

Think Believe

Discover Creation...Worship the Creator

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Cool Kids

by Mark Sonmor with Mary Jo Nutting

Whether sitting together in the cafeteria or sharing a cigarette in the parking lot, there always seem to be groups of students that rule their school by being more beautiful, more powerful, or more intimidating than the rest. If you were a middle-school “band geek” like me, you just went with the flow and tried to stay out of the line of fire.

By tearing down those around them, the cool kids were seeking to elevate themselves. Those who obeyed the rules were deemed weak. Yet, were the cool kids establishing new rules in their place? No. Their power was an illusion built on fear and destruction. It is part of a larger struggle that has been going on between the kingdoms of light and darkness throughout history.

In movies like Star Wars, laden with themes of eastern mysticism, good and evil are presented as two equal but opposing forces. Both are seen as necessary to achieve balance and ultimately, oneness with the universe – a state of general nothingness absent of all desire. Because of this conditioning, it’s easy for Christians to view the kingdoms of light and darkness as similar, but opposing entities. Each has a leader; each has a hierarchy; and each has an agenda.

In its truest terms, however, the kingdom of darkness is absent of light. It’s not built on substance

but rather destruction of that substance. God is the one who set up His ways, His laws, and His kingdom in the universe. God is the one who created love, truth, trust, – all those things we need for healthy relationships. He created the world and made man in His own image – with desire!

Seeking to eliminate desire as a path to

peace may sound appealing, but in the end, it destroys our humanness. We were created to desire God and to glorify Him. It’s no wonder we see the institutions that God has established to protect and foster these concepts being attacked.

Jesus said Satan came to steal, kill and destroy (John 10:10) – that he was a murderer from the beginning and is a liar and the father of lies (John 8:44). God alone can truly “create.” Everything else is a counterfeit or a perversion of what He has made.

Think about it: What is hate but the absence of love? What is fear but the absence of peace? What is grief but the absence of joy? The Kingdom of

Darkness is characterized by doubt, fear, anxiety,

unbelief, pride, shame, bitterness, unforgiveness, intimidation, manipulation, and control. God’s Kingdom, the Kingdom of Light, is all about faith, hope, love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, goodness, forgiveness, respect, and acceptance. The Kingdom of Darkness

glorifies deception, lies, immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, enmity, strife, and anger –

all those things that end in futility and death. The Kingdom of Light exalts what is true, honorable, right, pure, lovely, excellent, praiseworthy, and good.

“The light shineth in the darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.” (John 1:5). The word translated as “comprehended” in the KJV comes from a word meaning to “take eagerly, i.e. seize or possess.” Darkness may fight against the light, but it will never possess or dispel it. Truth and light dispel darkness just as even a single candle can light and warm a dark room.

While we can be encouraged that the kingdom of light is about substance and truth, Jesus didn’t stop there. He said, “Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven.” Regardless of the intimidation, no one can stop us from caring – even for bullies. In fact, all who walk in the light can claim this promise: “The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?” (Hebrews 13:6) **AOI**

“God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.” 1 John 1:5



Wiley Coyote by Dave Nutting

Cartoon viewers have enjoyed the antics of Wile E. Coyote and his misguided attempts to catch the even wiler Road Runner. Unlike the cartoon, however, coyotes are cunning and fast. They can run up to 40 mph allowing them to catch jackrabbits (one of their most common food sources) and yes, even unwary roadrunners! They also eat deer, rodents, birds, and surprisingly, a variety of plants.

We can note from this, that big teeth do not tell us what the originally created coyotes ate before the Fall in the Garden of Eden. Since there was no animal



death until then, they probably would have eaten plants as they sometimes do today. However, the Fall of Adam and Eve, as recorded in the Bible, changed everything resulting in a coyote-chase-roadrunner world.

Coyotes are frequently mistaken as wolves because of their size. They can grow up to 4 feet long (including their tail) and 2 feet high. According to Wikipedia, the largest coyote on record was just under 5 feet long and weighed about 75 pounds. Of the large predators found in the southwest United States, these members of the dog “kind” are the most commonly seen. They likely will

not attack an adult human but parents should not leave smaller children unattended. It is, of course, more likely for children to fall off a rock – another reason to maintain your vigilance. While coyotes are known to sneak up and attack a dog on a leash, they will also entice a dog to chase them, leading it into a trap – a pack of several coyotes.

Coyotes and common dogs do interbreed (coydogs) indicating how closely they are related. We could expect to trace their ancestry back to the original dog kind(s) which spread out from the ark after Noah’s Flood. **AOI**

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?

