

# Think Believe

Discover Creation...Worship the Creator

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## Is Man Really Without Excuse?

by Brian Mariani

Romans 1 tells us that God has made himself evident to the whole world – “so that they are without excuse.” (Rom 1:20) The evidence is there and has always been there. Everyone knows there is a God.

The more you study, the more you see God’s handiwork throughout creation and throughout history. The Bible and many other testimonies record that God has been active throughout human history – at least for the Jewish people. But what about the “gentile” people groups? Did God give them a testimony as well?

Before the flood, longer lifespans allowed interaction between generations. Just think. Adam lived 930 years! Imagine gathering around Great-great-great-grandfather Adam for his 900th birthday sitting as he shares his earliest memories of the Garden! In fact, you could likely have been able to return to the entrance of the Garden up until its destruction by the Flood.

Imagine living in Noah’s time. They were building a huge boat on dry land for more than a hundred years! Families were still directly influenced by the life and heritage of Adam and everyone clearly knew their lineage back to him. In addition to building the ark, 2 Pet 2:5 calls Noah “a preacher of righteousness.”

People knew the Truth of God, but still denied Him and rebelled. In fact, Noah lived 350 years after the flood and Shem nearly 500. People could easily trace their lineage back to them and could literally interact with them for hundreds of years after that great cataclysm.

Essentially, the entire population of the earth was together at the Tower of Babel and they all experienced God’s work there. For hundreds of years afterward, they still had the memory of God’s working in that event, along with the Flood and Creation.

In fact, the pyramids scattered all over the world today are evidence of that common connection at one point in history. Every culture was influenced by Babel, the Flood, and Creation. For example, many cultures today can still trace their chronologies back to common ancestors like Noah.<sup>1</sup> Additionally, the ancient Chinese language appears to have Biblical history preserved in its characters.<sup>2</sup>

Joseph was a testament of God to Egypt and many other nations. The plagues and miracles of the Exodus were an intimidating and awe-inspiring testament to the Truth of God to surrounding nations. In fact, Before Joshua even started his miraculous conquest of

the promised land, Rahab, a gentile harlot from Jericho testified of God’s powerful reputation.

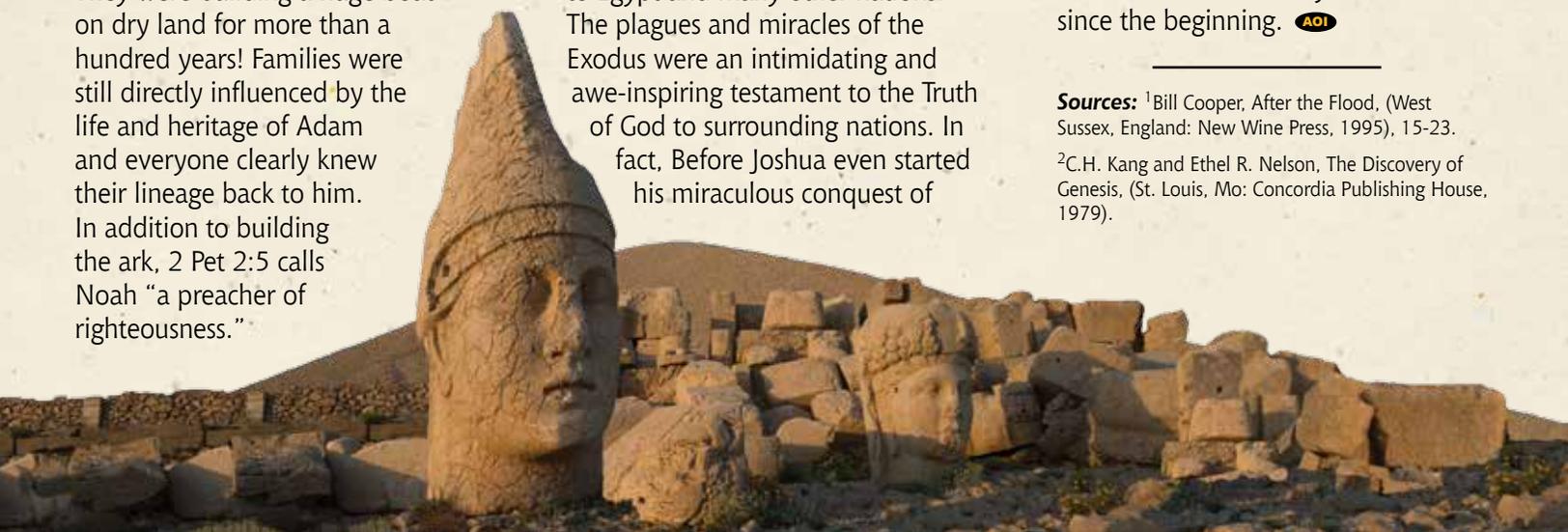
Through the revitalizing work of Godly judges, kings, priests, and prophets, Israel has been a reminder of man’s common heritage and a testimony of God’s miraculous working throughout history.

