

Think Believe

Discover Creation...Worship the Creator

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The Noble Prairie Dog

by Mark Sonmor

Pulling onto the construction site, I saw floundering toward my truck, a tiny, blind, ball of fur. Scooping it into my hand, I realized it was a prairie dog pup! Looking around, I found his sister and then a brother striving to reunite with their mother – a victim to an excavator or one of the hazards of development. With the roofers laughing derisively, I put the pups in the truck and committed the next ten weeks to being a prairie dog mother.



Initially, this meant feeding them through a syringe every three hours. However, they grew fast and were soon eating solid food in their outdoor pen. By the time of their release, I had gained a profound respect and admiration for these noble and resolute critters.

Some researchers indicate prairie dogs have one of the most advanced languages in the animal kingdom. For example, not only can they warn each other that a man is approaching, but that he is tall and wearing the color blue.¹

Their elaborate tunnel system is specially designed with ventilation, escape hatches, waste management, and even birthing centers. These tunnels also provide homes for other animals such as burrowing owls and black-footed ferrets. Predators like raptors, snakes, and coyotes depend on prairie dogs as a primary food source. Because of this, prairie dogs are considered a keystone species – vital to the survival of their ecosystem.

Yet, because their burrows can cause injury to cattle, they are constantly at odds with ranchers. This, coupled with land development, has reduced their original habitat by 95%. On top of that, many colonies have been decimated by sylvatic plagues.

The life of a prairie dog is not easy. Many eke out an existence in marginal areas – land near dangerous roadways, with minimal food and water. Thankfully, God has equipped them with great tolerance for drought receiving most of their hydration from plants. One study showed prairie dogs could survive quite well with no food and water for up to 6 weeks.² In addition, they can hibernate seemingly at will, allowing them to weather extreme and unpredictable conditions.

In Hebrews 11, the writer describes a similar plight faced by faithful saints throughout history: “They wandered about... being destitute, afflicted, tormented – of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens, and caves of the earth.”

The world is a tough place to live where suffering can come in a variety of ways. Yet, we can find assurance

knowing that God is with us, that He promises eternal rewards, and can even use something He hates to accomplish something He loves.

Fifty-three years ago, a diving accident left Joni Erikson Tada a quadriplegic. Since then, she has battled two rounds of breast cancer and continues to deal with chronic pain. In her powerful podcast (joniandfriends.org/perserverance-in-suffering/), she candidly admits that she was tempted at times to let the cancer take its course and be free from her situation. However, she chooses to remain faithful knowing God has given her the task of being a light to a cynical world that doesn't understand how she can still love Him in spite of her circumstances.

As Easter approaches, we can rejoice in Christ's satisfactory payment for our sins. Yet, **His** resurrection is also the firstfruit of **our** resurrection. Romans 8 indicates that all creation groans (even prairie dogs), eagerly waiting for the glory that will be revealed in us when he comes to righteously rule upon the earth. In 1 Cor. 15, the apostle Paul describes that day as a great exchange where what is corruptible will be made incorruptible, spiritual, and heavenly. While this remains a mystery, we can persevere in hope, looking forward to the day when death and decay will be swallowed up in eternal, victorious life. **AOI**



¹<https://www.worldwildlife.org/stories/8-surprising-prairie-dog-facts>

²<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0300962979906212?via%3DIhuh>

³<https://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/abs/10.1086/502816w>

Jesus Never Existed??!! *by Dave Nutting*

After several university students told me “there is no historical record that Jesus ever existed,” I suspected they were all students of a particular professor or were all being directed to the same anti-Christian websites. At one university, both of my suspicions were true. At another university, more students began telling me the same thing. As it turns out, several websites are currently making claims that the entire account of Jesus, Mary, and the 12 disciples was fabricated in what they called “pious deception.” One “proof” they offered was that there was no town of Nazareth during the time frame that Jesus “supposedly” lived – it came 400 years later.