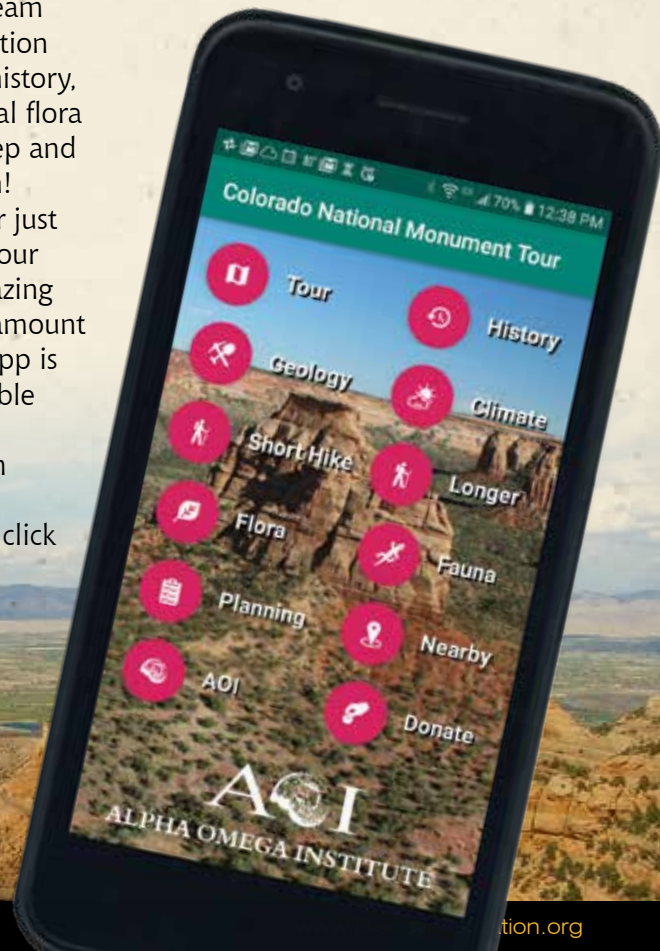
As a local, I’ve driven over the monument countless times. Yet, by using this app, I saw and learned all

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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**



Nutting's "Hula" Model

by Dave Nutting

How do you get broad expanses of rock layers consisting of various-sized particles and/or a multitude of repeated and distinct color bands?

I was taught in geology classes that "red beds" found in sequences of rock layers involved sand or mud being submersed in iron-rich water and cemented into rock over millions of years. However, I saw a problem with that model. "Red beds" are frequently found on top of "clear-beds" with no transition whatsoever. Frequently, sequences of red beds, yellow beds, and clear beds alternate back and forth like ribbon candy. If ocean water stood on top of these sand layers for even short periods of time, the chemical-rich water would soak down into the layers below. This would result in a gradation or mixture of colors – not the knife-edge switch we observe.

How can we explain these switches? Let's apply a Hula dancer's arm motion to the formation of alternating color bands of various rock layers. Yes, it's a stretch, but play along. Her arms swaying back and forth represent various water currents in a Flood scenario. Since our Hula dancer has only two arms, we deal here with only two major currents. Her waving hands represent sediment particles being deposited.

In geology, we learn that fast currents deposit larger particles while slow currents can only carry and deposit smaller ones. If

the dancer's left arm is the slow current, only small particles will be deposited when the left arm is above her feet. If her right arm is a fast current, then larger particles will be deposited in that position. Since currents don't suddenly go from slow to fast, as the "current arms" sway from right to left, a sequence of layers with larger particles on the bottom and smaller-grained particles on the top would result.

In geology, this sequence would be called a normally graded bedding deposit. However, when the "current arms" sway from the left to the right, the layers formed between the dancer's feet would be grading from smaller particles on the bottom, to larger ones on top. In geology, this is called a reverse-graded bedding deposit. This type of deposit is frequently seen but difficult to explain by standard geology models. Many uniformitarians have resorted to invoking catastrophic explanations such as broad, undersea landslides called "turbidity" flows.

