



Think & Believe

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NO "NOBLE LIE" WILL SAVE US

By Dave & Mary Jo Nutting

A recent AP release appeared in the local newspaper entitled, "Scholar believes 'noble lie' is needed." In bold letters it declared, "Science 'has eroded the plausibility of the Judeo-Christian myths. It has got into our heads and consciousness in such a way that the traditional myths can't be swallowed."

According to the article, Loyal Rue, a church going but skeptical "religious philosopher," says "modern culture urgently needs a 'noble lie' -- a myth that links the moral teachings of religion with the scientific facts of life." Rue believes that science has disproved the Bible, but admits this leaves only nihilism, the belief that life and the universe are meaningless. This in turn leads people to deny fixed standards and do whatever they want, or to embrace the "totalitarian option," where all behavior is enforced by the government.

As a solution, Rue says we need a "noble lie" that is scientifically acceptable and believable, and able to convince us the "universe is infused with value." He believes this is "a great fiction," but we "can't have a coherent society" without it. He says, "the noble lie is one that deceives us, tricks us, compels us beyond self-interest, beyond ego, beyond family, nation, race ...that will deceive us into the view that our moral discourse must serve the interests not only of ourselves and each other, but those of the earth as well. ... It must be a lie that inspires us to give up selfish interests in the service of noble ideals."

Isn't it ironic? This religious philosopher realizes society requires standards of purpose and value, but believing everything is meaningless, he proposes we deceive ourselves into thinking life has meaning just so we can get along together. **How futile are the thoughts of men when they reject the Biblical explanation of life and the universe!**

Rue suggests the lie would be "so imaginative and so compelling that it can't be resisted," so "beautiful and satisfying" that all would accept it. He says, "It remains for the artists, the poets, the novelists, the musicians, the filmmakers, the tricksters and the masters of illusion to winch us toward our salvation by seducing us into an embrace with a noble lie."

We need no new lie. Satan, the master of deception, the "father of lies," has already seduced millions into embracing his old lie. He has deceived them into believing there is no Creator God Who stands above all, but instead that "all is one and one is all," "that the universe itself is "god," that it is "alive," and we are all part of it, therefore we ourselves are god. Scripture tells us that people have "exchanged the truth of God for a lie and worshipped and served the creature rather than the Creator."

Society's salvation is not in a "noble lie," but in a genuine turning to the Truth. Jesus said, "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life." Only as Christ creates a new heart in us can we truly love and serve others.



Mt. St. Helens Blows Theories To Pieces-- See Spotlight On Science

NOTES & QUOTES

■ Did you see the cover picture on **Discover** (May 1987) with the heading, "**The All-Creating Eye**"? It says, "According to a radical tenet of physics, the universe exists only because it has been, is being, and will be observed. Thus it had to give rise to life, which will endure forever, become infinitely knowledgeable, and mold the cosmos to its desires." Radical physics indeed! Sounds more like metaphysical hocus pocus to us. Could this be part of the "noble lie?"

■ If you liked that one, how about this:

• Do you remember how it felt? The feeling that came over you the first time you saw a planet and realized that you were looking at another world? ... Yes, the wonder of a starry night lies in the secrets and possibilities it holds. ... But there is another, more basic reason why you feel your eyes drawn skyward when twilight turns slowly into darkness and the universe twinkles brightly into life... **You are a child of the stars.** Quite literally, in fact! The ancient atoms from which you are formed came from vast starry clouds untold eons ago. The iron in your blood, the calcium in your bones, the carbon in your tissues -- it is all the stuff of the stars. You are, in every sense, stardust. And the thousand billion suns in the universe are your ancestral home! (Advertisement for **Time-Life Books, Voyage Through the Universe.**)

■ Talk about having stars in your eyes, now we're all twinkies! While we're talking astronomy, did you hear about the new "heavenly addition?" Astronomers recently declared the finding of a new planet outside our solar system. According to the AP release (**Daily Sentinel** 7/25/91), "Scientists said the discovery provides a puzzling challenge to the current understanding of how some stars are formed." The discovery is puzzling because scientists think the newly discovered planet has a perfectly circular orbit around a very dense neutron star. According to current theory on the formation of neutron stars this shouldn't be. Harvard University professor Ramesh Narayan is quoted as saying, "[The planet] is going to require some degree of wild speculation to explain." Another called the study "bizarre." It will be interesting to see what "wild and bizarre speculations" come out of this one.

