

REFORMED

Perspective

A MAGAZINE
FOR THE
CHRISTIAN
FAMILY

Volume 29 No 6

April 2010

An interview with
Ultimate Apologist
Jason Lisle



The importance of teaching evolution

Guest Editorial

by Dave Dykstra

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth...

Few Bible passages are as well known and fewer still are as controversial. The debate about the Genesis description of the creation of the world has been raging since Charles Darwin wrote his book *The Origin of the Species* in the late 1800's. Actually it has been debated as far back as Aristotle and the early Greeks, and probably even earlier still – “there is nothing new under the sun.”

The issue, despite what we are told, is not a scientific one, but rather a philosophical one well disguised with “facts” – a faith! But you probably already knew that. Even Richard Dawkins (a leading evolutionist today) has acknowledged, “I choose to believe that there is no God, therefore I choose to believe in evolution, no matter how great the impossibility of it.” As it says in 1 John 4:5, 6: “They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them. We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; . . . This is how we recognize the Spirit of truth, and the spirit of falsehood.”

Why study evolution in a Christian school?

So why do we spend a full unit in Biology 12 in our Christian school studying a theory we know to be false? The answer to this is a complex one, beyond the obvious “Because the government mandates it in the curriculum.” It is my opinion that the curriculum is doing a great service to us as Christians by requiring its study. Everyone has heard the phrase “know your enemy,” because knowledge can win wars. And we are at war against the powers of evil. Our students today will become our leaders in the future, and we must first equip them to defend themselves against the attacks of the evil one. Make no mistake, evolution has been tweaked by some of the most brilliant minds in the last century, and

could easily overwhelm the curious and unwary with its logic, “facts” and polished arguments. What better way to prepare against the attack of the wisdom of the world than in a Christian environment where students can have their concerns and questions discussed and their faith supported? Our faith is constantly strengthened by spiritual tests. The best defense our students can have is to be challenged and learn to think critically and grow in understanding.

Knowing our enemy means that we study the arguments and evidence, so that we can find and discuss the flaws and weaknesses of the theory of evolution. However, it is more than that, because evolution is a multi-pronged attack. Evolutionists seek to cloud the issue with intentionally ambiguous, unclear or even blatantly false information. False information can be uncovered, but it is the subtle attacks that can be the most dangerous. I often tell my students that “evolution” is true, as we can see it in the adaptation or “microevolution” of the kinds of animals in Noah’s ark to the species and breeds we see today. For example red and grey squirrels are distinct but came from one kind – squirrels. In the same way Chihuahuas and Great Danes both came from one kind – dogs. However, “evolution” can also mean that fish gained legs and changed kinds to become salamanders and so on until we arrived at humans. A better term for this is “macroevolution,” but the two terms are intentionally used interchangeably to blur the distinction, and lead to the false argument that a change in dog breeds is “proof” for the molecules-to-man theory of evolution.

Going backwards

Evolution is not scientific, as it starts with the conclusion, and then seeks to find the evidence. As a result much of the evidence is extrapolated, misleading, or blatantly wrong. To give

just one example, *the* mechanism for evolution is the changing of genes by mutations, where any beneficial mutations are favored by natural selection and so passed on.

But we have yet to find a beneficial mutation that increases genetic information. Some mutations have been found that involve a *loss* of genetic information: there is a version of the *Astyanax mexicanus* fish that has been found in lightless caves, which has a mutation that causes it to be eyeless. This is a beneficial mutation, because in the pitch black, bumping up against cave walls, eyes are very vulnerable parts of the body – it is better not to have eyes in this situation. But note that this beneficial mutation is the result of a *loss* of information – the genes for making eyes. This is the very opposite of what evolution requires – what we have here is actually devolution!

Conclusion

We must be aware that much of the theory of evolution makes a lot of sense. In the absence of a God, it is the *only* plausible explanation, which is why it is so rigorously pushed by those who would deny His existence. They have been winning the battle in a very critical area – the schools. Evolution is taught to students who do not have the knowledge, ability, or determination to refute it on their own. We must fight this battle in the schools too, and ensure that our students enter post-secondary education or the work-force equipped to fight against the challenges they will face. “Where is the

What’s Inside

Our cover article this issue is Sarah Chase’s interview with Jason Lisle. Dr. Lisle is a six-day creationist who takes an almost unique approach to defending the Bible. He doesn’t so much rely on evidence as show that the evidence only makes sense when understood by looking at it through a Biblical worldview. It is a different way of thinking, and a very compelling one.

This month we also feature Rene Vermeulen’s Report from Australia where you can read about how different their opposition leader is from Canada’s Michael Ignatieff, who is so enamored with abortion he wants Canada to push it in other countries too.

wise man? Where is the scholar? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? . . .but we preach Christ crucified a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles. . . For the foolishness of God is wiser than man’s wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man’s strength” (1 Cor 1:20-25).



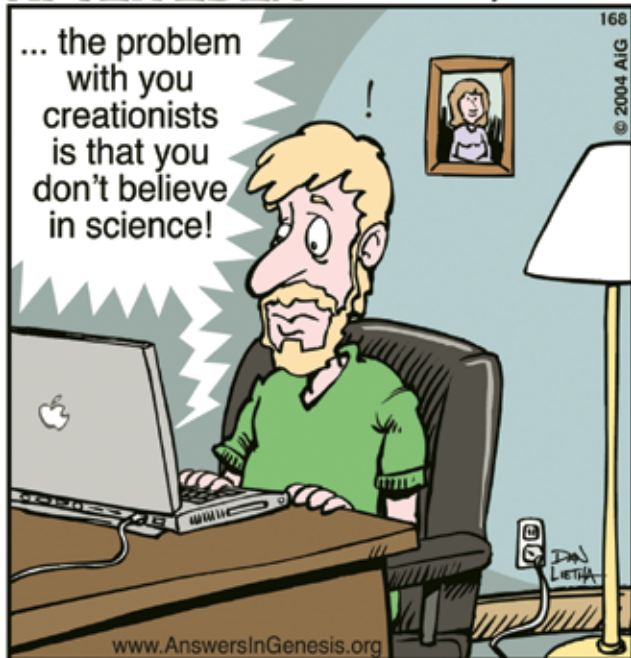
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AFTER EDEN

by Dan Lietha



Ed was stunned as he looked through his laser surgery corrected eyes at the message emailed to him over his digital internet hookup to his 1.33 gigahertz portable computer with the latest ...

