

Think Believe

Discover Creation...Worship the Creator



A Publication of Alpha Omega Institute

March/April, 2022; Vol. 40, No.2

What's in a Name?

by Dave and Mary Jo Nutting

Do you know the meaning of your name? Maybe you're named after a family relative, a famous person, or a Biblical character. Maybe your parents just liked the sound of it – or maybe your name was prophetically revealed by God. No matter how you got your name, you are precious in God's sight and He knows your name.

From the beginning, we find that names have significance. The word "man" (adam) is related to "earth" (Hebrew Adamah),¹ highlighting mankind's origin "from the dust of the ground" (Gen. 2:7). In Gen. 1:27, "Adam" denotes mankind in general (both male and female), but in Gen. 2:19, we see it used as the proper name of the first man created by God.

We find that God tells Adam to name the animals (Gen. 2:19) and later Adam names his wife, highlighting her origin: "she shall be called Woman (a general name), because she was taken out of Man." (Gen. 2:23). Later, he gives her a more personal name, Eve ("Living"), "because she was the mother of all living." (Gen 3:20).

In Genesis 5, we read about Methuselah, the oldest man in the Bible. His name means, "When he dies, judgment." Interestingly, he died the year of the Flood! His grandson, Noah's name means, "rest." Noah entered the "rest" of the ark and was saved from the watery judgment.¹

Sometimes God changes a person's name to highlight a change in identity. Abram ("high father") was changed to Abraham ("father of a multitude") after demonstrating his faith and obedience to God, even to the point of sacrificing his only son, Isaac. Sarai's name (a head person of any rank) was changed to Sarah (noble, princess, queen) and later Jacob's ("heel-catcher, supplanter) was changed to "Israel" ("he will rule as God").

Probably the most significant example of the importance of a name is found in Matthew 1:21 where an angel of the LORD appeared to Joseph and told him: "And she [Mary] shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS (from a word related to salvation): "for he shall save his people from their sins." This was to fulfill the prophecy, "Behold a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us." What a blessed promise! Jesus, Savior, God with us!

This Jesus, Son of God and son of man, lived a sinless life and became

obedient unto death. "Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name Jesus every knee should bow ... and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ [Messiah, Anointed One] is Lord, to the glory of God the Father!" (Phil 2: 9-11). Amen and Amen! He is worthy! His Name is above every Name.

So, what about *your* name? Psalm 139 says we are "fearfully and wonderfully made." (vs 14). We have been individually designed and created by God. We are known by God and are precious in His sight. In Isaiah 43:1 God says, "Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by name; thou art mine." Yes, the promise was originally

given to the people of Israel, but in Jesus, we Gentiles too have been redeemed, made "fellow citizens with the saints and of the household of God." (Eph. 2:19). Our great and awesome Creator knows us individually and loves us with an everlasting love. Together, at the name of Jesus, let's bow our knee and confess that He is Lord, to the glory of God the Father! **AOI**

“Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by name; thou art mine.”

¹Henry M. Morris, 1976. The Genesis Record, p. 75, 155 (Also see "Methuselah": floydnolenjonesministries.com/files/130770348.pdf.)

²The Holy Bible, Cambridge at the University Press, King James Version, text and notes.

³Strong's Concordance.

Group Names by Mary Jo Nutting



Have you ever noticed that groups of animals are known by specific names, e.g., a group of fish is called a school, a group of cows is called a herd but a group of sheep is called a flock, – and so is a group of chickens! It can be quite confusing to remember which name goes with which animal group! Sometimes group names are quite amusing:

- “A charm of hummingbirds.”
- “A murder of crows.”
- “A parliament of owls.”
- “A rafter of turkeys.”
- “A congregation of alligators.”

