



Think & Believe

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VACATION ALERT

(by Dave and Mary Jo Nutting)

When you pack for vacation this summer, don't leave your mind at home! You will certainly need it to recognize and counteract the anti-biblical teaching encountered along the way. You probably know it is virtually impossible to visit a museum, national park, zoo or cave without hearing about "millions of years" and being inundated with evolutionary ideas. However, a new twist is becoming increasingly common in national park visitor's centers embracing the ideas of pantheism, spiritism, and nature worship. A deceptive blend of "science" and eastern mysticism is resulting.

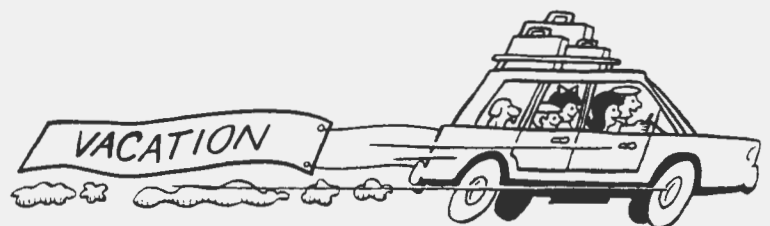
Sometimes the teaching is quite subtle, but watch for statements in films or exhibits which state or imply that "All is One," or that everything is "connected." While it is true that God created a beautifully integrated, harmonious system, the "oneness" of pantheism does not distinguish between God and His creation, but ends up making everything "God."

Another common trend is the tendency to emphasize "cycles." Again, we find a recognized biological concept taking on deeper spiritual meaning. All biologists recognize the water cycle, the carbon cycle, the nitrogen cycle, etc. God has designed our world in such an intricate way that materials will be re-cycled over and over again. However, in its spiritualized form, this concept appears as reincarnation, where souls are "re-cycled." This belief is deeply ingrained in eastern mysticism, but directly contradicts the Biblical teaching that "it is appointed unto men to die once, and after this comes judgment (Heb. 9:27)."

Reincarnation follows logically from evolution, as the soul gradually evolves into higher and higher states, and offers the potential for one to eventually become a god. It also helps to explain the modern-day emphasis on "animal rights" and the extreme

environmentalism that values human life no more than an animal. (It seems nowadays that many times human life is valued even less than animals. Spotted owls are more important to some than unborn babies.) Humans are blamed for all the woes on earth, and the claim is often made by tour guides that everything in nature is in balance except people. The solution? -- drastically reduce the number of people (through forced birth control, abortion, and euthanasia). Several films we have seen exalt the native American cultures because they are seen as having been "in balance" with nature. Some are even advocating going back to "hunter-gatherer" days. With the exaltation of native cultures often comes a return to native religions involving spiritism, medicine men, and occultic rituals.

Yes, as you vacation, enjoy what you see, but be alert! Vain philosophies (see Col. 2:8) are lurking out there. As you enter the "secular temples" teach your family to use their minds and their hearts to evaluate what they hear.



**Vacation--Enjoy the Sights--
But Be Alert and Teach!**

NOTES & QUOTES

■ Millions of people will get a big dose of evolutionary indoctrination as they take their family vacation this summer. National Parks, guide books, museums, zoos and even many amusement parks are saturated with evolution. The unwary family simply absorbs it as they go merrily on their way. How can you avoid it, or at least not be taken in by it?

One way, of course, is to attend one of our "Creation Vacations." There you can combine family fun and learning in a beautiful mountain setting. However, spaces fill quickly, so if you haven't signed up already, you may need to save this alternative for **next** year. (Call **today** if you want to try to attend this year.)

For those who procrastinate too long and miss this year's Creation Vacations, we suggest that you use your vacation anyway as an opportunity to teach your family (and yourself) how to recognize evolutionary teaching and counteract it with a creation alternative. Here are some ideas to get you started:

Make a game out of it. Keep score or award inexpensive prizes to the first one who spots evolutionary bias in exhibits, films or guided tours.

Keep a notebook listing every time and place you spot evolutionary teaching. Try to offer a creation alternative.

Pray for opportunities to share your faith with tour guides and others you meet. Follow-up with specific prayer after you share.

Ask questions like, "What's the evidence?" "How do they know that for sure?" "Were you there?" Please be sure to be polite and respectful, though. (Memorize and discuss II Timothy 2:24,25 with your family!) Share creation evidence as appropriate.

Read Scripture or listen to Bible tapes or tapes of worship music as you drive. Look for evidence of God's handiwork. Talk about it and praise Him for it.

