

# Think & Believe



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## Jesus: The Light of The World

by Bill Browning (Based on a sermon by Adrian Rogers)



Bill Browning is retired from a career in the aerospace industry and currently serves on the board of the Rocky Mountain Creation Fellowship.

When God said, "Let there be light," He energized the creation. In John Chapter One we read: "All things were made by Him (Christ). In Him was life, and the life was the light of men." It was Jesus who brought life into this world, because *Jesus is the light of the world.* (John 8:12)

Light is pure energy, which brings life to all God's Creation. That little child of Bethlehem has turned the light on and brought us Light and Life — eternal life.

As we look at His wonderful, glorious Light, we learn of Jesus' purity. The Bible says the "Light was in the world, but Jesus was not of the world." In the natural world, there is nothing as pure as light. It is a characteristic of light that it cannot be defiled. No matter what it falls upon, it can never be corrupted. It exposes corruption, but is not touched by it. As water bubbles up through the ground, it is contaminated. However, as light passes through the water, it responds by showing us its internal beauty (the seven colors of the rainbow). From this understanding of light, we can get a wonderful picture of Jesus: He exposed sin, but was never contaminated by it. You see, it is His Light that convicts and convinces us of sin (John 3:19). Because of His purity,

He is able to convince us of our sin.

In addition, the Light shows us His constancy. James 1:17: "Every perfect gift comes from the Father of Lights, with whom there is no variableness." Isn't it interesting that this scripture on the invariance of God puts it in context with Light? Light is like that — it never changes. Einstein's famous Theory of Relativity ( $E=mc^2$ ) is based on the constancy of light. Einstein was able to develop the theory because he observed that the speed of light was the same regardless of the motion of the source. That is, the speed of light is one entity in the universe that appears to never change\* — rather than space or time, as Newton believed.

This brings to mind Heb. 13:8: "Jesus is the same, yesterday, today and forever."

A third characteristic of light is its victory over darkness.

"Lucifer" means the "light bearer". But he turned against God, and sinned against the Light. Now he is called Satan and there is Darkness at battle with the Light. But Darkness has no power over the Light. We simply turn on the light, and the darkness flees. Rather than curse the darkness, we need to realize the power of Jesus Christ, and bear witness to His Purity,

Constancy, and Victory. (John 1:8)

A fourth aspect of Light is its vitality. Light and life are often interwoven in scripture. God first created plant life, and flowers began to blossom through the miraculous process we call photosynthesis, which means "put together by light." The chlorophyll in the plants uses the light energy from the sun to make sugar from CO<sub>2</sub> and water, and gives off oxygen for us to breathe. The vitality of our life support system depends on plants and their photosynthesis. As the Light of the world, Jesus is our Life support system, a Divine Photosynthesis!

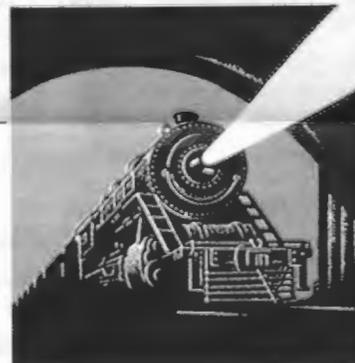
In addition to the vitality of Light, we enjoy the glory of the Light. Throughout scripture, light is used to represent the glory of God. Ps. 104 says "You are clothed with light in

majesty and splendor". It is this light of God that is in Jesus Christ. The sun isn't needed in heaven, for the Lamb (Jesus) is the light of the City (Rev 21:23).

Light is made up of the spectrum of seven colors of the rainbow — the absolutely perfect number seven. So the spectrum signifies the beauty and

perfection of the Light of the Lord Jesus Christ. Put the colors back together, and we have pure white light, which represents the

Continued on page 2 ►



How much will the speed of light (186,000 mps) increase if projected from a train traveling at 60.5 mph? (Answer on p.2.)

**Jesus: The Light** (from page 1) fullness, holiness, and purity of our Lord Jesus Christ. "He makes the world beautiful in His time," Ecc. 3:10.

Light has come into the world; His name is Yeshua, the Christ. He is the Light of the World. Just as our earthly source of light and energy (the sun) rises in the eastern sky daily, we are reminded of His risen glory, and that He is soon returning. As we observe the marvelous solar system, we can

understand His love and mercy towards us. His Light reaches all the way to where we are, and brings us everything we need to sustain life. Just as the earth turns to receive the light, we need only turn away from Darkness in repentance and face the Light, and the Light of His Truth reaches us and destroys the Darkness.

