.
- October 17-20: Creation Adventure for Homeschool Families**, Pere Marquette State Park, Alton, IL (Near St. Louis), Sponsored by Illinois Christian Home Educators, 708-662-1909.
- October 24-26: Lincoln, IL**, Lincoln Christian College Seminary, Junior High Schoolers On Campus.

PLEASE KEEP THIS SCHEDULE AND PRAY FOR US!

CREATION ADVENTURES

Plan now to **JOIN DAVE AND MARY JO** for one of our unique creation adventures -- **stimulating creation teaching and exciting recreation** for the whole family. **Don't miss out! Call or write today: 303-245-5906!**

August 11-16: Twin Peaks Family Science Adventure, Collbran, CO: Especially for homeschoolers, but anyone welcome. Explore western Colorado's famous dinosaur country, Colorado National Monument, and beautiful Grand Mesa with its 200 mountain lakes.

August 18-23: Redcloud Family Mountain Adventure, Lake City, CO: Enjoy Colorado's spectacular San Juan Mountains -- rappelling, mountain biking, horseback riding, jeep trips, fishing, much more. Fills quickly -- **RESERVE YOUR SPOT TODAY!**

ATTENTION: WESTERN COLORADO READERS!

Alpha Omega Institute is co-sponsoring the **Back-to-Genesis Seminar** in Grand Junction, March 20-21, 1992. Here's your chance to hear ICR speakers. Yes, that is a year away, but we need to begin work now. If you would like to help, call Terry at 303-434-3036.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Last issue, we sent out a mailing update card. If you receive a 2nd notice in this mailing, it means we have not yet received your reply. **Mail it TODAY to continue receiving Think & Believe!**

Alpha Omega Institute

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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Grand Jct., CO
Permit No.393

In This Issue:

- Those Amazing Camels
- Letters From Readers
- New Booklist Enclosed
- 2nd Notice Update Card