Jesus’ ministry and the apostolic spread of the gospel/church is still more tremendous evidence for the working of God. In fact, we could easily say that the preservation and availability of God’s Word throughout the ages appears to be additional evidence of His work throughout history.

Today, although we are possibly the most separated as a culture from the memory of God’s working, we still have evidence for God from philosophy, science, the conscience, the mind, the heart, and the testimonies of believers. If you are a believer, are you the testimony that you should be? If you have not accepted Jesus as your savior, continue to seek and, as Jesus says, you shall find. Testimony to God’s truth is as evident today as it has been since the beginning. **AOI**

**Sources:** <sup>1</sup>Bill Cooper, *After the Flood*, (West Sussex, England: New Wine Press, 1995), 15-23.

<sup>2</sup>C.H. Kang and Ethel R. Nelson, *The Discovery of Genesis*, (St. Louis, Mo: Concordia Publishing House, 1979).



## DCTI Testimonies



When DCTI took us on the Fire and Ice field trip through the northwest, I was blown away at the landscape.

Though Yellowstone was the most beautiful, I would have to say observing the aftermath of the Missoula Flood was the most educational. I had never heard of this colossal event and I thought standard geology assumed that all large canyons were formed by slow and gradual processes.

It has been very interesting to learn how the scientific method (observation, experimentation) actually goes against evolution. Darwinian naturalism requires life to come from non-living chemicals which would be *supernatural* (above the laws of nature).

Classes fly by when we are learning about the grandeur of astronomy and how the first star couldn't have formed naturally or how irreducibly complex the cell and DNA are. We also learned how some dinosaur

fossils still have traces of tissue and blood cells in them and that creatures alive today are actually losing genetic information rather than gaining it. Once you understand these implications, you start to see how it is promoted in our culture. It is important for people to know the difference between truth and assumptions so they are not trapped into living out a lie.

I am excited about the upcoming Costa Rica and Floods of the West field trips. It can truly be life-changing to see for yourself, the amazing evidence that points to God and the validity of His Word.

– Jesse H.



Things have been going great at DCTI. We have learned a lot of concepts about science and how they relate to Creation. We

learned that the dating of fossils is determined by evolutionary assumptions ascribed to the rock layers in which they were buried, like dinosaur fossils found in the

Morrison formation. We also learned that those layers were put down by the global flood that nearly wiped everything off the earth.

In addition, we learned that cells are extremely complex and have multiple processes similar to a factory. As humans progress down through the generations, mutations are making our genetic code increasingly unstable. This means we are actually getting worse instead of evolving to something better.

We also see this in animals. Pure breeds for example, become less resistant to diseases because mutations are more readily expressed. To help with that, they would need to mix with other species of their kind.

I'm actually excited to go on our Costa Rica trip this March. It will be exciting to see the tropics for myself and to help spread the gospel with the ministry of AOI.