If you will open your heart and receive Him as Lord and Savior, He will pull back the veil of Darkness and flood your world with Sonlight. **T&B**

\* Although the speed of light can be raised or lowered through various types of media, it remains constant within that media. Also, some debate still exists regarding research indicating a decrease in the speed of light over time.

**Answer** (from page 1)  
The speed of light will remain at 186,000 mps regardless of the speed of the train because the speed of light remains the same regardless of the motion of its source.

## The Morpho Butterfly: a Miracle of Creative Design

by Bill Browning

The brilliant blue-green iridescent color of the incredible morpho butterfly from Brazil is produced by what scientists call "constructive interference" of light waves.

An object has no color of its own. The color is in the light reflected by the object. Most objects show color by reflection and absorption. For example, the petal of a red flower has pigment that reflects only red and absorbs all other colors, so we see it as red.

The morpho butterfly, however, has no pigment like the flower. The wing is made of a colorless protein called chitin, similar to that found in our fingernails. Instead of giving the butterfly its own color, God has designed a miraculous light-processing machine on its wing. The wing has thousands of tiny scales (Figure 1), each covered with light filtering ridges shaped like Christmas trees (see Figure



2). Tiny layers called laminae (the limbs of the Christmas trees), which work similarly to diffraction gratings, produce the iridescent color. As light is reflected from the laminae, certain wavelengths are constructively reinforced, and others are cancelled out, producing the bright colors we observe.

The spacing of the laminae must be precisely controlled to a certain fraction of the wavelength (1/8). Approximately 1.4 million layers of these laminae are meticulously arranged with incredible accuracy on the wings. There are 60-65 ridges (Christmas trees) per scale and 150 scales per centimeter on each wing.

The actual color observed (ranging from violet to blue-green) depends on the path length to the observer. So each of us sees a slightly different color,

depending our location relative to the wing! And, the morpho butterflies are such efficient processors of light, they have been observed by airline pilots at an altitude of 35,000 feet.

Could this amazing phenomenon of light have happened by chance? When we realize the complexity of the optical physics and mathematics required in designing the morpho's color machine, we marvel at the design skill of the Creator. The glorious light of the Morpho is powerful evidence for an omniscient, powerful Creator. Ps. 111: "The works of the Lord are great, sought out of all them that have pleasure therein—His works are to be remembered."

Ref. Hilda Simon, *The Splendor of Iridescence*, Dodd, Mead and Co. NY, 1971 **T&B**

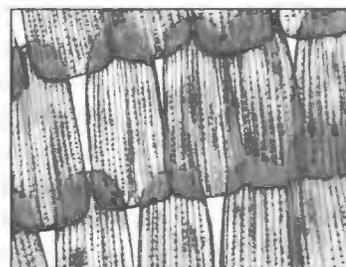


Figure 1. Scales of the Morpho Butterfly wing magnified 200 times.

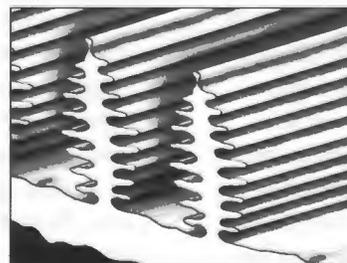


Figure 2. Cross-section of a scale showing the laminae that produce the iridescence of the Morpho wing.

## Net-Winged Midges

by Grant DeJong

Some of the most fascinating insects are the net-winged midges. These flies have many features which demonstrate Creation by God and are an enigma to evolutionary thinking.

The adult is a small fly about 3/8 inch (8 mm) long and looks like a mosquito. The larva lives in torrential streams and waterfalls where the flow is so fast that it washes almost every other insect downstream. (In fact, I've lost my footing due to the current in some rivers that harbor net-winged midges!) Several species are common in the United States, but they also occur worldwide.

God provided the net-winged midge with several features that allow it to live safely in torrents and waterfalls. Besides being rather streamlined, the larva has a ventral row of six suckers right down the midline! As it moves around on rocks, it uses the suckers to move in a caterpillar-like fashion. By using these suckers, the larva can move safely and efficiently in currents that would wash most other insects away.

A second feature God gave to the net-winged midges relates to their feeding. They feed solely on diatoms. Diatoms are one-celled algae that make a hard shell, and the most nutritious varieties usually attach themselves flat on rocks in torrents and waterfalls. The species of diatoms that do not attach flatly are not very nutritious, so they are not usually eaten. God gave the net-winged midges mouthparts wherein the mandibles are flat and almost protrude from their mouths! This gives them the

ability to scrape very effectively, and they can eat the nutritious diatoms that other insect larvae cannot eat.