THE SKY IS NOT FALLING! THAT'S JUST PROPAGANDA FROM A BUNCH OF LEFT WING ENVIRONMENTALIST WACKOS!



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Chicken Little, Age 40.

REFORMED Perspective

www.reformedperspective.ca

Published monthly by the Foundation for the publication of a Reformed Social-Political Magazine (Reformed Perspective Foundation).

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Annual Subscription Rates:

Canadian* & U.S. Funds – 1 Year \$50.00, 2 years \$93.00, 3 years \$137.00

Canada Airmail \$73.00* U.S. Airmail (U.S. Funds) \$78.00

International Surface Mail \$69.00 (2 years \$125.00, 3 years \$184.00)

International Airmail \$105.00 *including 5% G.S.T. – G.S.T. No. R118929272RT

We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada, through the Publication Assistance Program (PAP), toward our mailing costs.

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Registration: ISSN 0714-8208

Charitable Organization under Canada Income Tax Act

Registration No. 18929272RR0001

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Nota Bene

News worth noting

Pro-abortion chalk talk reveals an irrational worldview

by Jon Dykstra

Year after year, on a weekly basis pro-lifers in Kelowna, BC picket on the sidewalk across the street from the abortuary at the city's Genera Hospital. This spring that sidewalk was covered over with a slate of pro-abortion mantras and diagrams done in chalk. It was the predictable abortion rhetoric, except for one notable for just how silly it was: a picture of a pregnant woman telling us her "child is pro-choice." The cartoon implicitly acknowledges the humanity of the unborn – it is taking political positions! – and then advocates the child's death. Here an abortion rhetoric at its most savage – we know it's a child. . . and we want to kill it!



Here we can see a clear instance of how God can turn evil into good. Though this was meant to promote a culture of death, instead it exposes the pro-abortion agenda to the light and gives passers-by an inkling of just how horrid that agenda is.

Source: www.prolifekelowna.com March 26, 2010.

Photo used with permission of ProLifeKelowna.com

Catholic schools to be shushed on homosexuality?

by Anna Nienhuis

A new "Equity and Inclusive Education Strategy" in Ontario is causing concern that the publicly funded Catholic education system will soon be unable to teach the church's beliefs on homosexuality. The government strategy, which requires special protections for homosexuals, has also led to fears that Catholic schools will soon be expected to provide prayer areas for students of other religions, or that they will have to allow homosexual student

groups. While the education ministry is giving vague answers to questions about specifics, in 2002 it supported student Marc Hall in his fight to take his boyfriend to his Catholic prom.

The Catholic Church teaches that those with homosexual tendencies should practice abstinence. If such teachings are banned in Catholic schools we should be concerned that the Christian curriculum in our private schools will be targeted next.

Source: lifesitenews.com "Ontario Gvmt Won't Say Whether Catholic Schools Can Teach Beliefs on Homosexuality" January 8, 2010

Australian Christian schools to be shushed on creationism?

by Anna Nienhuis

A new education policy in South Australia effectively bans the teaching of creationism as an alternative to evolution in private school science classrooms. The policy states it "does not accept as satisfactory a science curriculum which. . . espouses or reflects the literal interpretation of a religious text in its treatment of either creationism or intelligent design." This clarifi-



cation basically eliminates any mention of the Bible or God in science class, and it is clear that any curriculum not following the new policy will not be counted toward a high school gradua-

tion diploma. A spokesperson made it clear that creationism can still be taught in Christian schools, but only as part of the religious studies curriculum.

Creationism was the only subject singled out in this way, and Christian schools across Australia are justifiably concerned that this will lead to similar policies across the country as this is an issue that was debated in other Australian school districts only two years ago.

Source: lifesitenews.com, March 4, 2010

University of Victoria pro-life group penalized for speaking Truth

by Anna Nienhuis

Youth for Youth, the University of Victoria's pro-life group, is fighting back after having their funding withheld for four semesters over the last two years. The group is holding a "free speech" protest at the university to protest their loss of funding due to controversy over pro-life posters they put up.

The Student Union decided to take away the group's official student club status and the accompanying funding that comes with that status after some people were offended by posters displaying pro-life messages. The



One of the "controversial" posters.

posters were not graphic: one featured a man in a wheelchair (see picture) and the other featured a picture of a happy baby with the question, "Is this the face of the enemy?"

Spare the rod, spoil the child's chances at university

by Jon Dykstra

A new study by a Calvin College psychology professor suggests that children who are spanked between the ages of 2 and 6 were happier and more successful as teenagers, did better at school, were more likely to volunteer and were more likely to have ambitions to go to university than children who had never been spanked.

Dr. Marjorie Gunnoe interviewed 2,600 teenagers and found that those

who had been spanked from 2-6 were doing better than those who hadn't in areas like academic success, anti-social behaviour and bouts of depression. Those who were spanked between 7 and 12 didn't do as well, but their behaviour was still better than those who were never spanked. Children who were spanked past 12, and children who were never spanked did more poorly on these behavioural measures.

