

Think Believe

Discover Creation...Worship the Creator

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Pentecost, Shavuot, and the Spirit of God

by Mary Jo Nutting

Most Christians can tell you the meanings of Christmas and Easter. Some can even tell you about Passover. However, most are not familiar with Shavuot – even though it is an important feast date instituted by God. Shavuot (known by Christians as “Pentecost”) is celebrated 50 days after the end of Passover. This year, according to the Jewish calendar, Shavuot begins on May 16 at sunset, while Pentecost is celebrated on May 23. This variance is due to differences between the Jewish calendar and the Gregorian calendar commonly used today. In the year of our Lord’s death and resurrection, Shavuot and Pentecost would have been one and the same.

Traditionally, Jewish people celebrate Shavuot in remembrance of the giving of the Torah (the teaching, law, and precepts that make up the first five books of the Bible) at Mount Sinai. Pentecost is celebrated by Christians in remembrance of the giving of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2). Interestingly, the two are remarkably related.

The Torah included the Ten Commandments, written on tablets of stone, along with the rest of the revelation given by God to Moses. Jewish tradition says that when the Torah was given, there was a mighty wind; tongues of fire rested on the people, and the Torah was given in

multiple languages. We read of these same phenomena associated with the giving of the Holy Spirit on the day of Shavuot in Acts 2 – a mighty rushing wind, tongues of fire, and the preaching of the Word in different languages. (Acts 2:1-4)

Jesus spoke much about both the Torah and the Holy Spirit. Jesus is called the living Word – the Word that became flesh and dwelt among us. (John 1:14) He, Himself, experienced the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove after His baptism by John the Baptist. (John 1:32-34). Throughout His earthly life, Jesus also relied on the Spirit to work miracles and cast out demons. He also referred to Him as the Comforter, Teacher, Helper, Promise of the Father, and Power from on High.

Before His ascension into heaven Jesus commissioned His disciples, as witnesses of His death and resurrection, instructing them to go forth and preach “repentance and remission of sins” in His name to all nations. (Luke 24:46-48) However, knowing their need for empowering by the Spirit, He instructed them to wait in Jerusalem until they were “baptized with the Holy Spirit”

(Acts 1:5, NKJV) and “endued with power from on high” (Luke 24:47-49). This happened on Shavuot (Pentecost) 10 days after Jesus returned to heaven – and their lives were miraculously changed! They went from being a small band of frightened, discouraged disciples to a powerful, courageous force boldly sharing the Gospel message from Jerusalem and Judea, to Samaria and across the known world.

This same Spirit that indwelt and empowered Jesus and the disciples, has been active in the world since the beginning of creation. In the first verse of Genesis, we read about the creation of time (“in the beginning”), space (heavens), and matter (earth). Then, still on the first day of Creation week, we see that the Spirit “moved upon the face of the waters,” energizing and organizing the “stuff” of creation.

The same Spirit who “moved upon the face of the waters in creation,” spoke through the prophets of old, worked miracles through Messiah Jesus, raised Him from the dead, empowered His disciples, and inspired the Holy Scriptures. He is still active today convicting the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment – calling all to repentance – and faithfully teaching, guiding, comforting, energizing, and empowering His followers to be His witnesses to the end. May we be faithful to this Holy calling – sharing the “Good News” with all who will listen knowing that He will be with us to the end. Hallelujah! **AOI**



Zoom Classes by Dave Nutting

Mary Jo and I recently completed two major online Zoom classes for Spanish-speaking groups. Although most participants were from various parts of Costa Rica, we also had participants from Mexico, El Salvador, Honduras, Brazil, Bolivia, Ecuador, Argentina, and even Seattle, Washington! The first seminar was a 12-week-and-beyond class for bilingual (Spanish/English) students who wish to teach the material in their Spanish communities. The second was a multi-week, introductory seminar which included Spanish interpretation by our Costa Rican friends.

The first is from someone who had a very well-articulated question/comment asking for our input. After Mary Jo gave a lengthy response (translated both ways by our Costa Rican team), he wrote:

“Amazing response, Mrs. Nutting. Thanks a lot! I learned a lot from it, and from this course.”

The participants were highly appreciative as you can see from some of the comments below (translated via Google Translate):

“Thank you very much for the time and for the teachings that you have been giving us ... every Monday.”