■ Meanwhile, back on Planet Earth, **Science News** (4/14/90) reports the recent find of a **green leaf in "ancient" sedimentary rock** in Idaho that has excited

scientists and even caused them to modify the magnolia family tree. The researchers are amazed how little the common photosynthetic molecule rubisco has changed in supposedly 20 million years. Of course, we don't think it's anywhere near that old, but isn't it funny how one little piece of evidence can change family histories so fast? (See Spotlight on Science in this issue for further information on this discovery.)

■ Then again, creationist "finds" often produce changes in viewpoint too. A reader recently shared her findings with us:

• In June, I purchased Steve Austin's Mount St. Helens video tape from you ... and am seeing beliefs changed or challenged because of it. My good friend and soil scientist (a Christian), was an old earth, staunch believer until she saw the tape! I am showing it in mid-November to those in our home-educators group who wish to come. I am very excited about this, can you tell? Thank you for coming to Denver in June.

■ Now this is the kind of change we really like to see! For more information on Mount St. Helens and the tape, see Spotlight on Science.

■ Many are beginning to see the light. Note this one last encouraging quote from George Sim Johnston in "Points to Ponder" in **Reader's Digest**, May 1991:

• The Book of Genesis has held up well under the scrutiny of modern geology and archeology. Twentieth-century physics, moreover, describes the beginning of the universe in virtually the same cosmological terms as Genesis. Space, time and matter came out of nothing in a single burst of light entirely hospitable to carbon-based life. A growing number of chemists and biologists agree that life had its origin from clay templates (see Genesis 2:7), while genetic research asserts that we are all descended from one woman. I would say all this is a curious development for Darwinists.

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SPOTLIGHT ON SCIENCE

Explosive Evidence of Catastrophe

The eruption of Mount St. Helens on May 18, 1980, has created what Dr. Steve Austin calls "a miniature laboratory for catastrophism." The devastation left by the eruption has shattered many traditional ideas about geologic processes and rock formations.

The total energy output of the May 18 event has been estimated to be equivalent to 400 million tons of TNT -- approximately equal to 20,000 Hiroshima-size atomic bombs. Included in the event and the days following were earthquakes, landslides, steam explosion, enormous water waves, mudslides, flooding and ash fall. It gave an amazing demonstration of the enormous changes that can occur in a short time.

One of the most amazing discoveries was the rapid formation of up to 600 feet of strata which has been deposited since the 1980 eruption. Huge layered ridges that would traditionally have been thought to have taken millions of years to form were deposited in a few days. Some individual layers varying from a millimeter to over a meter thick were laid down in minutes by high velocity flows. Normally, geologists assume layers mean separate events over long ages or seasonal fluctuations, but here we find layers forming from flow patterns within one catastrophic flow.

Another significant finding since the eruption has been the rapid erosion caused by sheet flooding, channelized water flow and mudflows. Rills and gullies over 125 feet deep resembling badlands topography have formed rapidly. This type of landform was usually thought to have taken much longer to form.

One very startling feature is the 140 foot deep canyon formed by a single mudflow. Dr. Austin calls it the little "Grand Canyon of the Toutle River, a one-fortieth scale model of the real Grand Canyon." An unsuspecting geologist would very likely think it was carved by the tiny creek in the bottom over millions of years. Ironically the canyon caused the creek rather than the creek causing the canyon.

Yes, Mount St. Helens is a special case, but it should make geologists stop and think before they automatically assign long ages to other features. It is not time that is important, but conditions. Given proper conditions, we can rapidly accumulate great depths of strata and form huge canyons.

(Dr. Austin's video, **Mount St. Helens**, provides devastating evidence against uniformitarian geology. Write for your copy today: \$30 includes postage.)

Turning Over an Old Leaf?

An article entitled, "Turning Over an Old Leaf," appeared in **Discover** magazine, January, 1991. It stated that research scientist Edward Golenberg from Wayne State University, had uncovered several preserved leaves from a dried up lake bed near Clarkia, Idaho. The lake bed was the remains of a lake that existed approximately between 20 million and 17 million years ago according to dating techniques used. The startling significance of the leaves uncovered was that when the sedimentary rocks were cracked open, some of the leaves were still bright green and others were an autumnal red! In addition to the leaf color, researchers were able to extract DNA from a chloroplast located inside the leaf's cells!