Source: <http://www.lifesitenews.com/ldn/2007/dec/07120301.html>

"Big Brother is watching" in the UK

by Anna Nienhuis

Anyone who has read George Orwell's chilling futuristic novel "1984" will recognize the "Big Brother" comparisons being made to a recent initiative in the UK. The British government is introducing "hate registers" which, as of September 2010, require all schools to report any "hate incidents" they see or hear, starting with children as young as age 5. These incidents, no matter how

small, will be kept on record in databases that will also be made available to local authorities.

Specifically geared toward racist and homophobic slurs, entries in these registers will be made at the discretion of teachers and school authorities. A spokesman for the Department for Children, Schools and Families stresses that a "common-sense approach" is required in schools, so that before reporting a child, a teachers needs to judge whether the child really understands

While recognizing that these posters could make some people uncomfortable, the pro-life group feels that such a response is inevitable in a society that advocates freedom of speech. There will always be someone who finds something offensive, yet if we want to be able to seek after the Truth we need to allow for a wide assortment of opinions to be heard. So, to spread the Truth about abortion, Youth for Youth hopes to see their freedom of expression upheld at the university.

Source: lifesitenews.com, March 2, 2010

Archaeological find in Jerusalem backs up the Bible

by Anna Nienhuis

Further physical proof of Biblical "stories" has been unearthed in Jerusalem. Israeli archaeologist Eilat Mazar reported that recently exposed fortifications are believed to be about 3,000 years old, placing them in the time of kings David and Solomon.

Mazar believes that these fortifications are actually part of the work led by King Solomon during his reign. This comes as a blow to scholars believing that there was no strong government or monarchy during that era and reinforces once again that the Bible is a book of history, not mythology.

While these claims are exciting, this of course is no match for faith, as we believe the word of the Bible regardless of whether archaeologists claim to find confirmation or contradiction.

Source: www.informz.net; March 9, 2010

the offense of a particular word, or whether they may have simply picked it up somewhere.

But where is the "common-sense" in permanently recording the name-calling done by a 5-year-old? Christian groups in Britain, as well as many parents, are concerned about the pressure and scrutiny this places on their children, not to mention the permanence of the record once a "hate incident" has been registered.

Source: lifesitenews.com, March 5, 2010



Report from Australia

by Rene Vermeulen

Lord Monckton on global warming

I don't know what news you receive in Canada and the USA regarding the weather we are experiencing here. A large part of the Eastern and Southern part of our country has been inundated with water. Towns are flooded and streams that had been standing dry for years now have more water than they know what to do with. Homes are flooded; roads are impassable – all in all it is of great concern to that part of Australia.

That does not take away from the fact that there have been some tremendous bushfires, this was especially so in 2009 where in the state of Victoria some 173 people lost their lives. So last year big fires and this year big floods.

It is reported that there is remarkable regrowth in the area that suffered the bushfires last year. The reason for that is that Australian trees even after having been burned soon begin to grow again – Australian bush is such that it is used to severe fires and regrowth is part of its natural pattern.

Where yours truly lives, in the western part of the country there is a drought and weather forecasters are predicting that this may be one of the driest years for us. Many farmers are already expressing their concern for the coming season. If the rain does not come there will very little in the way of crops. Still it is only March and the weather forecasters might well be wrong. That does not take away from the fact that the last few months have been dry and very warm.

A free market?

But let me change the subject.

Lord Christopher Monckton, a former adviser to the British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, visited Australia recently. Lord Monckton is a leading critic of the theory of man-made global warming as well as the recent Copenhagen Summit on climate change. While in Adelaide, South Australia, where he spoke to an audience of more than 600 people, he was interviewed by Damian Wyld of *News Weekly*,

which is published fortnightly by the National Civic Council. This is a conservative publication dedicated to: "Defending life, supporting the family, assisting small enterprise, promoting the national interest and fostering Judeo-Christian values." It can best be described as being of Roman Catholic origin and a bit like *LifeSiteNews.com* which has been quoted occasionally in *Reformed Perspective*. It does a good job of opposing things such as abortion and warns its readers about the threat faced by militant Islam so I was very interested to read this interview.

In his talk with Damian Wyld, Monckton argued that the world is being threatened by a market that is being rigged – the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS). This is the market that is being created to "trade" carbon emissions. Monckton insists this is nothing but a get-rich scheme for a select group: "The first people who gain from any rigged market are those who rig the market. Everybody else in the market loses and of course, if it is a rigged and compulsory market, then everybody else, except those who rigged the market, is made to lose, and those who rigged the market are enabled to make a profit. That includes the government and the actual operators of the rigged market – which of course, are the banks. And so, one of the strongest arguments one can give – because bankers are not particularly popular at the moment, as you know – against the ETS (emissions trading scheme) is to say: if you have an ETS, the only people apart from the government that will get rich are the bankers."

This was an important point to consider. Often times those who are skeptical of man-made global warming are accused of being in the "pockets" of big business or oil companies. It is said they are skeptical only because they are being paid off. But we should be aware there is much money to be made by people supporting global warming too.



HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUTTER RIGHTS

How far should the government go to make allowances for the strange beliefs of minority groups?

by Michael Wagner and Jon Dykstra

A group of Hutterites in Alberta believes it is a violation of the second commandment to allow someone to take their picture. Thus they refuse to have pictures taken for their driver's licenses.

For many years this was not a problem. Alberta began requiring pictures on driver's licenses in 1974 but exempted those who had a religious objection to having their pictures taken. They could have licenses without pictures. However, in 2003 Alberta's regulations were changed and the religious exemption removed. Now there would be no exceptions to the requirement for pictures on driver's licenses.

The Hutterites run large communal agricultural operations and the use of motor vehicles is essential to those operations. Without motor vehicles their way of life would collapse. They were thus put in the dilemma of having to choose between violating their deeply-held beliefs about photographs, or losing their way of life.