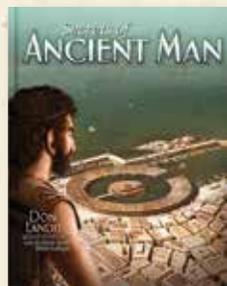
– Luke S.

## Book Review: Secrets of Ancient of Man

by Mary Jo Nutting

From the authors of "The Genius of Ancient Man," comes a new book, "The Secrets of Ancient Man: Revelations from the Ruins." In the earlier book, the authors bring to light fascinating facts about the amazing intelligence of ancient man and show how common characteristics of ancient civilizations point back to a common origin at Babel.

In like manner, "Secrets" provides many more fascinating details from



ancient ruins, and again shows the common links to Babel. However, this book goes deeper to explore the ideas and philosophies that motivated the ancients, and to show how these ideas and philosophies still impact our culture today. It focuses particularly on the stated goal of the people of Babel to "... make for ourselves a name..." (Genesis 11:4) and to show how modern man is still attempting to do that today. I found this book to be a

fascinating read – beautifully illustrated with full-color photographs and diagrams that help you feel like you are there (or if you are like me, to make you want to actually visit and see for yourself!). This book would make a great supplement to your personal Bible study, or a great gift for someone in your life. (Hardcover, 8 1/2" x 11," 132 pages) Available from AOI. Special \$16 (Regular price: \$22) plus S/H of \$4.00. If you order both books in this series, we will give you "Genius" at the same special price. Offer good through 5/31/2016. 

# Highlights from Discover Creation Training Institute

by Brian Mariani

**W**hy are we doing DCTI? People need equipping to stand firm on the Truth of God's Word. DCTI provides fundamental teaching to show the reliability of God's Word from both historical and scientific evidence. This year is providing tremendous experiences in Creation ministry, education, and hands-on field trips.

Our students' first night at DCTI started out with a full moon hike at Colorado National Monument with a local church group. It was a beautiful night with great teaching from Brian and Dave on Astronomy.

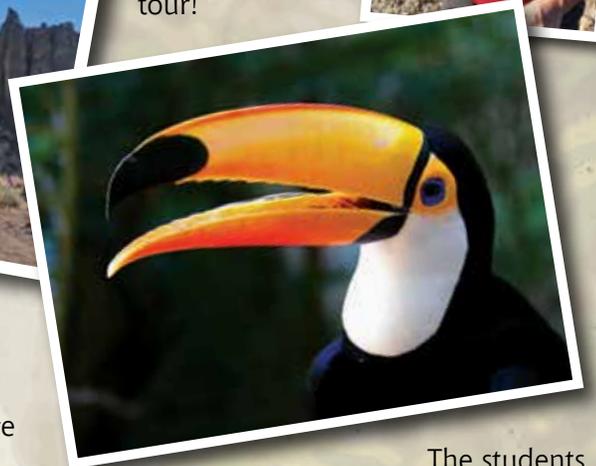
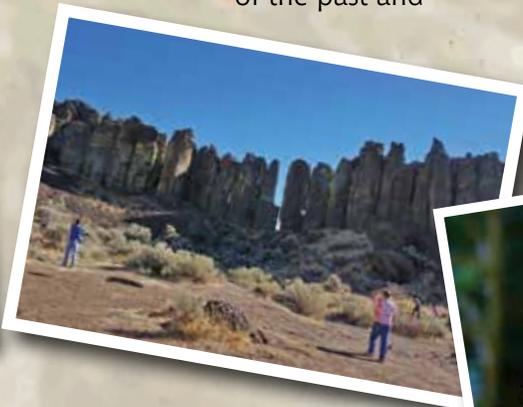
Dave taught the students about the tremendous geologic activity that caused a giant uplift raising the Teton mountain range high above the valley floor.



Dave and the students (below) are surveying the abundant basalt formations resulting from the tremendous volcanism of the past and

These smooth, rounded hills are actually ripple marks from a huge flood coming through this valley.