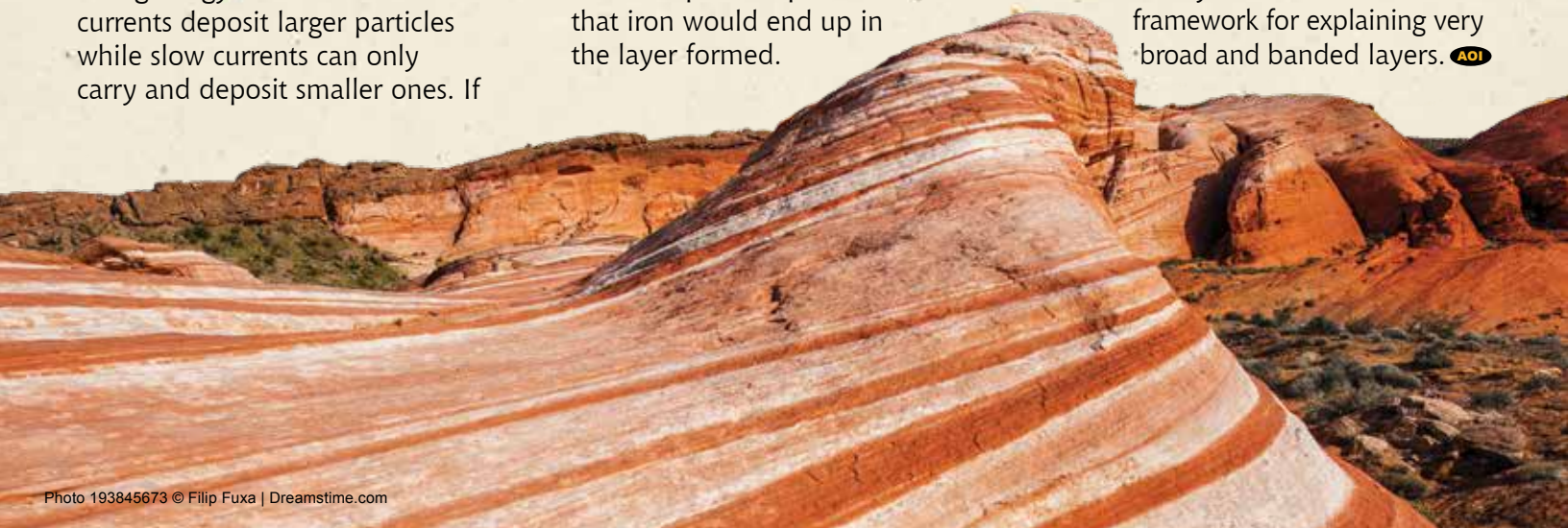
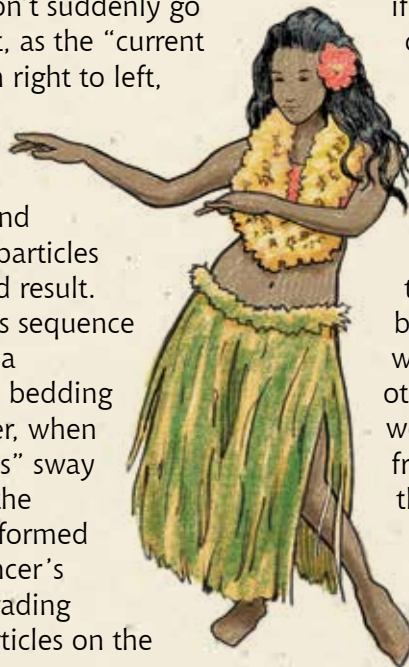
Now, if the "left-arm current" happened to pass over an undersea vent and picked up a lot of iron, that iron would end up in the layer formed.

When the layer hardened and was later exposed to the atmosphere, the iron on the exposed surface would rust to a reddish color producing what we call today, a red bed. Elements introduced into the currents from other vents would give more variations of colored layers. However,

if the right-arm current came through a different area with no vents, no additional elements would mix with the sediment. Hence, a clear layer would be deposited. So, as the dancer's arms wave back and forth, red beds would alternate with other colored layers as well as "clear" layers. As is frequently observed today, these "Hula" layers, when hardened and exposed to the atmosphere, would exhibit fairly distinct bands with very little mixing.

While this "Hula" model is literally an "arm-waving," unproven explanation, it could help us visualize the formation of various rock layers that the standard, millions-of-years models do not adequately address.

So, the next time you see a Hula dancer, think "rock layers!" When you see rock layers of petrified mud, think Flood! The Flood, with its many currents, is a viable framework for explaining very broad and banded layers. **AOI**




Director's Column by Dave Nutting



CCOVID has certainly caused many people to become creative in their approach to ministry. It has also opened opportunities that were not present before. One such opportunity is to expand our teaching to the country of Costa Rica. It appears that Costa Rica was hit even harder with COVID than the United States and there have been even greater restrictions – including early curfews.

So, even though we, and other North Americans, are not allowed to travel into Costa Rica, we were asked to train a group of nationals in Biblical Creation. We were also asked

to further train them in how to teach it in their own country. This first group can effectively handle English so we'll be able get a grasp on their level of knowledge. The goal then, will be to have this group begin to teach creation to others in churches or in whatever settings they can. After they gain more proficiency and have had broader creation teaching experience, those who show good promise can begin to train others to further reach out into Costa Rica and in Central and South America.

As you read this, these classes are currently underway! Since Costa Rica is at the crossroads of the Spanish-speaking Americas, please pray that this series of Zoom classes will reap huge amounts of fruit for eternity! 

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Donations are needed and appreciated. Thanks to all of you who have continued with your donations through these uncertain COVID times.

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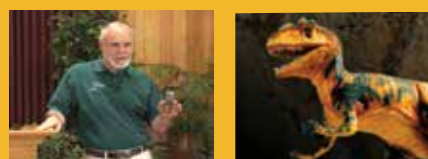
Interested?

Let us know. (Dates TBA)

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- **Discover Creation Club**
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Email Bmariani@DiscoverCreation.org for more info.
- **The Discover Creation Virtual Seminar** Each program can be sent as a link to friends and family! See www.DiscoverCreation.org/Conference.



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