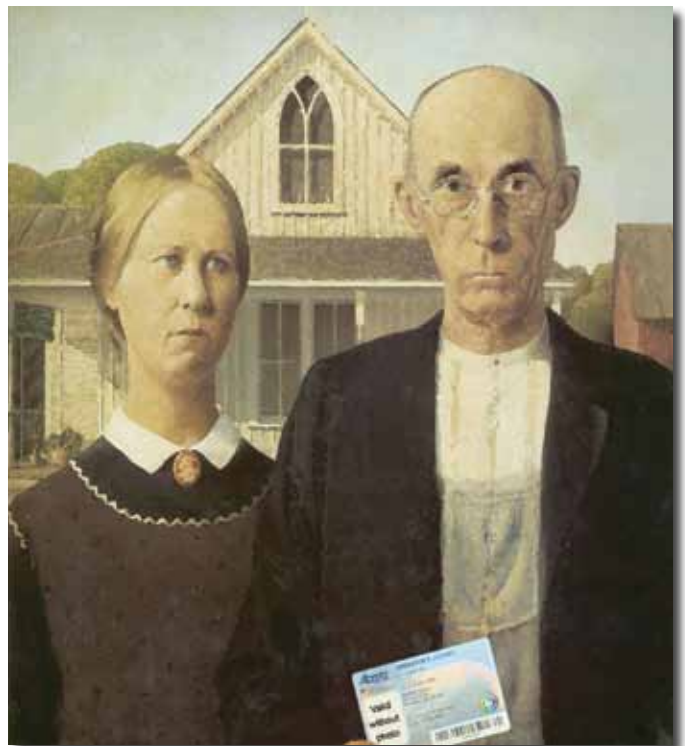
This is a dilemma we should sympathize with, even if we question their theology (the second commandment has nothing to do with taking photographs of people). On issues like working on Sunday, joining unions and educating our children we also have very different beliefs than the majority of Canadians and while the government has, to this point, made accommodations for us, they have now decided to stop make any accommodations for the Hutterites' religious belief about photographs.

So this situation bears a closer examination, both for our own sake, and in the interests of caring for the Hutterites. The second commandment may not apply here, but the second greatest does.

What limits on the freedom of religion?

In the Western world we know it is important to put checks and restraints on the government's power. This is based on a very biblical understanding of Man's depravity – that unless our government's power is put in check, it will be abused. As Lord Acton noted, "Power tends to corrupt and absolute power corrupts absolutely."

In Anglo-American constitutional theory, the purpose of a bill of rights, such as the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, is to do just that, restrain the power of government. The government is prohibited from pursuing courses of action that impinge upon certain aspects of its citizens'



lives. Generally speaking, the government cannot kill its citizens, lock them up, or steal their property, at least not without a very good reason.

The Charter recognizes that Canadians have freedom of religion. That means the government cannot restrict the legitimate religious practices of Canadians. But some Canadians' religion is very unusual compared to the norm and occasionally the restrictions these people would like to place on government action can seem bizarre to others, like the Hutterites' demand for licenses without pictures.

So how should this dilemma be solved?

In this case the Hutterites sued the government for violating their freedom of religion. A lower court and the Alberta Court of Appeal both held that the new government regulation violated the Hutterites' religious rights. But the Alberta government appealed again and this time the Supreme Court of Canada ruled that the new regulation was a justifiable infringement of the Hutterites' rights.

Much of the Charter is a listing of Canadians' rights and freedoms. But Section 1 of the Charter says that these rights and freedoms are "subject only to such reasonable limits prescribed by law as can be demonstrably justified in a free and democratic society." In other words, the Charter's rights and freedoms are subject to certain "reasonable limits," and those limits are determined, ultimately, by the Supreme Court of Canada.

Minority rights given minor status

A BC lawyer, Kevin Boonstra, has recently written an article for the online publication *LexView* (called "Does Canadian Society Still Accommodate Religious Minorities?") arguing that this Supreme Court decision has a limiting effect on the Charter's guarantee of religious freedom.

Four of the seven judges supported the Alberta government but the other three judges supported the Hutterites, so it was a close call. Basically, the four judges in the majority accepted the Alberta government's argument that its requirement for photographs on driver's licenses was a reasonable limit on the Hutterites' religious freedom.

These four judges were concerned that recognizing too many religious claims against government regulations could undermine the universality of government programs. The Alberta government argued that the pictures were necessary to prevent identity theft and the Court agreed that was an important goal. The government must legislate for the common good and doing so will occasionally produce conflicts with some people's beliefs. In a multicultural society the government cannot accommodate every belief and practice. In this case the government's goal was sufficient to justify the infringement of the Hutterites' beliefs.

Boonstra points out that this justification of the "common good" erodes accommodation for minority rights whenever doing so would be of benefit to the majority. . . even when the benefit to the majority is small, and the harm caused to the minority is great.

He goes on to note that,

"allowing a few hundred Hutterites to have driver's licenses without photographs creates no great burden on the rest of society. This conclusion seems obvious in light of the fact that they had been able to do so for almost 30 years with little administrative difficulty."

After all, the Supreme Court had previously ruled that Sikh students could wear kirpans (ceremonial daggers) to school while other students were prohibited from bringing weapons to school. Why can't the Hutterites be accommodated like the Sikhs have been?

You have to accommodate strange beliefs, but the government doesn't

Furthermore, in this case the majority of judges had taken an approach that focused more on whether the government's regulation was effective than on whether it constituted an impairment of a fundamental right. Boonstra claims that,

"In taking this approach, the Supreme Court of Canada has effectively imposed a greater standard of tolerance and accommodation *between citizens* than now exists between the government and the governed. Human rights

laws require that employers. . . (and others) must accommodate the requirements of religious minorities to the point of undue hardship. In the case of employment, employers must alter their practices to accommodate the needs of religious employees until it hurts (i.e. until they suffer 'undue hardship')."

