

# Think Believe

Discover Creation...Worship the Creator

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## Biblical Inerrancy and Creation

by Brian Mariani

**R**ecently, I have had a number of discussions with several Christian men that I greatly respect. Many of them are leaders in their local churches. We were discussing the inerrancy of Scripture, meaning that the Bible is correct in all that it affirms and without errors in the original autographs. The Bible is inspired by God, “God-breathed,” through the minds and hands of human authors.

As we were talking, it was clear that we all took a bold stand that, **yes**, the Bible is inerrant and trustworthy, so we can take God at His Word. But, this is what scares me: I have heard other Biblical experts and church leaders say that it doesn’t matter what you believe about issues such as creation and the age of the earth. One of those church leaders told me that there are many scholars that hold various views and make arguments for their beliefs based on Scripture. But from my understanding, they must manipulate the Scripture (language, genre, etc.) to support their position. A straightforward reading of Scripture, according to literary structure, does not support this belief. We should be careful to evaluate verses in context to arrive at our conclusions.

We also need to be very discerning about what arguments we believe and what leaders we follow. In believing and appealing to the position of some great teacher, we are placing faith in their

authority and perspective. We need to evaluate whether any scholar or leader is taking science or **Scripture** as their primary source. We are to remember 2 Cor 10:5, which says, “Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.” We need to diligently search the Scripture to determine whether or not we are accurately understanding and believing what God intended to convey through the Bible. It is essential to take Scripture as a whole, starting in Genesis – whether or not it agrees with current “modern scientific” theories.

I respect Bible scholars, experts, and church leaders who take a stand on the authority and inerrancy of the Bible, but it concerns me when they put “science” as a higher and more reliable authority than Scripture. They say that they believe inerrancy, but when it comes to Genesis 1-11, they are willing to put the ideas of current scientific thought over the straightforward reading of Scripture. For all of us who believe that Scripture is inerrant, the real challenge is how to interpret it correctly.

It seems very apparent to me that billions of years of death blatantly contradicts Romans 6:23, “For the wages of

sin is death.” According to the Bible, Adam and Eve were the first to sin and because of that sin, brought death. Death could not have been around before humans according to the Bible. Even the order of Creation is totally different from naturalistic and old earth models. For example, in the Bible, the earth is created first, then plants, then the sun and stars, whereas with naturalism, the sun and stars first form, then the earth, then the plants. So you now have to twist the Scripture if you want to reconcile God’s Word with modern naturalistic science.

These discussions made me realize that I need to study more about what I believe and why I believe it. I also need to learn more about how others “Biblically” reason out their perspectives in these and other theological issues. I want to better understand the perspectives of others in order to clarify what I do, and do not believe and why. I would challenge you to continue studying and learning as well. **AOI**

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# Considering Logical Fallacies: The Straw Man Fallacy

by Scott Mauser

**F**requently, when I tell people that I work for a creation ministry, I am immediately barraged with examples of what I **supposedly** believe, and how those positions have been refuted. Have you ever been in a similar situation where you are discussing Creation with someone and most of your time is spent arguing against things you **don't believe** instead of what you **do believe**? Sometimes the person is misinformed and has not done their homework. Others use sound bites to "put you in your place," however; some may be using a diversionary fallacy called a "Straw Man Argument."

A straw man fallacy is an argument that tries to refute an idea or position by: exaggerating or distorting, unfairly characterizing, changing or omitting, or inaccurately portraying the opponent's viewpoint to make it easier for the proponent to knock it down. In essence, they are creating their own position (substituted for yours, with similar wording) and putting it back in your mouth, so

they can slap you in the face for saying it... more or less. It is much easier to dismiss an anemic foe than a robust, able-bodied one. Here is an example:

**Creationist says:** "The fossil record is much more representative of a global flood than any other geologic model that I know of."

**Evolutionist:** "If you can believe that Satan put the fossils here to test us, then I can see how you would come to that conclusion."

Another example might be:

**Creationist:** "I think that the idea of Creation and the Fall is a superior explanation for design, than an unguided, purposeless process."