“Thank you very much for this teaching and now that I continue to miss these moments of learning.”

“How nice, thank you very much for everything you do, you are a great blessing. Hugs from a distance from Bolivia...We would like more information. We work with children in the provinces and also with people from prison.”

The last comment thrills us as we very much want these people from so many countries to take the information and share it in their own circles of influence.

Although COVID has hampered our ability to present live seminars, it has been a blessing in the sense that it has forced us to be creative and reach out via Zoom to people in many more areas than we could otherwise travel to. Although we still love doing live seminars, we plan to do both as the needs and opportunities arise in the future. **AOI**



Book Review: Just Released: “Flooded”

by Dave Nutting

Mary Jo and I really like this informative, beautifully illustrated book. It answers many questions we get from students and adults at seminars. Keep in mind that many people have rejected the Bible because they think, or have been told, that the account of the Flood in Genesis 6-8 has no basis in reality. The opposite is true. This book includes sections on:

- Solid scientific and historical evidence for the Flood
- Formation of the Grand Canyon
- Where the water went after the Flood

- Dinosaurs
- Plate tectonics (continental drift) and Pangaea
- Biblical giants
- The Ice Age
- The fossil record and the Flood
- Meteorites
- Stone age “cavemen”
- The age of the earth.
- Much, much more!

All of this is based in a Biblical context as well as solid science. I highly endorse this book. It would make a great summer study for the whole family. (200 pages, 8.75” x 11.25”)
\$20 + \$5 shipping/handling **AOI**



Rapid Petrification of Wood

by Dave Nutting

Petrified wood is highly prized for its beauty as well as its scientific significance. It is derived from normal wood that has turned into solid rock. AOI staff members are frequently asked: "Just how did that wood get turned into stone?"

No, it did not get scared or "petrified" with fright! The most common scenario is for a tree or a branch to get buried in an area that has a lot of ground water laden with minerals. The ground water saturates the wood and the organic material is replaced with these minerals resulting in petrification.

Sometimes this process preserves so much detail that one can actually count the tree rings. (Such as in the petrified pine at Ginkgo Petrified Forest, WA.)

One common mineral that petrifies wood is silicon dioxide. The macro (large) crystal form of it is called quartz. In its purest configuration, it forms clear, six-sided crystals which are prized by collectors. It also occurs in a micro-crystalline form which is called agate, chalcedony, or chert. Frequently, other elements mixed with the silicon dioxide can give the agate many of its gorgeous colors. Wood replaced by this solution produces the beautifully colored petrified wood found across the world.

How long does it take to petrify wood? Most museums and books tell us that it takes millions of years to do so. However, time is not the hero of the plot. Conditions are much more important.

Dr. Andrew Snelling gives several examples of wood petrified in extremely short periods of time.¹ He cites petrified fence posts with axe marks and drilled holes

with wire still attached. His article also references a 1983 US patent #4,612,050 for a petrification chemical formula. Various commercial operations have begun to produce petrified wood products including fence posts and beautiful petrified wood flooring that is petrified to various depths. There are obvious benefits for these petrified wood products. They

don't burn or decay and their extreme hardness dissuades horses from chewing on the treated fence posts!

Power line maintenance crews have reported rapid petrification of trees after being struck by lightning. Various reports made by individuals in different localities indicated their chain saws wouldn't cut the branches. Instead, they merely sparked and ruined their chains. Evidently, mineral-rich water in the trees instantly petrified them due to the combination of heat and pressure from the lightning.

Snelling also reported that natural conditions at Yellowstone National Park's famous hot springs have been shown to rapidly petrify wood to various degrees.¹ He also referenced experimental petrification research conducted by five Japanese scientists at the Tateyama Hot Spring in the Toyama Prefecture of central Japan.² Their

research showed that petrification by silicon dioxide replacement was occurring rapidly, with the actual rate of petrification (silicification) greatly increasing with time between the 1 and 7-year experimental time period. The researchers also noted similar petrification

environments throughout the volcanic deposits in their area. Personally, I find that interesting since much of the petrified

wood I have found has been in similar, silica-rich volcanic deposits and associated mud flows. These conditions are also responsible for the vast amounts of stone trees found in the volcanic deposits of the famous Petrified National Forest as well as those found in Yellowstone National Park.