In this decision the government does not have to accommodate religious minorities to the point of undue hardship, so the Supreme Court has imposed "a lesser burden on governments under our constitution than private citizens and organizations have under human rights guarantees." This is completely backwards from the perspective of Anglo-American constitutional theory.

A central purpose of a constitution is to restrict government activity, but if it becomes easy for the government to justify violations of citizens' rights, that purpose is clearly eroded. In this respect, the Supreme Court of Canada's decision in the Hutterite driver's license case has shrunk the realm of religious freedom in Canada and therefore could have a negative effect on other religious groups in the future. It's difficult to see the harm in having a picture on a driver's license, but according to Boonstra the precedent set by the Hutterites' loss is not good for religious freedom in Canada.

Supremely and Hutterly wrong

From a biblical perspective there is a problem with both the Supreme Court decision and the Hutterites.

The Supreme Court issues rulings according to the Charter of Rights and in light of modern constitutional theories that rule out God. As then-Chief Justice, Antonio Lamer, wrote in a 1993 ruling, "the Charter has established the essentially secular nature of Canadian society." If Canada is a secular state we shouldn't be surprised that the Supreme Court is finding it less important to preserve the rights of religious minorities. Instead of ruling according to an unchanging biblical standard they make their rulings based on their ever-changing interpretation of our Charter. And that interpretation now precludes the accommodating of Hutterite second commandment beliefs.

The Hutterites, on the other hand, at least start with the Bible. They got that much right. But they don't understand it properly. Hutterites are an Anabaptist sect who misinterpret the Bible on many points, including their understanding of the second commandment. Many Hutterites are nice, clean-living people, but there is no Biblical right to have a driver's license without a picture.

But while the Hutterites have no basis on which to demand this accommodation, the second greatest commandment – to love our neighbor as ourselves – means that Albertans still have a good reason to pressure their government to make this accommodation. Silly though their interpretation of Scripture might be in this case, it is easy enough for us to accommodate to their belief, and it is a hard accommodation for them to do without.

So how far should the government go to accommodate minority groups' silly beliefs? A general answer is hard to give, but in this specific case it can be summed up with just one word: further!



A Grave Mistake

by Christine Farenhorst

Approximately one hundred and eighteen years ago, April 19, 1882 to be exact, a seventy-three year old man died at home in his bed. He was surrounded by his wife and two of his children, all three of whom wept inconsolably. His wife, who had held him against herself the last moments of his earthly strife, gently lowered him onto the bed. She stroked the white beard and closed the glazed eyes.

Even though the family sorrowed, there was also a sense of relief that the patient had finally succumbed to death. The last few weeks had been difficult. Angina attacks precipitated fear. He had refused to eat with his family, preferring to eat in his bedroom alone. He had observed his body with morbid interest, taking notes on what he saw. "Much pain," he would jot down, or "dropped down" when he succumbed to faints.

Tuesday, April 18, 1882, was his penultimate day and the pain began just before midnight. He woke his wife, to tell her that he was dying and she ran for his pills. Together with a servant she also administered brandy. But he was unable to keep it down, and retched miserably. He slept a little but vomited throughout most of the next morning, his body heaving and shuddering in agony. "If I could but die," he said repeatedly, intent on present escape and not focused on the fact that he would shortly face the Creator of his heart, the Judge of his soul. He vomited again and blood spewed out, spilling red onto his white and venerable looking beard. "Oh, God," he cried, and again, "Oh, Lord God." His pain appeared to be excruciating and last-

ed until he lost consciousness about a half hour before he died. And Charles Darwin was no more on the earth he had with human textbook clarity consigned to evolutionary origins.

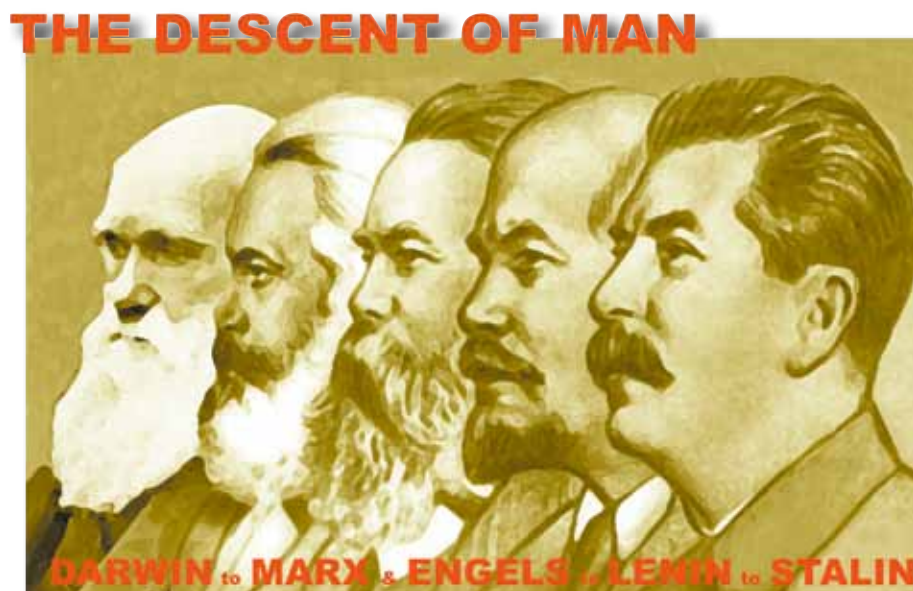
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Charles Darwin, (1809-1882), was the youngest son of an English doctor – one who did not believe in God. His paternal grandfather, an Erasmus Darwin, was also a doctor and an atheist – one who believed in the natural ascent of life and in the kinship of all creatures. Young Charles liked the outdoors. He reveled in collecting shells and bird eggs. Although his father wanted him to become a doctor, like himself and his father before him, Charles had no interest in following their footsteps. He dropped out of medical school, studied theology for a while, and then went on to become a naturalist.

