

Think Believe

Discover Creation...Worship the Creator

A Publication of Alpha Omega Institute

July/August, 2020; Vol. 38, No. 4

The Importance of Genesis in a Topsy-Turvy World

by Mary Jo Nutting

I entered the new year and decade – 2020 – with a sense of anticipation! But then it felt like we were put into a washer on spin cycle, as our world changed before our very eyes. First came election-year hype and impeachment hearings. They were quickly replaced by COVID shut-downs and economic disaster, followed immediately by the death of George Floyd generating peaceful protests which quickly turned to rioting, looting, injury, and death spurred on by activist groups who wish to take down this country. This was followed by an occupied zone in Seattle, and cries across the country to defund or dismantle police departments. As we brace for a predicted second wave of COVID and the frenzy of elections coming in November, we wonder, “What’s next?”

Does Genesis have any significance in all this? YES, a lot! Genesis is foundational to understanding the mess we are in today – and the hope for a better future. Our nation’s foundational documents clearly acknowledged the existence of our Creator and established the basis of our government, based on God-given rights and the consent of the governed. Our founders wrote in the Declaration of Independence: “We

hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.”

Creation is foundational to our understanding of the nature of man, but so is the truth of the Fall and the resulting depravity of man. Our founders understood this. They knew that without restraint, sin would be rampant and there could be no just human society. Our founders also realized that the sin nature could manifest itself in positions of leadership and authority. That’s why they developed a system of limited government with leaders elected by the people. They also built a system that included three branches – legislative, executive, and judicial – to provide for checks and balances. Our founders wisely understood that power concentrated in the hands of a few would easily lead to corruption and loss of freedom. On the other hand, they knew that a society left to itself without the rule of law would result in the outworking of the sinful human heart leading to anarchy, mob rule, killing, stealing, and destruction. Eventually, a “strong man” would emerge, plunging the nation into dictatorship and

additional loss of freedom.

Our founders knew that this fragile form of government requires constant vigilance to maintain the delicate balance between individual rights, the good of society, and the role of a just government “of the people, by the people, and for the people.” It was understood that this experiment in self-government was only sufficient for a godly people. John Adams wrote: “Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.” This government was only made possible by the foundational understanding that we are dependent beings, created by, and accountable to God. It was essential to realize that fallen humans tend naturally toward sin, selfishness, and rebellion and that human government is instituted by God to “punish those who do evil and reward those who do good” so that we may lead a “tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity.”

Biblically, we know the only permanent solution to the sin problem is a new heart and a new life provided by God Himself through the life, death, and resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ. We also know that one day He will come again and establish a truly just government “where righteousness dwells.” Praise God! We look forward to that day!

So what does Genesis have to do with this topsy-turvy world we find ourselves in? Everything! It’s foundational! **AOI**

Potholes and Fairy Shrimp by Dave Nutting

In the harsh conditions of the Southwest, sandstone potholes provide an important micro-habitat. Water from rain and snowmelt, collects in small depressions and dissolves the calcite that cements the grains of sandstone together. Freezing and thawing further erode the rock. Then, once the depression is dry, the sand grains blow away deepening the pothole.

Larger potholes are very important in sustaining all kinds of life – including some of the Southwest’s human population. These potholes not only provide a

cool drink of water, but furnish many desert dwellers with the necessary elements for survival.

Among the pothole inhabitants such as tadpoles, frogs, toads, and micro-organisms, are amazing little creatures called fairy shrimp. According to the National Park Service, adult fairy shrimp have compound eyes, two sets of antennae, and 11 pairs of leaf-like swimming legs. The legs help them swim and collect

their favorite morsels of food such as bacteria, algae, and protozoa,

You would think a population of fairy shrimp would be toasted to extinction after the pothole dries up during a hot summer. Yet, they can



ID 02730584 © John Anderson | Dreamstime.com

tolerate high temperatures for hours. In fact, their eggs can lie dormant for at least 25 years withstanding extreme dryness, high temperatures, and freezing cold. Their unique survival abilities were studied by NASA who discovered the eggs can even withstand the vacuum conditions of space! In spite of these adverse desert conditions, including being blown great distances, the eggs can quickly hatch when watery conditions return.

