

Think Believe

Discover Creation...Worship the Creator

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The Zombie Apocalypse

by Mark Sonmor

I buried my cat today. She was suffering from old age, jaundice and a severe thyroid condition. It was time. As I lowered her surprisingly heavy frame into the hole under our boxelder tree, I wondered at the whole aspect. In my hands was a composition of molecules that, apart from a doctor's injection, could still be viable. Only one thing was missing – life.

Literally translated, Gen. 2:17 says God told Adam and Eve that in the day they ate of the fruit, "dying thou shalt die" or "surely die." Yet, their hearts kept beating. Did God really mean what He said?

Rom. 1:21-32 indicates our first grandparents essentially believed a lie and turned away from their God-given design in order to serve themselves. In so doing, they figuratively "pulled the plug" from the Source of Life and began running on "battery power." Human life from that point became a corrupted existence (Rom 8:21, Gal 6:8) and a lifeless pursuit destined for continual frustration and futility (Rom 8:20, Eph. 4:17). The wages accompanying sin weren't just physical death leading to judgment, but a defilement of the entire person. Needs no longer met in God, resulted in fleshly cravings for self-preservation, glory, and power. It's no wonder God barred Adam and Eve from the tree of life. Its healing power (Ez. 47:12,

Rev. 22:2) could have kept them alive physically, but in a state of spiritual death – like walking zombies.

While we understand that our physical "batteries" will eventually run out, spiritually, it's tempting to think in terms of some type of separation – that we're not really that bad on the inside; we just have a sin problem that keeps us from God.

Consequently, in our attempts to soften and minimize our shame, we can reduce Jesus to simply being the "antidote for our spiritual flu" or someone who "makes us a better version of ourselves."

In Eph. 2, however, Paul indicates that apart from Christ, we are dead in our trespasses and sins and, whether we realize it or not, aligned with the spiritual forces of darkness and rebellion. Jesus indicated in John 5:24 that "...he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life." The spiritual rebirth he describes to Nicodemus and seemingly strange sayings like "let the dead bury their dead." make sense if our condition is truly absent of life.

Our natural response, however, is to suppress any truth that would indicate our failure, corruption, or shame


and to "kill the messenger." After all, to a zombie, another zombie looks pretty good – especially when zombies are the only comparisons. But let a *truly living* person walk through a crowd of zombies and...you get the picture.

So what's the remedy? Death. Jesus said unless a grain of wheat dies, it can't bear fruit (John 12:24). It basically means dying to death – turning our back on all those things that our corrupted flesh craves – all those attempts to find life on our own and submitting to the

true Life-Giver. It means becoming one with Christ in his death, burial, and resurrection – all those elements represented in baptism – to be

born again spiritually and to live in a restored relationship with God through His indwelling Holy Spirit.

Being honest about creation means being honest about ourselves and our state of being. Admittedly, it's an uncomfortable tension. You could even say it stinks. Maybe that's why Paul alludes to it this way, "For we are a fragrance of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing; to the one an aroma from death to death, to the other an aroma from life to life..." (2 Cor. 2:15-16)

Thankfully, God loves the world and is in the business of restoring "zombies" to Himself. 2 Cor. 5:19 says, "...that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation." 

**To a zombie,
another zombie can
look pretty good...**



Your Pet Kitty – Just a Miniature Cougar by Dave Nutting

Of all the mammals found in the western national parks, the cougar or mountain lion is the most feared. Fortunately, their normal food is not people, but rabbits and mule deer. Their habitat range is broader than virtually all mammals native to the Americas. Whether in mountains, deserts, or even suburbs, it extends from Nebraska to California and from the northern Yukon to most of Central and South America. At one time, the range extended throughout the lower 48 states.¹

Because of the high number of bikers and joggers near urban



areas, the likelihood of a lion attack is actually greater there than in the wild. While you could encounter one while hiking, it will probably run from you. To help ensure that, don't pretend to be a deer!

Don't hike or jog alone, and make noise as you go. Also, refrain from using earphones in order to be aware of your surroundings. If a cougar is seen, be thankful for the rare opportunity. If one threatens you, the park service advises never to run since lions enjoy a good chase! Instead, make yourself look as big and fierce as you can, make loud noises (not shrieks), bang your water bottle, back away slowly, and be sure the cougar doesn't feel trapped.

All of the species of cats alive in the world today are instantly recognizable as a kind of "cat." It is interesting to

note that most species – including your domestic house cat – can have offspring with some of the other species of cats. A genome study revealed that the mighty tiger shares 96% of its genes with the common house cat.¹ That likely explains why, at times, your Tabby-cat appears to be stalking you!