Take time to fellowship with other believers and make new friends at a local church or "campground" service.

Save brochures, trail maps, post cards, etc. Combine with your own photos when you get home to make a trip scrapbook. Use this opportunity to review the places where you found evolutionary bias and to reinforce creation teaching.

■ Have a great time, enjoy your family and God's handiwork, but, as Scripture says, "See to it no one takes you captive," (Col. 2:8) and "Always be ready to make a defense to every one who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence." (I Peter 3:15)

■ Do your children get weary over long miles of travel? Try some of the following games to wile away the hours and focus attention on God's creation:

Creation Questions: One person thinks of an animal, plant, or something else that God created. The others try to guess what it is by asking questions that can be answered with **only** a "Yes" or "No." The one that guesses correctly gets to be "It" next time. If no one guesses correctly in 20 questions, the original "It" wins and gets to be "It" again.

I Spy: Mom or Dad names something (like, "A Brown Horse"). The first one that spots something that fits the description calls, "I Spy." If playing "just for fun," the person who "spies" the object gets to name the next thing to search for. If your family likes a bit of competition, keep score for a prize or reward immediately with "M&M's," stickers, or other small items.

Creation ABC's: Starting with A, try to go all the way through the alphabet spotting things that God has created which start with each letter. (Variation: spot as many different created things that start with any one letter as you can in a certain time limit. For older children who like competition, look quietly and keep a list.)

"I Went On a Trip" Creation Memory Game: The first person starts the game by saying, "In the summer of '93 I went on a trip and I saw _____." He names one thing he saw that God created. The second person repeats the sentence, including the item named by the first and adding his own. Continue adding items. See who can keep going the longest.

Creation Bible Memory Search: Look out the window. Spot something of interest (e.g., a mountain, stream, bird, tree, etc.). Think of as many Bible verses as possible that refer to this item. (If you have a concordance and don't get motion sickness, you may want to use it to look up additional references after you exhaust your memory.)

Creation Bingo: Before you leave home, make up several different "Bingo" cards with names or pictures of different things God has created in the squares (e.g., bird, dog, cat, tree, flower, stream, cloud, person, etc.). ("Bingo" cards have 5 rows and 5 columns.) Cover your cards with clear contact paper. Using wipe-off markers, children mark their cards as they spot the items. The first one to complete a straight line calls, "Creation!"

■ **Have FUN!** Let us know if you have other favorite family games, and drop us a note telling how you turned your vacation into a "Creation Vacation." God is GOOD! Let's glorify Him this summer.

SPOTLIGHT ON SCIENCE

Our Beautiful National Parks

Millions will be awed by the beauty of our national parks this summer. Unfortunately, they will also be taken in by evolutionary teaching, unless they are prepared to stand against it. As creationists, we can discover evidence of God's character -- His perfection, His power, His care -- as we explore and enjoy the wonders of the world that He has made. Here are a few things you can look for in some of our national parks and monuments.

Yellowstone: The oldest of the Parks. Famous for hot springs, geysers, and wildlife. As you tour, look for evidence of youth in the thermal basins and rock formations. Notice the jagged formations around Yellowstone Falls. Discuss specimen ridge. (See **Think & Believe**, Vol. 9, No. 6.) Notice the rapid reforestation of burned areas and the abundance of wildlife. Praise God for the marvelous beauty, the fantastic colors of the thermal basins, and the intricacies of design in the animals He has created.

Tetons: Majestic mountains and glacial features. Here you will see the effects of glacial action. Look for evidences of glacial moraines, outwash plains, cirque lakes, hanging valleys, etc. Many creationists believe that one major "Ice Age" occurred within a few hundred years after the Flood. They see some evidence of regional advances and retreats within this one major event. Secular geologists usually talk about 3 or 4 major "Ice Ages" spanning great ages, but most now date the last major ice advance within 10,000 years. Even the book of Job, probably written within a few hundred years of the Flood, talks about snow and ice.

Grand Canyon: Awe-inspiring vistas, colors, and beauty. Evolutionary teaching is very evident here. The rock layers are said to contain the record of the development of life over millions of years. Canyon formation supposedly took 13 million years of slow, gradual erosion by the Colorado River (the "Little Water, Lot of Time" model). This is the most-studied park by creationists. Rock layers may be interpreted in terms of catastrophic deposition: the layers of the Inner Gorge being "Creation Week" rock; the horizontal layers representing various episodes during the Flood. Canyon carving could be accomplished in a relatively short time by catastrophic emptying of a great inland lake to the northeast of the canyon. (Evidence of an ancient shoreline has been suggested as far east as Grand Junction, CO.) This is the "Lot of Water, Little

Time" model. Grand Canyon is a monument to remind us of God's judgment on sin at the time of the Flood. Take time to meditate on the awfulness of sin, but also take time to marvel at God's gift of grace in salvation through the Lord Jesus Christ, our "Ark" of safety in the coming judgment. Consider, too, how God can make something beautiful out of destruction in our lives. (See **Think and Believe**, Vol. 5, No. 3.)