A third item that God gave the net-winged midges for living in torrential streams is a very curious one. Like other flies, net-winged midges undergo complete metamorphosis, with egg, larva, pupa, and adult stages. Among other changes in the pupa stage, the wings begin to form for the adult insect. Upon emerging from the pupa, most insect adults hang around on a nearby stick, pump hemolymph (blood) into the wings to enlarge them, and wait for them to dry. Net-winged midges cannot wait for wings to dry because the insect is still in the torrent when

the adult emerges from its pupa. If it had to wait for its wings to enlarge and dry, it would drown. So God provided that its wings would be ready to go, already expanded, neatly folded and dry, inside the pupa. When the time is right, the pupa releases its hold on its rock and gets carried to the surface. As soon as it hits air, the skin splits, and the adult pops out to fly away with already-dry wings!

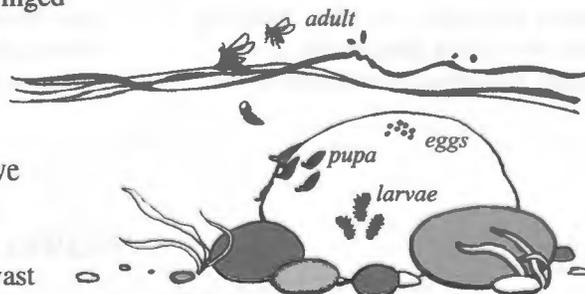
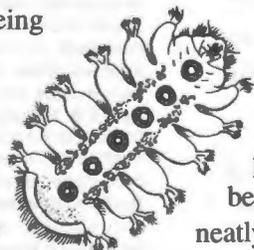
Evolutionary scientists place the net-winged midges among the more "primitive" flies but actually aren't sure where to place them on the evolutionary tree/bush. There are no known fossils of net-winged midge larvae or adults, so all evolutionary analysis must be pure speculation based on current groups. Only one other group of insects have larvae with six midventral suckers: the sandfly genus *Maruina*. Because of many vast

differences between the two groups, even evolutionists conclude that they did not "evolve" from each other or a common ancestor.

Current evolutionary thought attempts to link the net-winged midges with the mountain midges and the nymphomyiid midges, two small and uncommon families of flies, because they all live in torrential streams, they all have "prolegs" on every segment, and they all use the process of folding completely expanded wings in the pupa. The first argument offers no real similarity, because trout often live in similar habitats but are clearly not "closely related." The second argument is based on tenuous analogies of body parts: the "prolegs" of these three groups look nothing like each other, being attached in different ways and with different endings and different functions. Only the trait of folding their wings in the pupa is truly common to these three groups. However, because of numerous other traits in the nymphomyiid midges, some evolutionists assign these flies to their own, very distant group, effectively destroying the argument that folding dry wings in the pupa indicates evolutionary relatedness.

A quick look at the story of Creation in Genesis tells everyone how the net-winged midges came to be. **T&B**

*Grant DeJong is a board certified entomologist working as an aquatic ecologist/taxonomist with a private aquatic ecology consulting lab.*



## Upcoming Events

DN = Dave Nutting  
D&AK = Dan & Andrea Korow  
L&MJ = Lanny & Marilyn Johnson  
RS = Rich Stepanek

