

# Think Believe

Discover Creation...Worship the Creator

A Publication of Alpha Omega Institute

May/June, 2014; Vol. 32, No.3



## Reflections on 30 Years of Creation Ministry

by Dave and Mary Jo Nutting

It's been almost 40 years since God led us out of evolutionary thinking, and 30 years since He enabled us to start Alpha Omega Institute. These years have been very full and have gone by in the blink of an eye. We are thankful for this milestone in the history of AOI and for those that God has brought to minister with us. So much has happened and we are humbled by the number of lives God has reached through this message and ministry.

Many things have changed over the past 30 years – in addition to our hair color and the growth of the electronic age! Thirty years ago there were very few creation ministries; now there are many – including lots of active, local, creation associations. Back then, good resources on creation were hard to find; now, there are plentiful books, videos, blogs, and websites. In the beginning years, very few people in church seminars had ever heard any viable arguments against evolution or any credible teaching supporting the Biblical framework. Now, we find many people who are excited about the material and are actively sharing with others.

On a more somber note, although we have encountered resistance to the creation message at times over the past 30 years, there now seems to be a growing, vocal resistance to the things of God, an increasing disregard for His moral law, and a growing mockery or disdain of

anything having to do with His Word. Sadly, some of the strongest resistance to our message comes from those who call themselves Christians. Though we still find many individuals who are open, excited, and hungry to hear more, many others are just too busy, too distracted, too apathetic, or too caught up in the world to bother. Consequently, the need for creation ministry and sound biblical teaching continues to be great – in some ways, greater than it was years ago.

Genesis is much more relevant to modern times than most people realize. The beginning chapters of Genesis are foundational to understanding the times and the issues facing us today. Creation, the fall, the flood, and the dispersion at Babel set the stage for all that has come since. We are all children of Adam and, like our forefather, we have all gone our own way. Jesus Christ came to live, die, and rise again to bring reconciliation, healing, and restoration to a world left lost and broken by sin. He is coming again to reign as King over His creation. Since the beginning of

creation, God has sought to dwell in fellowship with human beings. Those who place their faith and trust in Him find hope in this world and life with Him for all eternity. Now that's good news!

We may have gotten a bit grayer, but our desire to get the message out is still strong! We still have a passion for this truth, and a great desire to see lives changed for the good as they embrace the gospel and align their lives with the Word of God. We continue to work hard to present the message in a winsome way, seasoned with grace and love, both to those

who are open and to those who fight the hardest against God.

Thank you for your prayers and support for this ministry over the past 30 years. We, and the rest of the AOI staff, remain committed to sharing the message of creation and the gospel through seminars,

campus, children's programs, newsletter, website, and personal relationships. With the addition of the new one-year Discover Creation Training Institute, we

hope to multiply the impact by training many others in this vital ministry. We invite you to stand with us to reach this generation and those to come. Together we can make a difference. God bless you! 



# Skeptic: King David Never Existed By Dave Nutting

Many Bible skeptics claim that King David was purely a fictional character. Contrary to what atheist websites currently claim, King David's existence has been confirmed by archaeological discoveries. David's name was inscribed in two ninth century BC texts, the Tel Dan Inscription and the Moabite stone pictured here.



The Moabite Stone

FoxNews.com (July 18, 2013) reported on an archaeological discovery which once again supports the existence King David and the reliability of the Biblical record. In the region where King David (Israel's second king, 1010-970 BC) killed Goliath, a 10,000-plus square-foot palace was

discovered. The palace is thought to be one of King David's palaces and dates to the Biblical timeframe of his reign in Israel. This palace was found in the ruins of what is considered to be the Biblical city of Sha'arayim. After David killed Goliath, the Philistines ran away and were slain on the "road to Sha'arayim" (1 Sam. 17:52). Sha'arayim is also mentioned as one of the cities "unto the reign of David" (1 Chron. 4:31). Skeptics have poked fun at the discovery saying that the whole thing is based on the fact that no pig bones were found. However, they fail to mention other important details: Thousands of bones were



The Biblical city of Sha'arayim

found (and no prohibited pigs); no prohibited graven images were found (uncommon in ancient sites); royal seals common to King David's period were on hundreds of clay storage

jars; the architecture fits with the Biblical record.