In 1831, when Charles was 22, he was hired as a naturalist aboard a ship called the Beagle and left England for a five-year excursion around the world. During this trip, Darwin was particularly intrigued by the plants and animals on the Galapagos Islands, several hundred miles off the west coast of South America.

Darwin's conclusions at the end of this trip are well known and have had repercussions around the world. He inferred that all species – the entire plant and animal kingdom – resulted from environmental adaptations over millions of years. In other words, God did not create the world in six days, but the world was the product of millions of years of evolution. In 1859, Darwin published these conclusions in a book entitled, *The Origin of Species*.

The fact that Darwin stated that God did not create things but that they





Westminster Abbey

arose through natural processes, and the fact that he promoted the existence of the universe as an accident with no purpose, were both in direct conflict with the Word of God.

Darwin had expressed the wish to be buried in the churchyard in the village of Downe, some sixteen miles south of London, where he had lived and worked most of his married life. He wanted his grave to be next to the graves of three of his children under a great yew tree. But such was the mood of the day, that a fool without clothes could be held up as a king, that one who openly flouted God could be hailed as a saint.

Freethinking friends, wanting to honor the dead atheist, presented the Dean of Westminster with the request that Charles Darwin be buried within that church. Petitions went around and many influential government people signed, indicating that they thought Darwin's last resting place should be one of glory among other English patriots. The *Standard*, a newspaper, urging the family to comply with popular feeling, wrote:

"Darwin died as he had lived, in the quiet retirement of the country home which he loved; and the sylvan scenes amidst which he found the simple plants and animals that enabled him to solve the great enigma of the *Origin of Species* may seem, perhaps to many of his friends, the fittest surroundings for his last resting place. But one who has brought such honor to the English name, and whose death is lamented throughout the civilized world, to the temporary neglect of the many burning political and social questions of the day, should not be laid in a

comparatively obscure grave. His proper place is amongst those other worthies whose reputations are landmarks in the people's history, and if it should not clash with his own expressed wishes, or the pious feelings of the family, we owe it to posterity to place his remains in Westminster Abbey, among the illustrious dead who make that noble fame unrivaled in the world."

Darwin was compared with Newton, foreign tributes to him poured in and in the end the Dean of Westminster acquiesced to the request that the body be laid to rest in the Abbey. Undertakers dispensed tickets of admission to the widely advertised funeral and an expensive coffin was sent to Downe for the body's repose.

No newspaper paused to consider the fact that burial at Westminster might present a religious obstacle. The *Standard* said:

"True Christians can accept the main scientific facts of Evolution just as they do of Astronomy and Geology, without any prejudice to more ancient and cherished beliefs."

The *Daily News* stated: ". . . Darwin's doctrine was quite consistent with strong religious faith and hope."

It wasn't just newspapers which blew Darwin's trumpet. Ministers praised the dead man as well. Canon Prothero, Queen Victoria's chaplain said, on the pulpit, that Darwin had pursued the truth and in him had lived ". . . that charity which is the essence of the true spirit of Christ." The canon at Westminster Abbey, an Alfred Barry, echoed the queen's chaplain's sentiment by saying that Darwin's theory of natural selection was 'by no means alien to the Christian religion."

At St. Paul's Cathedral in London, another minister lauded Darwin for the patience and care in which he had recorded minute facts. In this way he had brought about a revolution in modern thought and shed high distinction on English science.

The funeral was not attended by either Queen Victoria or Gladstone, her Prime Minister. Neither had expressed an appreciation for *Origin of Species*. But thousands of others did attend. Judges, Parliament members, the Lord Mayor of London, ambassadors, scientists and a great many people from the ordinary homes and hearths of London. Multitudes entered the Abbey, all handing in their funeral tickets at the door. After these had all settled in their pews, the doors opened to those who had no tickets. These people filled the less desirable seats in the northwest side of the Abbey. At noon Canon Prothero entered with the choir as they jubilantly sang "I am the resurrection." The family, flanking the coffin, which was draped in black velvet and covered with white blossoms, followed. A specially composed hymn was sung after a Bible lesson. The words of the hymn came from Proverbs: "Blessed is the man that findeth wisdom, and getteth understanding."

It is not entirely strange to suppose that the devil occupied one of the pews of Westminster that day. He for one was well aware that Darwin had said, "If God had planted the knowledge of His existence in humans, all would possess it." He also knew Darwin had said that "the plain language of the New Testament seems to show that the men who do not believe, and this would include my father, brother and almost all my best friends, will be everlastingly punished. And this is a damnable doctrine." And the devil must have slapped his knees in mirth thinking about Darwin's public confession: "I am sorry to have to inform you that I do not believe in the Bible as a divine revelation, and therefore not in Jesus Christ as the Son of God."

In the end, Darwin's coffin was lowered underneath Newton's monument as the choir rendered another selection, entitled "His body is buried in peace, but his name liveth evermore." People were awed at the solemnity of the moment. The mourners filed out. Darwin had been interred as a symbol of English success in the field of science – that is to say, he had put forward the thought that man was just an animal – an accident of cosmic evolution with no ultimate purpose.

* * * * *

Society would never be the same. Although Darwin perhaps only put a framework to what many people were already thinking, to what itching ears were desirous of hearing, the consequences of what he contributed were severe.

WHOSE?