The main point is that all the cats in the world could have descended from two "cat" parents – as described in Genesis 6-7. Despite the cartoon pictures, Noah would not have needed two tigers, two lions, two cheetahs, etc. – just two parents of the "cat" kind. **AOI**

¹ <https://www.cougarfund.org/education/about-the-cougar/range/>

² <https://www.hngn.com/articles/12716/20130918/big-cat-genomes-revealed-tigers-lions-snow-leopards-share-96.htm>

The Hand of God: Fibonacci Numbers and the Divine Proportion

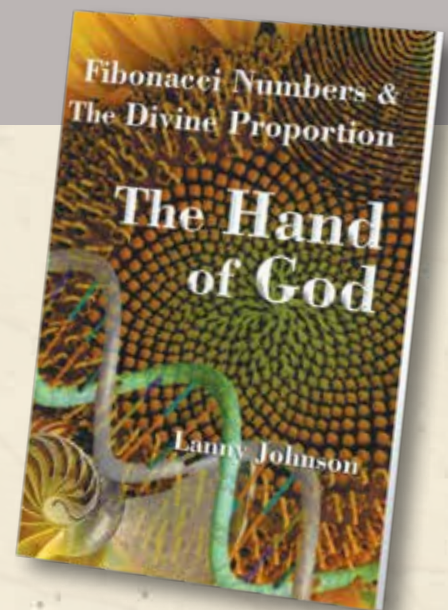
written and produced by AOI's Lanny Johnson

After seeing Lanny Johnson's presentation on "the Hand of God," many people asked Lanny to put his excellent material into print. After reading this booklet, you may never look at a flower or seashell again without seeing "The Hand of God." The dominant feature is a certain pattern that shows up time after time following mathematical concepts called Fibonacci numbers and the divine proportion.

Fibonacci numbers are widespread in nature giving powerful evidence of God's handiwork. They appear in the genealogy of a honeybee, the

curve of a ram's horn, and the arrangement of flower petals. We see this pattern in the leaves of plants around their stem (phyllotaxis) and even in the revolutions of the planets of our solar system. Explaining how this pattern is found in both living and non-living things is difficult to explain from an evolutionary standpoint.

Some of these terms may sound technical, but don't let that scare you! Lanny's numerous examples of these patterns, loaded with vivid color illustrations, make it fascinating. It's almost as if God has provided



us with a giant scavenger hunt where we can find his unique fingerprint all throughout creation. This easy-to-read booklet (5.5" x 8.5," 32 pages) could be the perfect tool to point your family and friends to God. **\$5 + \$2 s/h** (Offer good until Sept 30, 2020.) **AOI**

Consider the Dandelions...

by Dr. David Demick

“Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow...” was an imperative from our Lord to study closely; to observe fine details about seemingly insignificant flowers which God clothes with more splendor than Solomon. “Lilies” is perhaps an unfortunate translation, however, as it conjures images of the Easter lily when many of the common wildflowers of the Holy land were more likely Jesus’ intent. Let’s do that for a moment with one of the most common and hardy wildflowers in North America – the dandelion.

Originally an immigrant from Europe and Asia, the dandelion was brought over for the herb gardens of pioneers. However, they “went viral” and virtually covered North America. Today, gardeners consider them a nemesis. They spread quickly, root deeply, and resist control.

So, without worrying about how to control them for a minute, let’s try to appreciate and not denigrate the beautiful and well-designed dandelion. While the outer, radiating pattern of yellow

petals reminds us of the life-giving golden rays of the sun, look closer at the outer edges. Their tiny, fancy fringes are like lacework on the sleeve of a blouse. The inner part of the flower contains a tight group of pollinating, reproductive rods which, as they mature, put out tiny, delicate curls. The dandelion flower is indeed a thing of intricate beauty. Someone may be thinking,

“How about those pesky gray seed heads sticking out of my nicely trimmed lawn?”

Well, they are also beautiful if we allow ourselves to see it. Children in their godly simplicity know how to appreciate and have fun with them. The seed heads, a marvel of engineering, account for much of the dandelion’s success in spreading and multiplying. Bio-mimicry engineers specializing in micro air vehicle (MAV) and small parachute design, try to copy God’s exquisite model of efficiency in dandelion seeds and their familiar tufts.

Those hairy tufts have a highly sophisticated and optimized air drag system that gives the dandelion seed maximum lift with a minimum use of building material. Each tuft has

approximately 100 hairs, arranged in an optimal way to provide the right amount of air-drag to give strong and sustained flight. They also have a built-in moisture response system to ensure that seeds are only released when aerial travel potential is high.¹

But are they only to be valued for their looks? By no means. Remember, dandelions can be a healthful food source. Every part of the common dandelion is edible and contains multiple vitamins and minerals. They are reputed