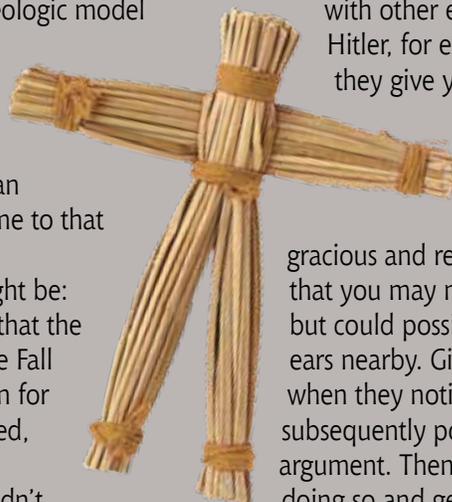
**Evolutionist:** "I wouldn't want to worship a God that created the world with all the death, mistakes, and evil, and then called it perfect."

How should we address this type of fallacy as they attempt to burn the hay? First, don't commit this fallacy yourself. After that, I think it is always of necessity to clarify your position and emphatically

disagree with those things that you do not believe. Explain that you have no desire to defend positions that you do not hold and neither would they. I am sure that an atheist would not like to be grouped with other evolutionists like Hitler, for example. Ask that they give you the same

respect and deal only with your specific position. Be

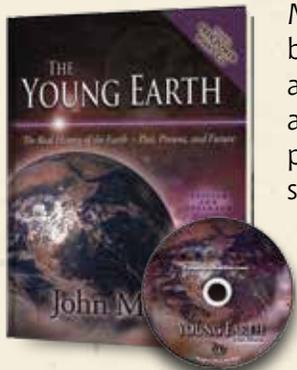
gracious and respectful, knowing that you may not persuade them, but could possibly win other ears nearby. Give them credit when they notice their error and subsequently pose a reasonable argument. Then thank them for doing so and genuinely deal with their concerns. Finally, be well-versed in giving a reasonable and persuasive case for your position. Always remember, we are not concerned with just appearing to win an argument, but successfully arriving at the **Truth**. Wouldn't any honest inquirer want the same? **AOI**



## The Young Earth

by Mark Sonmor

**A** classic! Must have! Indispensable! Of the many resources produced during the creation science revival of recent years, **The Young Earth** is among an elite few that deal as concisely and comprehensively with their respective topics. In this revised edition, Dr. John Morris effectively relates scientific data surrounding the age of the earth and gives a clear understanding of the philosophical



considerations surrounding that data. This volume will awaken the reader to the geologic story of the earth's past and provide a working knowledge of the terminology and issues in question. Although Morris deals with the basic assumptions of all dating methods, he adds the amazing RATE project findings to topics such as radioisotope and C-14 dating. In addition, he gives an in-depth comparison of young-earth creation and theistic-evolutionary views. Whether it's worldwide "clocks"

such as magnetic decay, or geologic evidences such as catastrophism or clastic dikes, the reader will find a treasure trove of practical examples that indicate the earth is young and that the Bible can be trusted.

We believe that with greater understanding comes greater confidence and, ultimately, the ability to minister more effectively to those with differing viewpoints – both in and outside the church. With the last chapter devoted to the theological battlefield and the accompanying CD full of PowerPoint® slides, this is an excellent means to make sense of this controversy and relate those findings to those around you. Available for **\$20** (+ \$4.00 S/H) **AOI**

# Favorite Evidences that Contradict Evolutionary Deep Time

**W**e asked some of our staff and a few volunteers to write a very brief nugget of what they consider to be their favorite indicator that the earth is much younger than what is demanded for evolution to occur.

## 1. Where's the Salt?

– Lanny Johnson

The input of salt into the sea is greater than the output causing the saltiness to increase steadily. Using input and output rates from secular sources, geologist Dr. Steve Austin and physicist Dr. Russell Humphreys calculated that the sea must be less than 62 million years old – much less than evolutionists suggest. Note that this is a maximum age. However, major floods including Noah's Flood would drastically reduce the time frame!