Check out God’s Big Book of

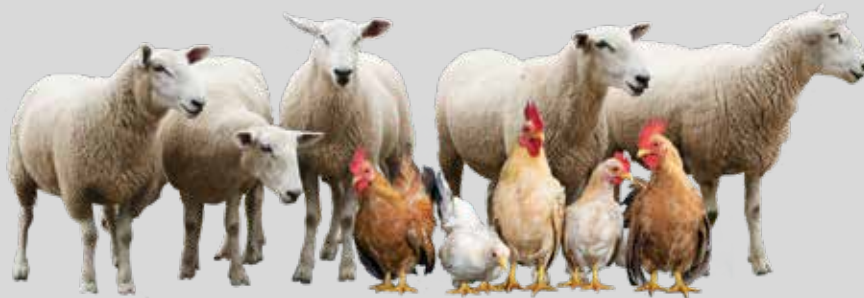
Animals for lots more about these group names as well as fascinating facts and beautiful full-color pictures. (Special: Available from AOI for \$28. See <https://www.discovercreation.org/shop/youth-adult-books/gods-big-book-of-animals/>).

With all the fascinating names above for specific groups of animals, consider some of the names for groups of believers in Scripture:

- Ecclesia (Greek Word translated as church, called out ones, assembly, congregation, community – Matt. 16:18; Acts 2:47; Rom. 16:5, many more!)
- Christians (Acts 26:28; 1 Pet. 4:16)

- Children of God (John 1:12; Rom. 9:8)
- Bride of Christ (Rev. 19:7; Revelation 21:9)
- Body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:27; Eph. 4:12)
- Saints (Ephesians 3:18; Ephesians 4:12; 2 Cor. 13:13)
- Royal Priesthood (1 Pet. 2:5; 1 Pet. 2:9)
- Holy Nation (1 Pet. 2:9)

Wow! What an identity we have in Christ! Are we honoring Him by living as His precious children, His saints, priests, body, bride, and a Holy Nation? Are we doing His will and representing Him well on this earth? If not, let’s begin today. If so, let’s press on to grow more and more dedicated to Him and His purposes on earth. **AOI**



What if God Wrote the Bible? - Scott Lane

Review by Dave Nutting

Most people reading this review would say, “Of course God wrote the Bible.” However, this book answers the question: What evidence actually supports this? I have known Scott for many years having spoken on multiple occasions to the San Antonio, TX Creation organization (SABBSA) of which he has been president. Scott is a good researcher and has taken a topic I address in some of my seminars and multiplied the content and details 10-fold. This book will give you and



those within your circle *real* reasons to believe the Bible and hence, its Message. So, if God did write the Bible, you would expect to see that:

1. Most origin stories of other cultures reflect and borrow from God’s original version.
2. Geology, archaeology, and history support the Bible.
3. GOD writes history in advance (Prophecy, etc.).
4. GOD protects His words.
5. There would be a philosophical and logical coherence – The Bible

should hang together as if written by one author with central themes running throughout. 6. Modern scientific facts and discoveries are mentioned in the pages of the Bible thousands of years before man’s contemporary understanding.

Scott makes an excellent case for all 6 of these expectations demonstrating that our faith is not a blind faith, but based on sound reason. This is a great book and a great resource for all!

450 Pages! Get it from AOI for **\$24+ \$5.00 S/H** **AOI**



Design of the Witch Hazel Shrub

by Stephen B. Austin

Since moving to Arkansas, we have come across many unusual plants that exhibit unique characteristics which demonstrate our Creator God's brilliant design.

One such plant is a rather strange shrub known as the American witch hazel. Why the name? Witch hazels have sometimes been used as dowsing rods in searches for suitable well sites (called water-witching). Some believe this is how the common name arose. It's more likely, however, that it comes from the middle English word *wiche*, having its origins in the old English word *wice*, which means "pliant" or "bent."

The flowers on these plants are quite unique, consisting of four ribbon-like petals about one inch long. Surprisingly, this plant drops its leaves for winter and then blooms

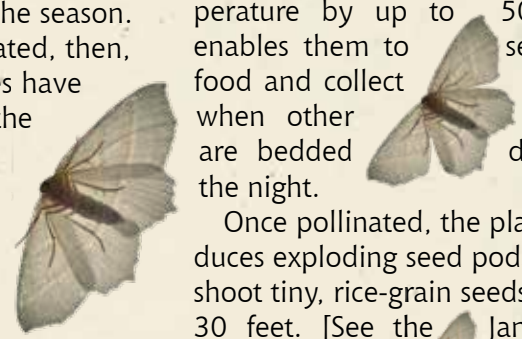


in October, November, and December. This is long past the time when most flowering plants have "packed it in" for the season. How is the shrub pollinated, then, when most insect species have long disappeared from the scene, and the few that remain are too small to effectively carry off significant amounts of pollen – especially in colder areas far to the north?