As God preserves humans in His love, He also preserves these tiny shrimp He created. **AOI**



ID 118697745 © Martin Pelanek | Dreamstime.com

Colorado National Monument Tour App

by Mark Sonmor

Colorado! Think mountains, yes, but also gorgeous red-rock, canyons, monoliths, and stunning views – like the Colorado National Monument. From the rim you can see pre-Flood, basement rock and ensuing Flood layers that extend from the canyon floor to the lava-capped sediments of Grand Mesa. Where else can you stand on a cliff with birds flying below and see so much evidence that brings Creation and the Flood into reality?

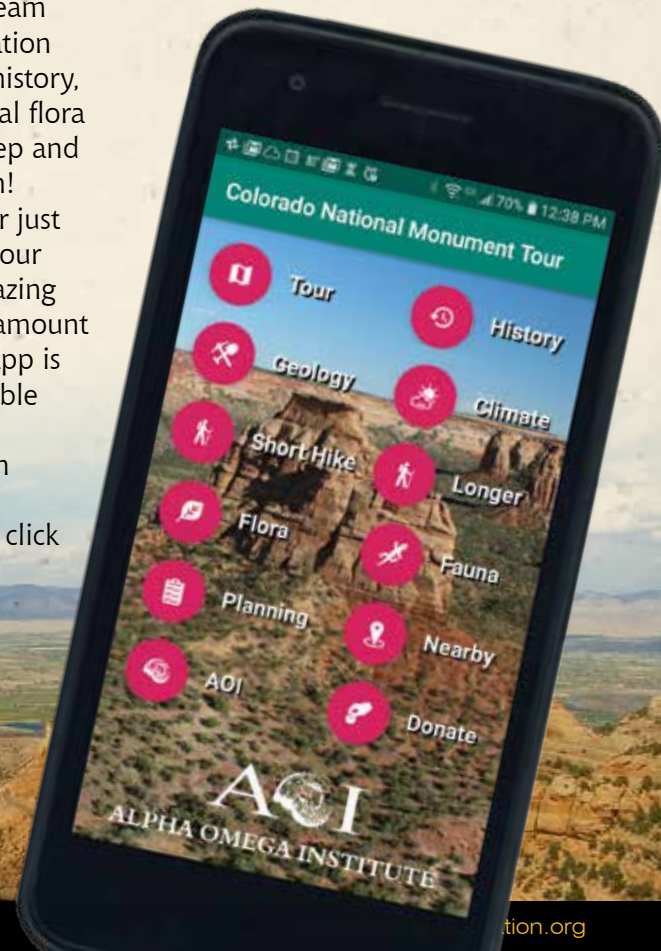
As a local, I’ve driven over the monument countless times. Yet, by using this app, I saw and learned all

**New
from
AOI!**

kinds of new things – not just creation-based responses to standard, mainstream geology, but information regarding hikes, area history, and design features of local flora and fauna – like bighorn sheep and yucca plants. It was really fun!

Whether going in person or just taking the virtual tour from your armchair, you’ll see truly amazing views and gain an immense amount of creation knowledge. The app is also keyed to GPS. It is available from www.DiscoverCreation.org/CNM-App/ for a donation of any amount. Once you’ve downloaded the app, simply click

the donate button. Remember, your gifts help fund the ministry of AOI along with development of future apps. **AOI**



Yo-Yo Seas and CO's National Monument

by Dave Nutting

At the base of the Colorado National Monument lie extensive amounts of Black Canyon gneiss and schist (G&S) along with granite. We are taught that these types of rock were formed over vast periods of time when layers of limestone or shale were deeply buried beneath thousands of feet of other sedimentary layers. The additional weight of this accumulating sediment pushed the limestone/shale layers deep into the earth where they were thoroughly cooked and metamorphosed (changed) into the gneiss and schist. Some books say that gneiss was actually formed from the schist after undergoing further heat and pressure.