Evolutionary theories suggest that the leaves had blown from trees surrounding the lake and settled into the cold, oxygen-free depths of the lake where they were covered with mud and sealed away from the destructive effects of time. One has to allow their imagination to stretch to fathom this scenario as actually occurring. Plants and animals do not become fossils unless they are buried relatively quickly and deeply, an unusual situation, to be sure. Under normal conditions a leaf floats on the surface of the water and quickly disintegrates before it settles to the bottom. Rapid burial is the key factor in the formation of plant fossils let alone the preservation of a leaf intact with its DNA 20 million years!

The significance of this find to the creation scientist is plain to see. The preserved leaves cast shadows of doubt on the accuracy of existing dating techniques, in addition to supplying evidence for a catastrophic flood. This flood provides the only real explanation for the leaves remarkable preservation. Once again evidence gathered from the world around us challenges the concepts and theories of evolution.

(Thanks to Norman Devereus, a middle school science teacher, for submitting the above article. He makes a very good point. We would be happy to consider other articles submitted by readers for publication. Please include a photocopy of the original articles when referenced. As a space guideline, articles for this column should be about 400 words in length. Please also include a statement permitting us to use the article. We reserve the right to make minor editorial changes or corrections. Copies of articles for use in Notes and Quotes are also very welcome.)

UPCOMING EVENTS

(Call local contact for time and place.)

- November 10: Glenwood Springs, CO**
Mountain View Baptist, 303-945-8328.
- November 12,13: Gunnison, CO**, New Song Fellowship
and Western State College, Contact Gina Shaw.
- November 17: Meeker, CO**, Assembly of God,
Contact Rex Townsley, 303-878-3510.
- November 18: Grand Junction, CO**, Grand Junction
Baptist, AWANA 303-243-3321.
- November 20,21: Grand Junction, CO**, Gr. Jct. Baptist
Pastor's Luncheon & Public Seminar, 303-243-3321.
- November 24: Grand Junction, CO**, Redlands Christian,
Contact Merle Miller, 303-242-7380.
- January 12: Grand Junction, CO**, Prince of Peace
Lutheran, Contact Norm Barnett, 303-241-5444.
- January 19: Wellington, UT**, First Baptist Church
Contact Tom Jones, 801-637-5225.
- January 26 - February 2: Denver/Fort Collins Area.**
Contact us for details 303-245-5906.
- January 27,28: Brighton, CO**, Zion Lutheran Church &
School, Contact Dennis Fangmann, 303-659-3443.
- February 9: Rangely, CO**, Rangely Christian Church,
Contact Ramona Smalec, 303-675-2355.
- February 16: Rifle, CO:** Rifle Southern Baptist,
Contact Mel McClellan, 303-625-2511.
- March 1: Paonia, CO:** North Fork Baptist
Contact Albert Harris, 303-527-4644.
- March 3: Grand Junction, CO**, Alpha Omega Science
Fair, Contact us, 303-245-5906.
- March 6,7: Indianapolis, IN**, Indiana Home School
Conference, Contact Jeff Myers 719-685-9103.
- March 20,21: Grand Junction, CO:** ICR Back-to-
Genesis Seminar, Terry Bridgman, 303-434-3036.

PLEASE KEEP THIS SCHEDULE AND PRAY FOR US!

MIDWESTERN TRIP

The recently completed midwestern speaking trip went well, with seminars in 8 churches, 2 Christian schools, a large homeschool camp and a special program for "Junior Highers on Campus." We want to thank all those who worked so hard to sponsor the seminars and praise God for the interest expressed by so many participants. It is encouraging to see people get excited about the evidences for creation and a Biblical view of earth history. We were especially grateful for the opportunity to speak to 700 junior high students and their youth workers at Lincoln Christian College. It is so important for young people to hear about the problems with evolutionary models and receive a positive presentation of the creation model, especially in these vulnerable teen years. Pray that the message will bear fruit in the lives of these young people.

Thank you for your prayers as we travel and speak. There are times we'd rather be home, but we are thankful that God has called us to this work and continues to bless it. We praise Him for health and safety in travel (almost 5000 miles this last trip, some on very icy roads). We are thankful too that we were able to wait out the recent snow storm in a safe, warm home in Kansas, instead of in a cold car or expensive motel! Please continue to pray for us. We realize, that although we deal with "scientific" issues, the underlying issues are spiritual. We need prayer warriors to support us in this spiritual battle.

FACILITY UPDATE

Many have responded to our request for prayer and donations to help purchase a ministry facility. **Thank you!** We still have a long ways to go, though, so keep praying and sending in those donations. We see this facility as a wonderful opportunity to expand the ministry and provide a solid outreach on the state college campus.

Alpha Omega Institute

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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