I have written more extensively on this and whether it was reasonable to believe that David killed Goliath on my blog: <http://discovercreation.org/blog/2013/08/14/biblical-reliability-confirmed-again/>. Skeptics make plenty of false claims and downplay important pieces of evidence that support the Bible. I encourage you: Stand firm on God's Word! **AOI**

## Putting the Pieces Together

by Aimee Mariani

Picture a partially-assembled jigsaw puzzle spread out on a table. Several of the pieces are connected in little clusters, but it clearly has a way to go before even the border is fully pieced together.

This scene makes a good illustration for my life experience before I attended Bible college. I had gained a lot of information and experience already, but many of the pieces were not yet connected – hanging loose ends, just waiting to be pulled together and form useful and beautiful pictures. There were also some pieces missing, leaving gaps that made the rest of the puzzle difficult to put together.

My year at Jackson Hole Bible College was a formative time in my life; one that served to fill in many missing pieces and helped me connect the edges of the

puzzle, establishing the framework for building the picture of the rest of my life.

That is why I am so excited to be involved with the startup of AOI's new Discover Creation Training Institute. This program will include many different, yet critical, pieces that will cover the spectrum of experience to enable young people to fill in gaps and prepare themselves for their own life and ministry.

Perhaps the aspect of our program that I am most enthused about is the same element that was vital to my own Bible college experience. The glue that held my year together was the fact that I, along with my 29 classmates and handful of staff, experienced that year together. From the first days, we began

to develop community that grew to a profound love and feeling of family at the close of the year – which in fact we were, being members together of the body of Christ. We still keep in contact and encourage each other as we continue to share in each other's lives, even if from a distance.

That is a key element in our design of DCTI: sharing life together as the body of Christ. While our curriculum provides the pieces of Bible study, science, worldview, ministry training, service, and much more, we strive to develop a close, supportive community among our students and staff. Pray that God will use that environment to help students cement the pieces of the puzzle together. **AOI**



# Can Science Prove or Disprove God?

by Brian Mariani

**S**cience is defined as a process to gain knowledge through observation and experimentation. It is based on naturalistic laws and means. However, many people exclude the possibility of God's existence and creative work simply by their definition of science. Some may ask, "If the miracles of God contradict science, then how can any rational person believe that they're true?" Actually, scientific processes are not the end-all means of acquiring truth. God created natural laws and the laws of science, but God is not limited by them. Since He is outside of those laws, He can still work in supernatural ways. I believe that naturalistic processes are the most straight-forward way to explain most events in the universe. I also believe God uses natural events as a means to accomplish His will. Therefore, I believe God uses natural processes but has the authority to step in miraculously to intervene as necessary, show us His power, and make Himself evident to us. In other words, God can still perform miracles. In fact, to believe the main tenets of Christianity, one has to believe that Jesus' birth and resurrection were miracles.

Some still might argue that when Christians can't explain something, they automatically claim God did it. This "God of the Gaps" idea is viewed as simply foolish or ignorant. However, it is not irrational, foolish, or ignorant to believe that God has created

everything including the natural laws of science. In fact, from an atheistic perspective, there is no explanation for how natural laws of science have come to exist. Also, naturalistic origins do not account for the immaterial, abstract laws of science and logic.

The Biblical perspective, however, gives a foundation for science, logic, truth, and morality, which is quite rational. We don't just resort to "God did it"



out of ignorance or blind faith. Instead, the Bible gives a clear, trustworthy, historical record with scientific evidence to back up its claims. Our assumptions or faith, have a solid basis whereas there is no solid foundation for naturalistic/atheistic faith. It's only based on the assumption that there is no God and everything is a natural progression.

Can science prove either of these two viewpoints? Although scientific laws help us acquire knowledge, science cannot prove everything – especially not philosophies. In fact, "prove" is a tricky word. Evidence may indicate that something is true, but ultimately, you cannot prove something is 100% true. For instance, we cannot be 100% convinced of our understanding of gravity. We may be 99% confident that the current basic understanding of gravity is 100% true. However, in the future, new discoveries of other forces might totally change our scientific understanding. Consequently our theories will also change.