## 2. Radioactive Decay Dating

– Steven Thornberg

Evolutionists rely on radiometric dating for determining the ages of rocks and fossils; however, recent scientific studies raise questions about their reliability. For example, lava rocks from the 1980s Mt. St. Helens' eruptions were radiometrically dated at 340,000 to 2,800,000 years! Another example is from Australia: fossilized wood encased in basalt rock was carbon-13 dated at ~45,000 years, but the encasing rock was dated at ~45,000,000 years. These are only two of many such examples. Conclusion: we cannot rely on radiometric dating!

## 3. Population Density

– Dave Nutting

Evolutionists say Neanderthals lived 40,000 years ago, and modern humans occupied North America 15,000 years ago. However, using conservative rates of population increase (1.5%) and wars or disease killing 50% of the world's population every 75 years, in

only 15,000 years, the human population would be  $10^{37}$ . This would greatly over-fill a sphere whose radius reaches from Earth to our sun. In 40,000 years, the population would be  $10^{98}$ . This would be more than the number of marbles that could fit inside our known **universe**. Evolutionary time-scales don't work!

## 4. Recession of Our Moon

– Brian Mariani

The moon is currently moving away from the Earth about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches each year, about as fast as your fingernails grow. If we calculate backward, the moon would have been touching the Earth 1.37 billion years ago. Naturalists try to solve this problem by claiming that the recession rate was lower in the past, but it really should have been greater in the past, because a greater proximity would increase tidal activity. This would transfer more energy to the moon adding to its recession. Besides that, these tremendous tides would wreak havoc over the

surface of the earth and be extremely challenging for the supposed start of evolution.