Considering the great depth at which this transformation took place, why would there still be a clear distinction between the gneiss and schist? Since both members would have been subjected to the same "oven" temperature, pressure, and time frame, one would expect them to be mixed together into one unit. Remember, this is theory. No one saw it form.

To provide the prodigious amounts of sediment required for the formation of the G&S, mainstream geologists

have proposed that an ancient mountain range was eroded away depositing particles into a prehistoric ocean. During this period of heat

transformation, our sea would be at the top of its "yo-yo" string. Once the metamorphosis

was complete, forces in the earth supposedly pushed the miles-deep sediments thousands of feet up resulting in a new mountain range anchored by the G&S. The mountain is

now up and the sea has yo-yoed down. But wait!

This new mountain has to yo-yo back down and the sea has to yo-yo back up to fit an observation: The G&S are heavily



eroded with small peaks and valleys. Therefore, according to this "standard" model, all the miles of sedimentary layers which made up much of the new mountain, had to be eroded away in order to expose the G&S.

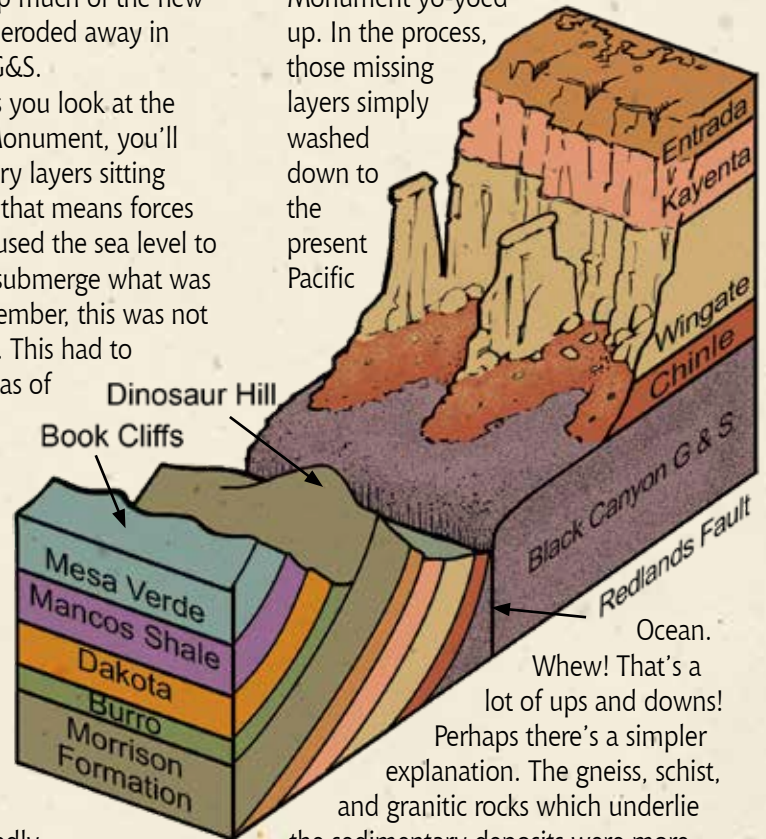
Today, however, as you look at the Colorado National Monument, you'll see lots of sedimentary layers sitting above the G&S. Yep, that means forces in the earth again caused the sea level to yo-yo back up to re-submerge what was left of the G&S. Remember, this was not a local phenomenon. This had to happen over vast areas of the continent and be linked to planet-wide shifts and displacements. The new sedimentary layers, comprising what we see today, would then form as the water level continued yo-yoing up and down.