We were blessed to go fossil-hunting with Dave and actually found a place where small fragments of dinosaur bone were scattered on the ground. Along with those fragments, we found dinosaur gizzard stones, jasper, and other fossils! Contact AOI if you would like a personalized fossil-hunting tour!



At Mt. St. Helens we witnessed the devastation and biological regrowth after the 1980 eruption. That catastrophic event is still evidence of how one event can cause the build-up of old-looking rock layers and canyons. From these geology trips, the students have started working with us to develop a geology travel guide to show others how all those rocks cry out God's praise and His work in history.

subsequent erosion. Much of the erosion in the Pacific Northwest happened toward the end of the ice age during the Missoula flood.

Although small in comparison to Noah's flood, it is still a very large-scale example of the destruction water can inflict on a landscape.

The students are really excited about the Costa Rica Adventure! We have two more geology classes and then we will hit the road to see the geologic evidence for ourselves on the Floods of the West geology field trip to Grand Canyon.



# Plan now for Summer!

by Dave & Mary Jo Nutting



Summer is a wonderful time to learn something new, build memories, deepen relationships, and have a great time doing it. AOI's Discover Creation Adventures, provide affordable "vacations with a purpose" for the whole family. Check them out!

## Rock and River Creation Action

**Boot Camp:** Exciting whitewater rafting, fun, inflatable kayaks, challenging rock climbing, and stimulating hiking in the beautiful Sangre de Cristo Mountains of Colorado. Combined with fascinating creation topics, enriching Bible study, and plenty of time for fun and fellowship this camp is a great option for teens, families with teens, and adventuresome adults.

For those who prefer more "creature comforts," check out our popular **Creation Family Mountain Adventure**. This year's camp features Lanny and Marilyn Johnson's fun and fast-moving program for the whole family. (Yes, "Eugene" will be there too!) At Golden Bell Conference Center in view of Pikes Peak and less than an hour from Colorado Springs, activity options abound. On-site activities include swimming, miniature golf, zip line, climbing wall, fishing, gym and more. Off-site options

include Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument, Garden of the Gods, Airforce Academy, Pikes Peak or other popular tourist destinations.

One day is reserved for a special "Family Day" so you can design your own adventure.

Options include Whitewater Rafting on the scenic and exciting Arkansas River, sightseeing in beautiful Colorado

Springs, or camp activities right at Golden Bell.

## Especially for Military Families:

Dave and Mary Jo Nutting have been invited to do a Creation Week for adults/teens at Spring Canyon's Summer Celebration. (The camp will provide its own program for kids.)

Located near Buena Vista, CO, the great facilities and beautiful mountain-valley setting make this

a spot to really "get away from it all" and enjoy time with God, family, and friends. A great selection of activities makes this a special time and place for the whole family. If you are a military family, come and bring a friend. If not, tell someone who is. Better yet, show your



support by treating them to a gift of a week at camp!

Round out the summer with AOI's **Yellowstone Creation**

**Adventure.** Experience the amazing geological and biological features of Yellowstone from a Biblical creation perspective.

Enjoy geysers, hot springs, steaming mud pots, wildlife, and inspiring scenery.

Accommodations are rustic but the fun, fellowship, and learning are great. This trip is great for singles, retirees, or families with elementary-high school kids. **AOI**

**AOI speakers also do custom camps, VBS, homeschool conferences, and seminars during the summer. Check upcoming events or contact us if you would like to schedule something in your area.**



## Discover Creation ADVENTURES

- Family Mountain
- Yellowstone
- Rock & River

New for 2016!

See enclosed brochure or visit:

[Discovercreation.org/camps-tours/](http://Discovercreation.org/camps-tours/)



**We've Moved!**

AOI has moved into a small portion of our newly-leased office space in the Monument Village shopping center (west of old Safeway) at **2140 Broadway, Unit B-104**. While the remaining space has yet to be finished, we trust God for His provision and look forward to the expanded outreach of AOI.



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