## 5. Soft Tissue in Dinosaurs

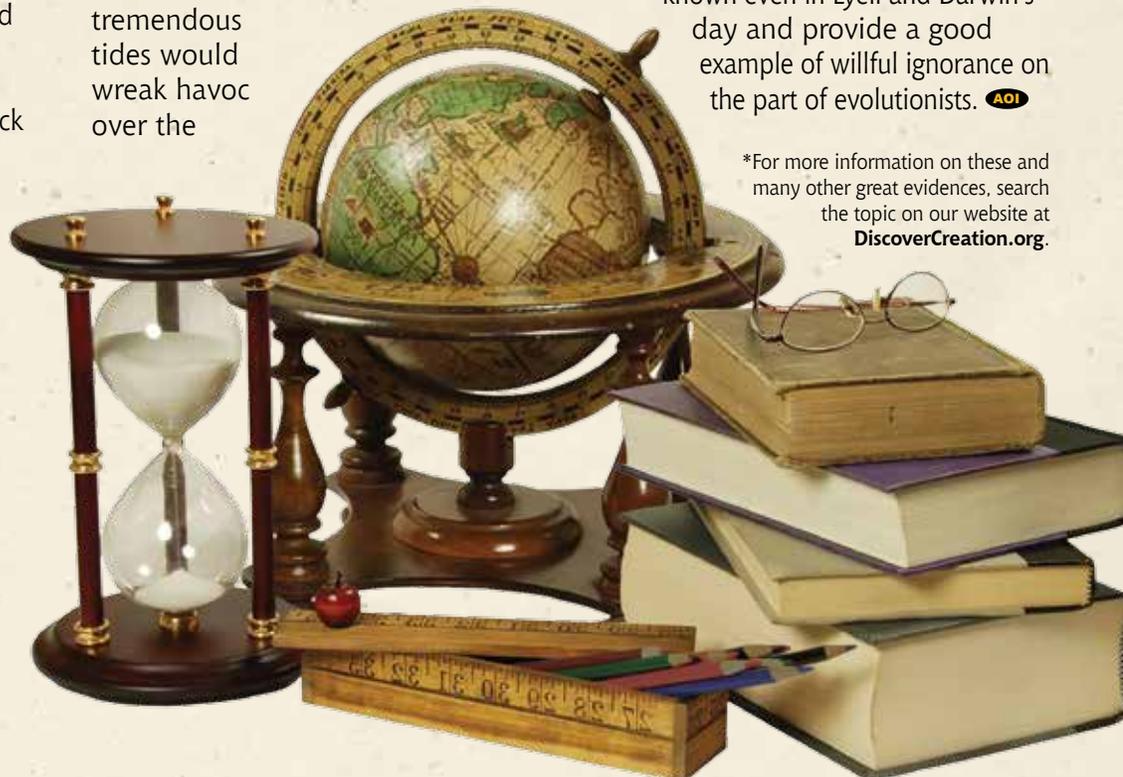
– Richard Stepanek

The amazing discovery of soft tissue found in some dinosaur fossils challenges the belief that they are millions of years old. Observations of tissue breakdown in decaying animals, plus the effects of scavengers, etc., underscore this great problem. Scientists have also discovered carbon-14 still remaining in the soft tissue. The very fact they detected carbon-14 is further evidence questioning the idea of deep time. A young earth and a huge flood to preserve these remains is the answer.

## 6. Polystrate Fossils – Dave Demick

A young-earth evidence that should be known to everyone is polystrate fossils. These are fossil tree trunks that protrude vertically in sedimentary rock, usually going through many layers of strata. This kills the idea that these layers took millions, thousands, or even hundreds of years to form. For the tree to remain intact and fossilize in this way, the whole column of strata must be laid down quickly. These polystrate tree fossils are found all over the earth. They were known even in Lyell and Darwin's day and provide a good example of willful ignorance on the part of evolutionists. **AOI**

\*For more information on these and many other great evidences, search the topic on our website at [DiscoverCreation.org](http://DiscoverCreation.org).



## Director's Column by Dave & Mary Jo Nutting



**W**ow! Our new, upgraded website is now online! Same address, great new format! We are excited about the colorful, mobile-friendly,

easy-to-navigate design. Go to **www.DiscoverCreation.org** and check out:

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- Upcoming events, camps, and tours
- Discover Creation Training Institute
- Kids' Page
- Online store
- Powerful search function
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Get your questions answered, find resources for your family, and equip yourself to reach others. Our powerful search function allows you to search not only our site, but those of other creation ministries. You can even develop your

own creation ministry by directing friends and family to the website, sharing articles, and telling people about upcoming AOI events.

By the way, we still have some room in our summer camps and tours. These are great opportunities to fortify your family with faith-building information while building friendships and having a bundle of fun! Grandparents, these events also provide a great way to build into the lives of your grandkids. Call today about availability! We hope to see you and your family at one of these events this summer!

As with any website transfer, there may be a few kinks to work out. If you encounter problems, please let us know so we can get them corrected. While on our site, don't forget to sign up for our blog and follow us on social media! **AOI**

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**Reminder:** If you received a funding letter from the vice president of our board, **please prayerfully consider that request** as AOI **must** increase its support base. Many AOI summer events run "at cost" or even less to get the word of creation out to as many as possible. At AOI, we depend on the faithfulness of our regular financial partners – and also "special" gifts to get us through. We invite you to join us in prayer and partner with us through your regular financial gifts. If you can help out in a special way at this time, it is **really** needed and would be a great blessing! Thank you in advance for your partnership in this important ministry.

## Social Media

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## Upcoming Speaking

- Check web for scheduled events.
- Contact us to schedule an event for summer, fall of 2015, and into

## Horn Creek Creation Mountain Adventure

June 28 – July 3

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- Giant swing
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- Swimming
- Raquetball
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- & lots more!



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## Rock & River Creation Adventure

July 6-11 (Teens & Adults)

Hike, climb, raft and kayak while learning to defend your faith. Join experienced creation teachers and Journey Quest guides as we challenge the exciting rapids of Colorado's famous Arkansas River. Meals/tents provided.

**Also available:** RVs cabins & rafting down the Royal Gorge!



## Yellowstone Creation Tour

September 4-8

Creation bus tour of the natural wonders of Yellowstone. Geysers, hot pools, mud pots, geology, wildlife, and amazing scenery. Lodging at Old Faithful Christian Ranch in Island Park, Idaho. Only \$195 total. Includes meals and lodging.

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