Whose sky is this? Whose cloudy blaze
Has caught the upward of my gaze?
Whose infinite, eternal blue
Has caught the landscapes masters drew?
***Indelible the thesis is -
His signature reads genesis.***

Whose trees are these? Whose stalwart pine
Encompasses the lakeshore line?
Whose needled fingers reach for God
From rocky crags and lonely sod?
***Indelible the thesis is -
His signature reads genesis.***

Whose waters these? Who ordered wide
And constant flow of ebb and tide?
Whose lakes so great? Whose mighty hand
Scooped out inverted hills of sand?
***Indelible the thesis is -
His signature reads genesis.***

Whose songs are these? Whose uncut cry
Of crow and raven? Whose the sigh,
Flute-like and clear of hermit thrush,
Liquid, ethereal to hush?
***Indelible the thesis is -
His signature reads genesis.***

Whose days are these? Their path is strung
Upon a necklace first begun
When dark was set apart from light,
And light was day and dark was night,
And minutes lapsed and seconds sang
And twenty-four hour days began.
Whose brief and limited, small breath?
Whose Adam's seed accursed by death?
Shall the Fiat of paradise
Not also make the dead arise
In twinkling metamorphosis?
It was foretold in genesis.

– Christine Farenhorst

Racism was rampant in the thinking among early evolutionists. Ernst Haeckel, (1834-1919), the great proponent of Darwin's theory in Germany, wrote:

"The mental life of savages rises little above that of the higher mammals, especially the apes, with which they are genealogically connected. . . . Their intelligence moves within the narrowest bounds, and one can no more (or no less) speak of their reason than of that of the more intelligent animals. . . . These lower races (such as the Veddahs or Australian negroes) are psychologically nearer to the mammals (apes or dogs) than to civilized Europeans; we must, therefore, assign a totally different value to their lives."

The idea that white people were superior led to the practice of eugenics – a campaign to improve humankind through selective breeding. James Perloff, in his book *Tornado in a Junkyard*, writes:

" . . . In Britain, Charles Darwin's son Leonard became president of the Eugenics Education Society. In the U.S., the movement caught fire in the early twentieth century. By 1935, 35 states had enacted laws requiring the sexual isolation and sterilization of 'unfit' people – including the retarded, the 'feeble-minded', chronic criminals, and even epileptics. Proposed legislation targeted tuberculosis sufferers, alcoholics, the blind and homeless. About 70,000 Americans were involuntarily sterilized before the practice was stopped."

Nietzsche, (1844-1900), was influenced by Darwin's theory. He denounced Christianity and declared: "God is dead." He then advanced the idea of the "superman" and a "mas-

ter race" of people that were superior to all other races. This idea was taken over by Hitler, (1889-1945), who consequently killed his millions insanely believing that Darwin's theory of evolution justified and sanctified his cruel actions.

Hitler was not the only madman Darwin influenced. Karl Marx, (1818-1883), viewed Darwin's work as a basis in natural science for the class struggle throughout history.¹¹ He actually wanted to dedicate his Communist book, *Das Kapital*, to Darwin, but Darwin refused the "honor."

Stalin, (1879-1953), as well, who began his studies as a theology student, changed his thinking after he was exposed to the theory of evolution. In a book, published in 1940, *Landmarks in the Life of Stalin*, this change is recorded by the author Yaroslavsky in these words:

At a very early age, while still a pupil in the ecclesiastical school, Comrade Stalin developed a critical mind and revolutionary sentiments. He began to read Darwin and became an atheist. G. Glurdjidze, a boyhood friend of Stalin's relates:

"I began to speak of God. Joseph heard me out, and after a moment's silence said: 'You know they are fooling us, there is no God. . . .' I was astonished at these words. I had never heard anything like it before. 'How can you say so, SoSo?' I exclaimed. 'I'll lend you a book to read; it will show you that the world and all living things are quite different from what you imagine, and all this talk about God is sheer nonsense,' Joseph said. 'What book is that?' I enquired. 'Darwin, You must read it,' Joseph impressed on me."

Joseph Stalin also killed his millions.



The Chinese leader, Mao Tse-tung, (1893-1976), regarded Darwin as a teaching influence in his life. Calling Darwin the founder of Chinese scientific socialism, Mao was responsible for the death of millions of people.

Andrew Carnegie, (1835-1919), and John D. Rockefeller, (1839-1937), were also Darwinists. They were both ruthless businessmen who practiced "survival of the fittest" in their business dealings. Carnegie said:

"When I, along with three or four of my boon companions, was in this stage of doubt about theology, including the supernatural element, and indeed the whole scheme of salvation through vicarious atonement and all the fabric built upon it, I came fortunately upon Darwin's and Spencer's works. . . I remember that light came as a flood and all was clear. Not only had I got rid of theology and the supernatural, but I had found the truth of evolution. 'All is well since all grows better' became my motto, my true source of comfort."

Rockefeller financed the preaching of Harry Emerson Fosdick's radio ministry. He brazenly accepted evolution and downgraded the Bible into mythology.

* * * * *

So Charles Darwin rests beneath the cold cement of Westminster Abbey. Or does he? Is his eternal soul at peace? Well aware of the tenets of Christianity, he knew that his ideas would destroy the faith of millions. He referred to *Origin of Species* as "my accursed book." There was considerable trauma associated with his writing of the final draft. In the year leading up to publication he was rarely able to write for more than 20 minutes at a time without stomach pains, and he finished the proof on October 1, 1859, in between fits of vomiting.

Ten days before the proofs were bound he wrote to his friend J.D. Hooker, "I have been very bad lately; having had an awful 'crisis' one leg swelled like elephantiasis – eyes almost closed up – covered with a rash and fiery boils: but they tell me it will surely do me much good. – it was like living in Hell!" His modern biographers talk of Darwin's self-doubt, his nagging, gnawing fear that "I . . . have devoted my life to a phantasy." It is not surprising that Darwin was subject to a "gnawing" fear nor the fact that he admitted that, in the dead of night, terror would strike him with painful force when he thought of the possibility of an afterlife. And so his body lies in Westminster Abbey – a grave mistake – an unwise decision.