Many naturalists, botanists, and entomologists have wrestled with this problem for years. One such naturalist, Donald W. Stokes, admitted in his book, "The Natural History of Wild Shrubs and Vines," that, "Both species (the third in the USA was discovered after he wrote his book), bloom at times when very few insects are out collecting food." He expressed his frustration by adding, "I have watched the flowers when they are in bloom, and the only visitors I have seen are ants." Other researchers noted a few small flying insects but doubted their effectiveness.

The mystery remained for many years, until a naturalist in Wisconsin stumbled onto the solution. It seems people were searching at the wrong time of the day. Bernd

Heinrich observed owlet moths (also called "winter moths") visiting the plants during the cold, winter nights. It turns out that these moths have a unique ability to "shiver" and artificially raise their body temperature by up to 50°F. This enables them to search for food and collect pollen when other insects are bedded down for the night.



Once pollinated, the plant produces exploding seed pods able to shoot tiny, rice-grain seeds up to 30 feet. [See the January-February 2020 issue of Think and Believe for more on exploding seed pods.]

So, what are the odds that these unrelated "stragglers," left behind in the cold, harsh, winter, would scorn convention and actually bloom and pollinate out of season?

This amazing, symbiotic relationship between the owlet moth and the witch hazel presents problems for evolutionists. The witch hazels would have long died out waiting for the



owlet moth and natural selection to come to its rescue. Yet, there seems little to motivate a moth to deviate from tried-and-true behavior patterns "in hopes" of finding an unknown, untried, and unlikely food source.

It brings to mind the hymn made famous by the late George Beverly Shae in Billy Graham's meetings: "...when through the woods and forest glades I wander, and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees..." my soul truly sings, "My God, how great Thou art!" We certainly have a great Creator-God. **AGI**

Director's Column

by Dave Nutting




I was recently asked if this year's Discover Creation Tour of Yellowstone would be the same as last year's. Yes and no. You could be at Yellowstone on two consecutive days and see very different things. It's always changing!

Last year, a wonderful family of 4 joined us. Now that's not unusual, but this family was unique. The mom, their 8-year-old adopted daughter and their 12-year-old adopted son were all totally blind! I had a hard time imagining how they could enjoy Yellowstone without being able to see the vibrant colors, beauty, and fascinating thermal features. However, I described the accommodations and let them make the decision. In the end, they all immensely enjoyed the tour – and their presence made

the tour even more special for the "sighted" participants!

We not only gained a new sense of appreciation for our eyes but were blessed by their great enthusiasm, joy, and adventuresome spirit as they used their "eyes" of touch, smell, and hearing.

The only mishap was when the athletic young girl ran through the meadow along the river, forgetting to heed the fact that her sensor rod was not touching anything. Thankfully, her dad was close enough to quickly pull her out of the river. The unexpected swim didn't dampen her spirit, though. In fact, her biggest concern was over the Yellowstone sticker the park ranger had given her! She was all smiles again when the ranger gave her another sticker.

So what about you? Come join us for one of the 2022 Discover Creation Yellowstone Tours – they truly are for everyone! 

Twin Peaks Family Mountain Creation Vacation

Canyons and Dino Museum tours included!

July 31 – August 5



Contact AOI or visit:
DiscoverCreation.org/camps-tours/family-camp-colorado/

Yellowstone Tour 2022

Aug. 26-30, & Sep. 2-6



Creation seminar and bus tour of Yellowstone.
Great one-of-a-kind adventure for the entire family!

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

Creation Teaching Workshop April 4-8

Enjoy creation tours and activities as you deepen your knowledge of creation. Interact with AOI staff and learn to share Creation with children and adults. Stay two more days and tour two amazing national parks. For details: See DiscoverCreation.org/Training

Canyonlands/Arches

April 9-10



Caravan from Grand Junction to learn flood geology at Arches and Canyonlands Nat'l Parks.



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 2022