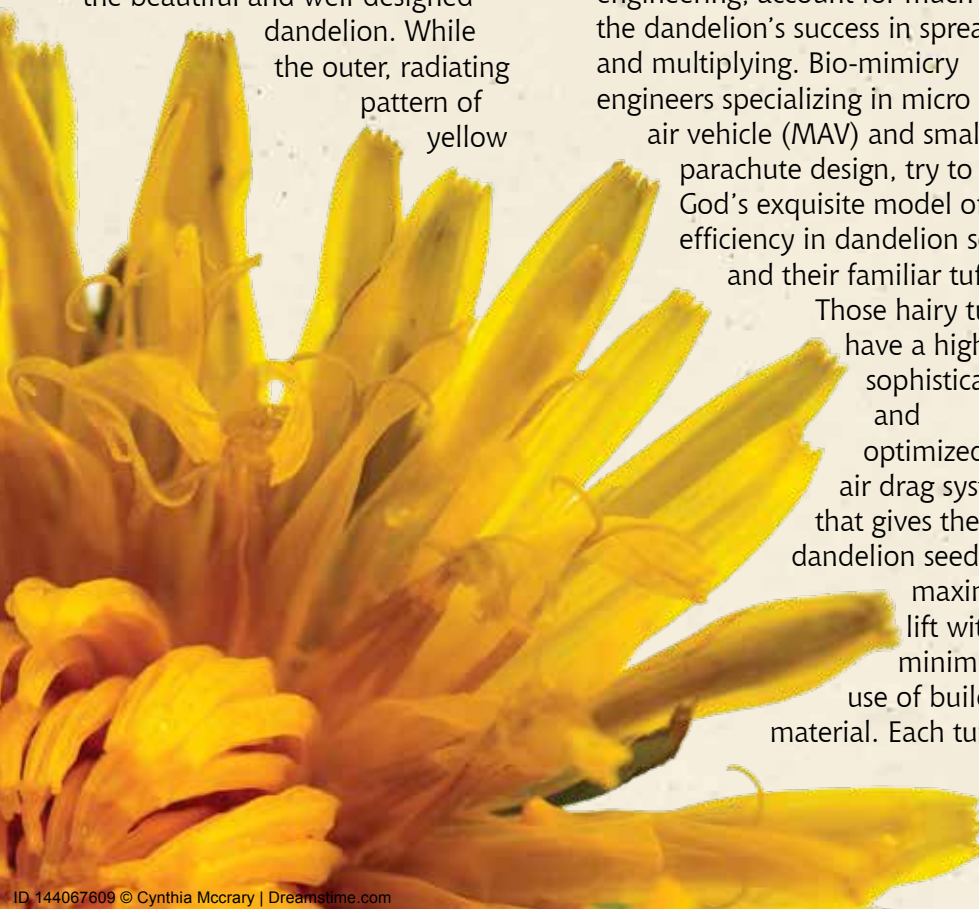
to have health benefits for major organs such as liver and kidneys but these benefits need to be validated with more rigorous clinical studies. Still, the fact remains that dandelions have been used by herbalists for hundreds of years. (Make sure your dandelions are clean and not contaminated by pesticides before trying!)

Additionally, their pretty face has a complex, mathematical, spiraling structure (Fibonacci sequence) of florets similar to sunflowers. Lanny Johnson of AOI calls this God’s signature in his excellent booklet, **The Hand of God**.

Random, mindless, evolution is insufficient to explain how such intricate mathematical patterns could be found in flowers. However, the beauty and high-tech benefits found in dandelions are just what we would expect from a loving, intelligent Creator. It’s an abundant plant that provides us with food, exhibits beauty, and may even have medicinal qualities. Let’s thank God for his abundant provision as we consider the dandelions. **AOI**



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¹The uplifting science of how dandelion seeds stay aloft ...<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/article/dandelion-seed-flight/>

Director's Column by Dave Nutting



CRAZY TIMES!

Lives have been turned upside down by the Covid-19 pandemic with its resulting uneasiness, economic downturn,

shelter-in-place restrictions, and for many, fear!

Yes, things changed quickly! On March 11, Mary Jo and I were set for two weeks of intense ministry to universities and churches in Costa Rica. By that afternoon, however, the government closed the universities, churches followed suit, and we were advised to change our flight. On March 13, we flew back

to the US where all AOI's stateside seminars were canceled and we began social isolation! How can we share Creation and the Gospel? We can't even go door to door!

Like many groups, AOI has taken to the internet. Brian Mariani did an online Creation class/virtual field trip for what was originally scheduled as an in-person southwest creation tour. Others on staff have online offerings in the works. Also, we are regularly adding new items to our website so continue coming to www.DiscoverCreation.org

Because of the big learning curve, creating online classes and

keeping up with social media, etc., is stretching AOI's small staff. You can certainly see that AOI has been affected!

In addition to the increased strain on staff and resources, we have taken a hit financially and wonder what things will look like when the smoke finally clears. Because of this, I am asking those who can, to please support AOI both financially and prayerfully in this crucial time. I know many of you have been hit hard as well, so if you can't, we understand. But please, do pray for AOI. **AOI**

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