Mount St. Helens: "Explosive Evidence for Catastrophe." When Mount St. Helens blew, it also blew a lot of geologic theories. We saw how rapidly 200-600 feet of sorted layers were deposited by catastrophic mud and ash flows. We also saw how rapidly canyons can occur (a 140 foot deep canyon cut in a day). Remind you of the Grand Canyon? As you view this awesome display of the power of nature, remember that God created and controls it all. "He touches the hills, and they smoke." (Ps. 104:32) Praise Him that He is not just a God of Power, but also a God of Love, and He has the Power to overcome sin in our lives. (For more information, get the video, **Mount St. Helen's: Explosive Evidence for Catastrophe**, \$19.95 + 1.50 S/H.)

Dinosaur National Monument: Fantastic display of a dinosaur graveyard. One explanation holds that these dinosaurs died, were carried downstream by a river, collected on a sand bar and were later buried. Interesting! What kind of current would it take to wash a 70 ton dinosaur downstream? How long could it lay there before burial without decomposing? This park shows excellent evidence of rapid burial, catastrophic flooding, and massive current -- just what you would expect in the Flood.

Carlsbad Caverns: An awesome underground world. Standard explanations of cave formation and stalactite growth require long periods of time. How then do you explain the bat, preserved in a stalagmite? Either it was a mighty slow bat or it doesn't take so long for cave formations to develop! Time is not the hero of the plot. If conditions are right (plenty of water and minerals), caves could form rapidly. (See **Think & Believe**, Vol. 3, No. 5.) Can you think of anytime when that might have been true on earth?!

Do you get the idea how you can de-mystify these "secular shrines" and use them as vehicles for evangelism and reminders of the truth of God's Word? Let's give God the glory and honor due Him as we enjoy and learn from the world in which we live.

EVENTS

(Call local contact for time and place.)

- May 24-25: Watertown, SD:** Area Seminar.
Contact Crystal Ribar, 605-882-4469.
- May 26-27: Big Sandy, MN:** Big Sandy Alliance.
Contact Church, 218-426-3408.
- June 2-3: Wheaton, IL:** Oakdale Community Church.
Contact Church Office, 708-668-9900
- June 8-9: Bedford, IN:** High School Camp.
Contact Joan Masterson, 1-317-856-4731.
- June 11-12: Denver, CO:** Colo. Home Educators Conf.
Contact 303-777-1022.
- June 13: Colo. Springs, CO:** Central Christian Church.
Contact Art Owen, 719-597-0468.
- June 14-18: Idaho Springs, CO:** Grace Church of Rockies.
Contact Leona Hemmerich, 303-567-4800.
- 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.
Contact Rod Adams, 303-674-8442.

Fall scheduling is in progress. Call **today** if you'd like to schedule something in your area.

PLEASE KEEP THIS SCHEDULE AND PRAY FOR US!

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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BOOK REVIEW

INSIDE THE NEW AGE NIGHTMARE

Teachings of the New Age Movement and eastern mysticism are rapidly infiltrating our society. These teachings are often veiled behind the cloak of science, "positive thinking," personal development, and environmentalism. Much of it sounds harmless on the surface, but in reality is deceptively dangerous.

To better protect yourself and your family, and to help those entrapped in the movement, we recommend the book, **Inside the New Age Nightmare**, by Randall Baer. As the book cover states: "For the first time ever, a world renowned, New Age leader tells the **INSIDE** story of the fast growing New Age movement!"

"**Now**, in this compelling account, Randall Baer reveals the tale of seduction, from teenage dabbling in Eastern religions to a meteoric rise in New Age leadership. He details the sequence of uncanny events and bizarre experiences that led him to be an internationally recognized expert in 'crystal power' and New Age philosophy. In the midst of a storybook career, Baer had a dramatic and horrifying encounter with the evil forces behind the New Age Movement.

"Discover from a former insider's perspective, penetrating insights into the underlying reasons for the New Age movement's rapid success. Experience this mysterious and often bizarre world, as Baer exposes the New Age Movement and presents many startling insights that have never been revealed before." (\$10.00 includes postage.)

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