



Think & Believe

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Evolution: A Secular Religion?

By Dave and Mary Jo Nutting

We recently came across a brochure published by The Evolutionist Society entitled *Evolutionism: A Secular Religion*. It made quite interesting reading, especially since we've so often been told that evolution is science and creation is religion. Evolutionism was defined as "a secular religion not concerned with a supernatural god, with heaven, hell, angels, devils or experience beyond death. It holds that these things exist only in the imagination."

"Evolutionism" as a religion is supposedly based on "science," but it accepts as its most basic premise the theory of evolution, even though this "theory" has never been proven. In fact, much scientific data contradicts it, although most people never have a chance to examine this data because it is not usually presented in the schools and media. As merely one point in case, the fossil record which is frequently given as the best proof of evolution clearly demonstrates the lack of concern for what is actually the truth. Textbooks picture neat sequences showing how fish evolved to amphibians, amphibians to reptiles, reptiles to birds and mammals, etc. The accompanying text blatantly states that fossils show how this transition took place. However, research into the fossil evidence discloses that these fossil intermediates simply do not exist. In fact, no transitions have ever been found between any of the major groups of animals and plants. How then, do the textbooks get these convincing sequences in the evolutionary "tree?" They hire an artist to draw the supposed links, which they "know" must have existed (even though there is no evidence that they ever did).

Believing in something you cannot see is frequently classified as religion. These same people, who say they cannot believe in God because they cannot see Him, believe in intermediate fossil links that are not there. The religious fervor of some of these individuals

seems to be impenetrable by true scientific facts. In trying to replace religious dogma with "science," these evolutionists have merely substituted a different religious dogma. This dogma then becomes the basis of value formation and often the guiding principle of life.

We realize that not all evolutionists hold to the precepts of The Evolutionist Society and their viewpoints regarding the establishment of a secular religion. However, if a scientific evaluation of the evidence supporting creation is excluded from consideration in the public schools on the basis that it favors a particular religious view, then evolution should also be excluded, since it definitely favors this religious view. If the public schools are to be truly neutral in regard to the establishment of one religion over another, evolution should not be taught as the only alternative.

*Flight: Evidence For Design
See Spotlight on Science*



NOTES & QUOTES

■ Have you seen the pamphlet entitled, "GOD = GREATEST OF DELUSIONS (A Statement by The Evolutionary Society)"? Here are some interesting quotes from this little treatise.

- There *is* a holy trinity, as the Classical Greeks knew so well — Truth, Beauty, Goodness! Science can give us the truth we need; Art can provide the beauty we want. What we need desperately is a new religion to bring us to Goodness.
- That new religion, as we Evolutionists see it, has to be free of supernatural fear; has to be based upon what is known to be true; has to be based upon values empirically-derived by science. The most significant biological truth yet discovered is that we are all evolved animals. No scientist deserving to be called one will deny the fact.
- The time is right for change. Now, after billions of years of evolution an organism — Man — has emerged with the power to be the creature it wants to be. Human minds now can control and direct evolution. (Robert E. Taylor, Director, The Evolutionary Society)

■ Do you see the religious fervor with which some people embrace evolution? Is it any wonder that they don't want the evidence that supports creation taught? In another publication, *Evolutionism: A Secular Religion*, Robert E. Taylor writes:

- There are no supernatural beings concerned with human affairs and no life or experience after death.
- Humans are part of nature and have emerged as a result of an *impartial* evolutionary process.
- There is no such thing as "sin" — only unsocial or unintelligent behavior . . .
- . . . Evolutionism is a secular religion for those who can find meaning and purpose for their life by contributing to a group effort aimed at accelerating the evolutionary process.

■ Evolutionism makes man out to be his own god, in control of his own destiny. This totally contradicts the Biblical view of God and man!

- Do you not know? Have you not heard? Has it not been declared to you from the beginning?

Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? It is He who sits above the vault of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers, who stretches out the heavens like a curtain and spreads them out like a tent to dwell in. He it is who reduces rulers to nothing, who makes the judges of the earth meaningless.

(Isaiah 40:21-23)

- . . . surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God stands forever. (Isaiah 40:8)
- For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God, or give thanks; but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures. . . . For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshipped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. (Romans 1:18-23,25)
- Thus says the Lord, your Redeemer, and the one who formed you from the womb, "I, the Lord, am the maker of all things, stretching out the heavens by Myself, and spreading out the earth all alone, causing the omens of boasters to fail, making fools out of diviners, causing wise men to draw back, and turning their knowledge into foolishness." (Isaiah 44:24-25)
- Woe to the one who quarrels with his Maker . . . (Isaiah 45:9)
- For thus says the Lord, who created the heavens (He is the God who formed the earth and made it, He established it and did not create it a wasteland, but formed it to be inhabited), "I am the Lord, and there is none else . . . Turn to Me, and be saved, all the ends of the earth, for I am God, and there is no other." (Isaiah 45:18,22)

SPOTLIGHT ON SCIENCE

Birds in Flight

Flying birds are compact, well-integrated flying machines capable of producing the large amounts of energy necessary for flight. Their powerful wings are properly shaped to utilize the physical principles of moving air. In addition, the wing size and shape varies with species, according to the size of the bird and its speed and type of flight. In fact, birds can often be identified by their characteristic flight pattern.