In 2009, the Israeli Antiquities Authority announced a discovery of an ancient house below the

walls of a church built on the site traditionally considered to be the location where Jesus grew up. The excavation cannot prove that it was Jesus’s house. However, based on the type of pottery found, they can ascertain it was occupied by a Jewish family. Excavations have also substantiated there were houses in the right location and in the right time frame that likely correspond to the Biblical village called “Nazareth.” <https://www.cnn.com/2009/WORLD/meast/12/21/nazareth.home/index.html>

Historical evidence? I like to tell students that there is more historical documentation for Jesus’s existence than there is for the professor telling them that Jesus didn’t exist. The Jewish Talmud as well as Great historians like Josephus and even anti-Christian Tacitus, all substantiate a historical Jesus.

When I read the atheist websites, I am grieved to see totally false claims presented as “fact.” Unless they’re presented with the truth, unsuspecting youth can get drawn in, resulting in their loss of faith. Please pass along this article to those you know. **AOI**



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Photo 206161783 © Dudlajzov | Dreamstime.com

Patterns of Evidence

Review by Brian Mariani

Hold onto your hats! After watching these videos, you’ll be blown away by the tremendous archaeological evidence for the Exodus, Moses, and the Red Sea Crossing. It is clear that some people, including many secular scholars, are trying to cast doubt on the historical accuracy of the Bible and discredit its account. However, an honest and full look at the evidence presented within these DVDs, confirms over and over again the Truth of God and His work throughout history. These DVDs

share tremendous evidence from actual archaeological dig sites to show that the Bible is a reliable source and is historically accurate!

We’ve been highly recommending the first DVD in the series, **Patterns of Evidence: The Exodus** which counters secular claims that the Exodus didn’t happen. Now, 3 more are available. **The Red Sea Miracle (parts 1 and 2)** show evidence for the crossing site and for the parting of the waters. **The Moses**

Controversy documents evidence that Moses, indeed, penned the first 5 books of the Bible. These videos are available from AOI for **\$20** each or all 4 for **\$60**. Remember, your purchase helps fund the ongoing ministry of AOI. **AOI**



Yellowstone and Glaciation

by Dave Nutting

The issue of melting glaciers, climate change etc., has certainly been heating up again. After this winter, however, I am sure some folks in the Northeast have begun to question the claims of “global warming” and are wondering if they’re back in the ice age. I don’t want to give this issue the cold shoulder, but what we know about glaciation, fits nicely within the model of a global flood, a “recent” ice age, and more specifically, with evidence found at Yellowstone National Park.

Ancient-earth geologists claim that several widespread glacial “epochs” and subsequent meltings punctuated earth’s geologic past.¹ According to their view, a “Snowball Earth” glaciation occurred long before the “age of dinosaurs,” during what they call the Cryogenian Period (cryo is Latin for icy cold). They suggest that the entire planet, including the equator, was frozen and that even the oceans had ice up to 1 km (.62 miles) thick. It is important to note that traditional evidence normally given for “ancient ice ages,” especially major rock transport, are easily explained by events during Noah’s Flood. Also, note that according to their model, mankind could not have caused the climate to change in order to melt all that ice! [If you want “the other side of the “climate change” story,” see <https://cornwallalliance.org> .]

How did the Flood impact glaciation? Elevated ocean temperatures, due to undersea volcanism during the Flood, coupled with post-Flood volcanism, would have made ideal climatic conditions for glaciation. According to meteorologist,

Dr. Michael Oard, the total time needed for the advance and retreat of an “ice age” is not tens of thousands of years, but as little as 500 years. For more information on this, see: discovercreation.org/documents/JanandFeb1995.pdf

In Yellowstone National Park, there were several supposed “glacial periods.” However, these could very well be various advances of a single “ice age.”

According to NPS.gov, the latest “Pinedale” glacial advance covered much of the Yellowstone region to a depth of 4,000 feet. Evidence of that glaciation is found in many places throughout the park.

Erratic boulders: The most noticeable evidence of glaciation is the presence of “erratic boulders.” These are large rocks plucked up elsewhere and transported for many miles within glacial ice. After the glaciers melted, these boulders were deposited across the landscape.