Even if it is super small, there is always a tiny element of faith involved in "proving" anything to be true. In that light, science cannot prove nor can it disprove God. I believe it is our God Who reveals Himself to us. We then, have a choice to reject or accept that revelation. However, that does not change the reality of God.

Some people may say, "I won't believe in God until I have 100% proof that He exists." Yet, using that same line of reasoning, would you never drive a car because you do not have 100% proof that a semi-truck won't cross into your lane and take you out? We all live by some element of faith. **AOI**

## Director's Column by Dave Nutting



As I write this, Mary Jo and I have just returned from leading a geology field trip for Jackson Hole Bible College. We did classroom teaching as well as visiting Colorado National Monument and Dinosaur Journey Museum near Grand Junction. From there, we traveled to Arches, Canyonlands, Natural Bridges and Petrified Forest National Parks, and later Grand Canyon, Zion, Bryce, and Kodachrome Basin. By the end of the trip, they were beginning to recognize tangible evidence for the Flood and its aftermaths. As one student summed it up, "I have studied the Bible all year long, but seeing the evidence for Creation and the Flood for myself, makes it all come alive!"

That's why we plan to include several major field trips in our one-year Discover

Creation Training Institute program. These are not "vacations" as some might think, but are stretching times of traveling many miles a day, living in close quarters, enduring all sorts of weather, and camping out or sleeping on church floors. In addition to cementing students' faith with learning experiences, these trips provide valuable bonding and discipling times.

We need your help as we embark on this life-changing one-year program to train and equip students to multiply the AOI ministry and bring the truth of God's Word to their own families, churches, schools, and communities. Would you do the following 3 things?

1. Pray for wisdom, students, and finances for this endeavor and tell prospective students about DCTI.
2. Give generously to get this important training institute up and running. 



### DISCOVER CREATION ADVENTURES

**Great new camps! Great new rates!**

**Don't miss out! There is still time to register** for one of our exciting Creation Adventures. These "vacations with a purpose" are designed to fortify both young and old with the truth of creation and the gospel while providing plenty of time for recreation, free time, and conversation. So grab your family, friends, or youth group and join us for a great time of fun, fellowship, and learning.

- **June 29-July 4: Creation Family Mountain Adventure** @ Horn Creek in Colorado's beautiful Sangre de Cristo Mountains. For all ages.
- **July 7-12: Rock and River Adventure** – Colorado's exciting Arkansas River and the beautiful Sangre de Cristo mountains. Whitewater rafting, inflatable kayaks, rock climbing and hiking. Especially for teens and families with teens.
- **Sept 29 – Sept 2: Yellowstone Creation Tour** – Explore the wonders of Yellowstone National Park from a "different perspective" – for all ages.

Our new camps and programs allow us to offer **lower prices** than in previous years. See [www.DiscoverCreation.org](http://www.DiscoverCreation.org) for details and special low pricing (**\$130 per adult** for the Yellowstone Adventure). **Call today to register!**

[www.DiscoverCreation.org/vacations.htm](http://www.DiscoverCreation.org/vacations.htm)



## DISCOVER CREATION TRAINING INSTITUTE



### A unique one-year training program with a creation-based Biblical worldview

- Non-traditional Learning
- Multiple Field trips
- Biblical Studies
- Creation Science
- Archaeology & Ancient Man
- Apologetics Training
- Creation Outreach Ministry

**Survive, Fortify, Thrive!**

Call 800-377-1923 or visit [DiscoverCreation.org/TrainingInstitute.htm](http://DiscoverCreation.org/TrainingInstitute.htm)



## Upcoming Events

Check out [www.DiscoverCreation.org](http://www.DiscoverCreation.org) for other upcoming events, camps, and VBS's. Please call if you would like to schedule an AOI speaker for an event in your area.

### Please stand with AOI!

Summers can be financially hard, as supporters are on vacation and their schedules are erratic. Our staff keeps very busy in the summer ministering at camps, conferences, VBS's and other events, which do not bring in much in the way of finances. So please, remember us in your regular prayers and giving during these busy summer months.