Jan. 28, GJ, CO, Cornerstone Christian School, Chapel, 970-434-4619, L&MJ  
Jan. 17, 24, 31 Eckert, CO Thunder Mt. Academy Chapel, cont: Aletta Shock 970-835-3844, D&AK  
Feb 5-7, Edinburg, TX, BSU, cont: David Chan, 956-383-7491, RS  
Feb 6, Buena Vista, CO, Ministerial meeting, cont: Doug Green, 719-395-4604 DN  
Feb. 8, 9 San Antonio, TX, FEAST convention, cont: Karen Young, 830-249-8668 DN, L&MJ  
Feb. 9 San Antonio, Baruch Hashem Cong., (at El Sendero), cont: Cameron Elam, 210-240-5593, RS  
Feb. 10, 11, Kingsland, TX, First Baptist, cont: Doug Linley, 915-388-4507, DN, L&MJ  
Feb. 12-14, Kerville, TX, Western Hills Bap., cont: Jim Morrow, 830-895-1188, DN, L&MJ, RS  
Feb. 13-15, Fredricksburg, TX, Fredricksburg Bible, cont: Pastor Drew, 830-997-8834, DN, L&MJ, RS  
Feb. 16-18, Houston area, cont: Sundarsingh Daniel, 713-383-7293, DN  
Feb. 19-21, Longview, TX, Calvary Baptist, cont: Pastor Richard Jones, 903-297-1238, L&MJ  
Feb 19-20, Tyler, TX, Homeschool group, cont: Beth Longar, 903-894-5680, RS, L&MJ  
Feb 20, Buena Vista, CO, youth meeting, cont: Doug Green, 719-395-4604 DN  
March 3-5, Buena Vista, CO, Area churches, cont: Doug Green, 719-395-4604 DN  
March 17, 18, Gothenberg, NE, Tallin Church, cont: Gene Purcell, 308-848-3329, RS, L&MJ  
March 20-22, Gothenberg, NE, EV Free cont: Rick Rhemert, 308-537-2261 or 2317, RS, L&MJ  
March 24, 25, Humphery, NE, Humphery Christian Fell., cont: Aaron Benson, 402-923-0192, L&MJ  
March 25-29, Lake City, CO, Camp Red Cloud Homeschool, cont: Andrew Barrett 970-944-2625  
March 27-29, Newman Grove, NE, cont: Pastor Paul Knott, 402-447-6322, L&MJ  
April 3-5, Sitka, AK, Sitka Assembly of God, cont: Pam Hodges, 907-747-5848 L&MJ  
April 7-9, Haines, AK, Haines Christian Ctr, cont: Pastor Eldon Hicks, 907-789-2176, L&MJ  
April 10-12, Juneau, AK, Juneau Christian Center, cont: Pastor Mike PettyJohn, 907-7892176, L&MJ  
April 14-16, Kake, AK, cont: Pastor Frank Williams, 907-785-6462, L&MJ  
April 16-17, Grand Junction, CO, Newsletter Stuffing at AOI, 970-523-9943 Please Come!  
April 19-20, Grand Junction, CO, CHEC Conference, cont: AOI, 970-523-9943  
April 23-25, Sheridan, WY Immanuel Lutheran cont: Bill Heine, 307-674-6434, RS



## Director's Column

by Dave & Mary Jo Nutting

On behalf of the whole staff, we thank you for your part in this ministry through prayer, finances, arranging seminars, or by actually sharing the information from Think & Believe with others. Please keep praying for the ministry of AOI throughout 2002.

These are uncertain times but we do know that it is important to "keep on keeping on" as one of our seminar attendees wrote to us. Yes, we intend with God's help to do just exactly that! So we encourage you also to "keep on keeping on" with us! God Bless you and may you have a great year!

— Dave and Mary Jo

## A Most Peculiar African Seminar

by Lanny Johnson

For three weeks during October and November of 2001, Richard Stepanek and I were able to teach Creation to over 3100 people in Tanzania, East Africa.

An exciting part of the trip was training about 120 pastors. At a two day creation seminar of Christian leaders, one pastor stated, "This is a most peculiar seminar." By "peculiar" he meant "exciting". No one at the conference had ever heard of, or even attended a Creation vs. Evolution seminar in Tanzania. Some of the pastors said, "Tanzania is always passed over. Spiritual leaders always go to other countries instead." Many also confided, "In Bible college we were not taught this truth [Creation]." One pastor followed us from seminar to seminar, all over the city of Dar Es Salaam, on his bicycle to hear us — sometimes 8 to 10 miles one way! He said that he was physically tired and worn out, but the truth of Creation filled and renewed his spirit.

The congregations we spoke to were excited about this "peculiar" teaching. After the first of three nights at one church, the crowd overflowed to the

aisles, and people crowded outside the doors and windows just to see and hear. One lady complained, "Why aren't you taking more time?" This was after sitting for over two hours on the bare floor! They wanted more!

One of our translators, who had translated for 20 to 25 missionaries in 6 different East African countries shared, "I have never heard such a message that leaves the people with such a foundation".

New Age and witchcraft are very strong in East Africa. It is a part of most people's lives.

Even many Christians don't understand how strong an influence evolution and New Age thinking can have on them. One pastor said, "This New Age information was like being struck on the head and having it split wide open!"

Over and over we heard: "How can we get you to come again?" The "how" can only be answered by prayer and equipping by the saints. AOI is setting up a designated fund for Africa Creation training. We already have three Tanzanian men in mind for this training. Will you join us in this endeavor? 



Richard Stepanek with Tanzanian nationals

## Last Chance!

Thank you to those who have confirmed their desire to receive *Think & Believe*. It is AOI's policy that names on our mailing list not be sold or given away. If you have not responded, please return your response form quickly. This is your last chance to ensure you keep getting *Think & Believe!*



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