The Chinle muds, for example, supposedly accumulated under partly up-
yo-yo waters but the sea level had to yo-yo

back down to allow for the "wind-blown" sands of the Wingate sandstone to be deposited on top. It then yo-yoed back up so that the water-deposited Kayenta caprock could be formed. To allow the "wind-blown" sand of the Entrada Sandstone to accumulate, the sea

had to yo-yo down and then back up again to saturate the sand into sandstone. Theorists propose that the sea continued yo-yoing in a similar fashion to form more layers – some of which are still visible across the valley.

So, why are those layers missing from the monument? You guessed it. The sea yo-yoed back down and the entire mountain region encompassing the Monument yo-yoed up. In the process, those missing layers simply washed down to the present Pacific



Whew! That's a lot of ups and downs! Perhaps there's a simpler explanation. The gneiss, schist, and granitic rocks which underlie the sedimentary deposits were more likely part of the original creation-week, "cake-batter" rocks. At the onset of the Flood, water planed off that original rock and deposited mud and sand layers above it. Then, it was bent, twisted, compressed, and altered due to major tectonic activity toward the end of the Flood. The yo-yo seas that are invoked to explain massive "wind-deposited" sandstone are not necessary since instead, the sandstones appear to have been deposited under water. (See: www.discovercreation.org/blog/2020/05/06/cross-bedded-sandstones-windblown-or-water-carried/). Millions of years are not necessary, just Creation and the Flood. **AOI**

Director's Column by Dave Nutting



We have taken advantage of the down time (provided by COVID) to accomplish these exciting projects:

- An amazing **Colorado National Monument Tour App**. (See pg. 2.)
- A **virtual field trip** of the southwest canyon country
- Zoom **creation training classes** (via translator) to a group in Costa Rica
- **Creation: The Foundation of Freedom** (June 30-July 2). This live 3-session event can be seen at www.DiscoverCreation.org/ForFreedom

• **Virtual 5-Part Creation Challenge Conference** – first aired live in June for a local church – to be repeated July 13-17. [Go to www.DiscoverCreation.org/Conference](http://www.DiscoverCreation.org/Conference) to see the entire series. This includes an interview with pioneer missionary Jon Lutes whom we met while ministering to an “underground” church in Hungary. From there, we ministered alongside Jon and his family at creation seminars in Mongolia, Egypt, and Malta. He says AOI’s creation message was foundational to his pioneering ministry.

See the schedule for future online events and please pray for eternal fruit as we greatly expand the outreach of AOI through virtual conferences.

Sign up for these future online events:

Email: Training@DiscoverCreation.org for more information.

Prepping for the World (Mini Worldview Training Session) August (TBA) You don’t want to miss this!

Creation and Worldview Adventure Classes

- For ages 13-20
- Every Friday starting Sept. 11
10-12AM: Worldview
1-3PM: Creation

Discover Creation Club

- New topic every Thursday
- 6-8PM starting Sept. 10
(In person and online)

Wow! We are gratefully humbled that many of you are standing alongside us at AOI so we can continue ministering the Gospel through the Creation message. In these very uncertain times, that is absolutely HUGE! God bless you and thank you very much!

Follow Us:

Discover Creation Training Adventure

Go beyond the classroom in this unique training opportunity (online or in person).

- Exciting Field Trips
- Outreach Ministry
- Bible & History
- Creation Science
- Worldview and Apologetics

Yellowstone Tour Aug. 28-Sep. 1, 2020

Last Call!

Creation seminar & bus tour of Yellowstone. Great for the entire family! Call AOI for info.

For more info visit: www.discovercreation.org/camps-tours/



Be equipped to impact your world! Call AOI or visit us on the web.



Alpha Omega Institute • PO Box 4343 • 1011 N. 10th • Grand Junction, CO • 81502 • (970) 523-9943 • www.DiscoverCreation.org
Think and Believe is published by Alpha Omega Institute, a tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Editors: Dave & Mary Jo Nutting. Single copies are free upon request. Please write for permission to reprint material in this publication. Your donations are much needed and appreciated. © Alpha Omega Institute 2020