As you travel to different parts of the country, keep in mind that not all erratic boulders are carried by glaciers. Some, such as those spread from Montana to the Pacific Ocean, were deposited by a huge flood that occurred when ancient lake Missoula breached its dam sending a wall of water hundreds of feet deep down stream. [See: <https://www.discovercreation.org/documents/>

NovandDec1989.pdf) Based on this regional event, you can imagine the huge amount of boulders strewn over the globe by the Flood waters in Noah’s day.

Kettles: Glacial “kettles” are also found in Yellowstone. These were once chunks of glacier ice that were buried by subsequent glacial-related deposits. When the ice melted, it left a cavity which later collapsed. Water now fills many of those holes resulting in picturesque ponds and lakes such as those found in the Lamar valley.

Glacial Moraines:

If you watch a large bulldozer pushing material ahead of it, you can identify the pile pushed in front and the long row of debris pushed off to the sides. Glaciers advancing forward (due to their sheer mass) act the same way. When the “glacial

bulldozers” finally melted, they left behind a pile in front called a terminal moraine. The side rows are called lateral moraines. In addition to depositing debris, the ice gouged out huge depressions resulting in the beautiful lakes on the east side of the Grand Tetons, immediately south of Yellowstone.

You can see these marvelous features of Yellowstone, including a huge number of amazingly beautiful hot springs, pools, geysers, and wildlife on our very popular Yellowstone tour. **Join us this year** and learn a lot more! (August 27-31 or September 3 -7, 2021). **AGI**

¹<https://opentextbc.ca/geology/chapter/16-1-glacial-periods-in-earths-history/>



Photo: NPS/Diane Renkin <https://www.nps.gov/yell/learn/nature/glaciers.htm>

Director's Column

by Dave Nutting



In the children's page of this issue, Lanny and Marilyn Johnson have written a condensed Gospel message for you to share with your kids and grandkids.

Over the years, Lanny and Marilyn have had a real heart for children and have seen several hundreds of children come to the Lord through their creation and Gospel teaching at churches, camps, schools, and VBSs all over the United States and in other countries. Many others have been strengthened in their faith. Some have expressed that it was one of Lanny and Marilyn's children's programs that gave them a firm creation foundation and helped them remain strong in

their faith throughout their youth and college years. Lanny responded to Christ in a VBS when he was nine. His mother thought he would be the next Billy Graham due to his fervor to tell others about Christ. However, evolutionary teaching snared him. As he relates, he then threw out God and his Bible, professing atheism for 20 years.

But then, Lanny heard Mary Jo's lecture which included the design features of the woodpecker and asked himself how he, as an atheist, could explain that. After considerable study, Lanny fully came to Christ. Now, with renewed fervor to protect children from falling into the same evolutionary trap, he, along with Marilyn, have certainly become "Billy Graham" to many children! **AOI**

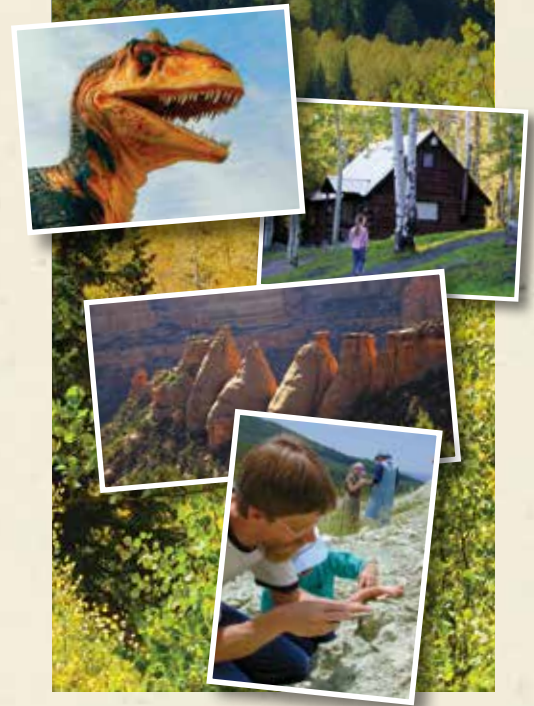
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