The feathers of a bird serve to streamline the body for flight and provide the primary flying surfaces. The precise position of each feather is monitored by sensory receptors and controlled individually by tiny muscles to change shape and position in response to varying air pressure. Feathers are stronger by weight than any man-made substitute. They are intricately constructed and consist of a strong, flexible shaft (the quill or rachis) and a flat vane. The vane is made up of many filamentous barbs which are held together by tiny barbules. These in turn bear flanges and hooks, which act as a "zipper" to form a tight, flying surface.

The bones of a bird are lightweight, flexible and strong. Typically they are hollow and thin, with most of the bone substance at the outside of the bone for support. Some have internal struts and trusses for additional support. The size and shape of various bones are also suited for flight. Strong flying birds typically have a large keeled sternum (breastbone) that provides sufficient area for attachment of the large breast muscles required for flight.

The internal organs of birds are also suited for flight. Birds have very efficient respiratory and digestive systems, capable of processing large amounts of food and releasing an unusually high percentage of the energy locked in that food. They have well-developed circulatory systems and large, strong hearts for rapidly transporting food and wastes. Special air sacs, extensions of the respiratory system, enter the limb bones of many species and provide extra buoyancy and added surface area for respiration and cooling. All of these factors work together to produce a system that is highly efficient and intricately coordinated.

Isn't it ironic that so many scientists acknowledge design and creative intelligence in the production of airplanes and yet believe that the fantastic precision and coordination seen in flying birds are the result of "lucky" mistakes (mutations)?

The Big Bang Theory

The Big Bang Theory is the most-widely accepted theory of the origin of the universe among evolutionary scientists. Many Christians (evolutionist and otherwise) also endorse the idea, concluding that if God did create the universe all at once, there most certainly would have been a loud noise.

The Big Bang Theory says that all the "stuff" in the universe was at one time jammed into a ball less than the size of the head of a pin, including everything we know of: the mountains, the sea, the whole earth, sun, moon, solar system and everything else in the universe! This point of matter became unstable and exploded, sending particles at a huge velocity in every direction (hence the term "Big Bang"). Out of this chaos of explosion, for some reason the particles then began to congregate and eventually form this tremendously ordered place called our universe.

This is currently acclaimed as the best of today's science, but does it really make sense? When a stick of dynamite is lit and put at the bottom of a pile of bricks, do we get a building or do we get a pile of dust and fragments? Of course we get chaos. The only way we get the building is to follow a blueprint and harness a great deal of energy to construct it according to a predetermined plan. Order does not come from chaos and neither does a highly ordered universe come from a "Big Bang!"

The main evidence given for the Big Bang Theory is a phenomenon referred to as the "Red Shift." This is a characteristic pattern in the wavelength of light which many interpret as evidence of an object moving away from us. However, there are numerous other explanations of the Red Shift and much controversy surrounding its true interpretation. Another line of evidence used in support of the Big Bang is a certain type of "background radiation" that has been detected in space. Some scientists interpret this as the "echo" from the Big Bang. This too can be explained in various other ways. The scientific evidence supporting the Big Bang Theory is at best inconclusive. Many careful scientists are now looking for a better way to explain the origin of our ordered universe. (For a more technical review of the subject, see *The Origin of the Universe* by Dr. Harold Slusher, available from Alpha Omega Institute for \$6.95 + \$1.00 shipping.)

Teacher's Workshop

Mary Jo was invited by Dr. Richard Bliss of the Institute for Creation Research to help with the Summer Teacher's Workshop held in San Diego, California, the first week in August. More than 50 teachers attended the workshop to learn more about teaching science from a Christian/creationist point of view. We were encouraged by the response from the participants and look forward to future workshops.

We at Alpha Omega Institute feel there is a great need to reach teachers with the creationism message. Most teachers have been trained under the one-sided, evolutionary approach, and have never had the opportunity to objectively investigate the evidence supporting creation. If you are a teacher in a public, Christian, or home school, we urge you to take the time to become informed. We have books and other teaching aids available to help you. If you are interested in having a workshop in your area, write to us and we'll see what can be arranged.

Parents, grandparents, and other interested individuals: you can also make an impact on education by first becoming informed yourself and then by talking with teachers and school officials, by providing books and teaching aids for teachers and school libraries, and by sponsoring seminars or workshops. Let us know if we can be of assistance.

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Would you like additional information about any one of the condensed articles or on another subject that we haven't even touched upon as yet? Write to us and we will gladly send you some.

**FORWARDING AND
ADDRESS CORRECTION
REQUESTED**

Upcoming Events

- Sept. 26,27 ASCI Convention
Colorado Springs, CO
- Sept. 28 Seminar
Immanuel Lutheran Church
Loveland, CO
- Sept. 22 Adult Sunday School
Oct. 6 Redlands Community Church
Nov. 17 Grand Junction, CO
- Nov. 26 Women's Outreach
Meeker, CO
Contact Barb Harper

We are available to speak at churches, schools, camps, retreats, etc. as our schedule permits. Write to us for more information if you would like to plan a presentation or seminar in your area. Our fees are minimal (expenses plus free will offering) and we will send all the information you need to plan a successful seminar.

Book Review

Need ideas for Christmas gifts? This month we are featuring the book, *In the Beginning* — 67 pages of beautiful color photography portraying the events of creation week as told in Genesis 1. This hardback book would make an ideal gift for all ages. (Available from Alpha Omega Institute, regularly \$9.95, now \$7.50 + \$1.00 shipping and handling.) Check our booklist for other excellent resources on creation.

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