Sometimes, when wood is buried under very hot volcanic ash, it can be totally burned out leaving a cavity in the cooled and hardened volcanic debris. When silica-rich groundwater fills the cavity, it can result in a "petrified cast" made of agate and even crystals. Note:

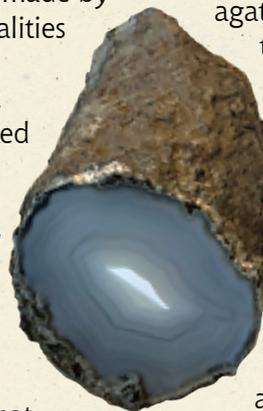
the agate rings are not tree rings in the sample. (Photos by Dave Nutting.)

The obvious conclusion is that millions of years are not necessary to petrify wood. Tens to hundreds of years are sufficient. Flood scenarios combined with volcanic activity can adequately explain

many of the massive deposits containing petrified wood found worldwide. **AOI**

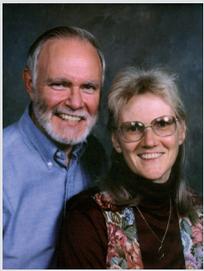
¹<https://creation.com/instant-petrified-wood>

²<https://www.icr.org/article/rapid-petrification-wood-unexpected-confirmation-c>



Director's Column

by Dave Nutting



Why Creation Vacations?

On this page and in the enclosed flier, you will see announcements for two of our

Creation Vacations. Why do we so frequently encourage our readers to come to one of these "Vacations with a Purpose"? Here are several reasons:

1. **Learn fascinating evidence** affirming the truth of Scripture.
2. Enjoy plenty of time to **get your questions answered**.

3. **Build family relationships** and lasting memories from shared fun and learning.

4. **Enjoy fellowship** and adventure with like-minded people.

5. **Fortify your family** to survive and thrive with their faith intact.

Join AOI staff this summer for one of our affordable camps or tours. Treat your family to an amazing experience while you soak in the truth of Creation and the Gospel. **AOI**

In this changing world, it is very important for us to communicate with you more regularly. Please send us your e-mail so we can keep you updated with our latest ministry developments. We will not spam you and we will not give out your information.

Yellowstone Creation Tour 2021

Affordable creation seminar & bus tour of Yellowstone. Great for the entire family! Aug. 27-31 and Sep. 3-7. Call AOI or visit: DiscoverCreation.org/camps-tours/yellowstone-national-park-creation-tour/



Hurry!
Filling
fast!

Only \$290 per person
(Includes food, lodging, tour!)

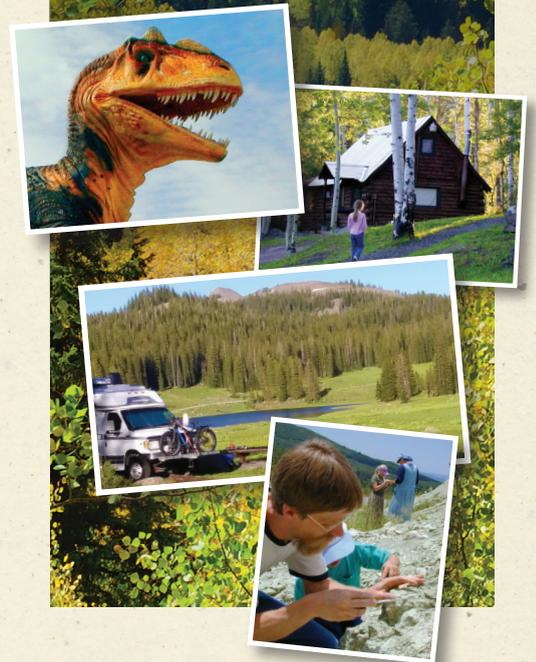
Twin Peaks Family Adventure on Colorado's Grand Mesa!

High-value creation mountain vacation for the budget-conscious family.

June 27 – July 2

Contact AOI or visit:

DiscoverCreation.org/camps-tours/family-camp-colorado/



Support AOI

You may have noticed we did not send out a spring funding letter. That doesn't mean your help is not needed. It certainly is! Please become an AOI Ministry Partner. Your partnership is needed and appreciated. (You can donate online at: www.discovercreation.org/donate – or by phone or mail.)



Check out our posts on FaceBook, Twitter, YouTube, and DiscoverCreation.org.



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