And what, after all, is true wisdom? Is it not the fear of the Lord? May God grant that the eyes of many hearts

may be enlightened. Let voices not be afraid to cry out loudly without fear that evolution is a hoax and that it literally hasn't got a leg to stand on. Edmund Clowney's hymn, "Vast the Immensity" is a witness to God's wisdom and creation.

Vast the immensity, mirror of majesty,
Galaxies spread in a curtain of light:
Lord, Your eternity rises in mystery
There where no eye can see, infinite height!

Sounds Your creative word, forming both star and bird,
Shaping the cosmos to win Your delight;
Order from chaos springs, form that your wisdom brings,
Guiding created things, infinite might!

Who can Your wisdom scan? Who comprehend Your plan?
How can the mind of man Your truth embrace?
Here does Your Word disclose more than Your power shows,
Love that to Calv'ry goes, infinite grace!

Triune Your majesty, triune Your love to me,
Fixed from eternity in heav'n above.
Father, what mystery, in Your infinity
You gave Your Son for me, infinite love!



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SUPERIOR CINEMA: 3 ON DARWIN AND HIS IMPACT

reviewed by Jon Dykstra

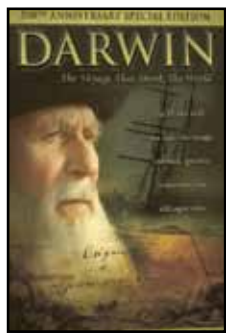
DARWIN: THE VOYAGE THAT SHOOK THE WORLD

This must be the most expensive documentary ever made by creationists and it is certainly the best looking. Creation Ministries International (www.Creation.com) spent more than \$1 million staging and filming key events in Darwin's life, including his time on the *HMS Beagle* and his visit to the Galapagos Islands. The production values are simply astonishing: solid acting, slick computer graphics, gorgeous close-up shots of the Galapagos wildlife – and a narrator with the perfect classical British accent.

The producers wanted to make this as good as anything you might see on the Discovery Channel, or on a PBS or CBC documentary because they aimed to get it shown on public TV around the world. However, that aim also impacted how they presented the content. If they wanted to get it shown on a channel like CBC they certainly couldn't make it explicitly Christian(!) so rather than being a defense of Biblical Creation, the documentary limits itself to critiquing Darwinian Evolution.

The end result, then, is a persuasive, gorgeous, tactful, hour-long takedown of Darwin – the lie is exposed. The downside is that there isn't much here pointing people to the Truth.

Some have criticized this as a job only half done. That might be, but the half that it does do, it does brilliantly. You can see a trailer for the film and order it at www.creation.com



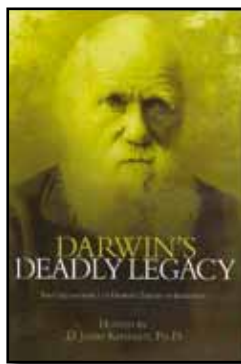
DARWIN'S DEADLY LEGACY

Darwin is a popular fellow; Hitler is not. So linking evolution's father to the Fuhrer is bound to make some people furious. And that, in a nutshell, explains why this was the most controversial documentary ever made by Dr. D. James Kennedy. In *Darwin's Deadly Legacy* the Presbyterian pastor presents a clear and compelling case that Darwin gave birth to Hitler.

As Kennedy shows, Darwin's theory of evolution gave Hitler and others of his time the scientific rationale they needed to treat some people as lesser people because they were seemingly less evolved. Jews weren't the only ones to suffer – Aborigines in Australia were deemed to be closest to our ape-like ancestors. Sometimes they weren't even acknowledged as being human, and were instead treated as animals that could be hunted!

To any who are unaware of the fruits of Darwin's theory, this is a must-see. Big names like Ann Coulter, Ken Ham, Francis Collins, Lee Strobel and Phillip Johnson pile on the evidence until we are left with only one possible conclusion: evolutionary thinking lead to Hitler's evil ethic.

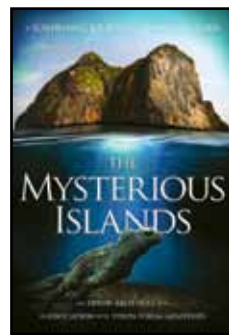
One caution: because there is some WWII footage of Jewish corpses this is not a film for the very young. You can find it at Amazon.com or NiceneCouncil.com.



THE MYSTERIOUS ISLANDS

There is more information packed into this 2-DVD set than the other two films put together. Doug Phillips and his 16-year-old son Joshua recruited a professional camera crew, asked family friend and creationist geologist John Morris to join them, and then the bunch of them all headed down to the Galapagos Islands to see what Darwin saw and discuss how he came to his conclusions. This is part travelogue and part nature documentary, with some historical re-enactments thrown in.

It's a pretty-looking film, but what most sets it apart is how the camera crew becomes part of things. They seem to have been raised accepting Evolution so they move the film along by asking the sort of questions that the unbelieving world is asking. They act as a gentle "devil's advocate and prod some great responses from Phillips and Morris.



Including the extra features, *The Mysterious Islands* is over two-and-a-half hours. This bulk gives it time to tackle Darwin from a lot of directions, but some trimming could have been done, particularly in the first twenty minutes. The slower pacing means this is not a good one to show the very young, but extra time also allows *The Mysterious Islands* to delve deeper, and more broadly. Slightly less entertaining, but more educational.

You can see the film trailer at www.themysteriousislands.com and order it at Amazon.com.



Talking with Jason Lisle

– Ultimate Apologist

by Sarah Chase



Photo and illustrations courtesy of Answers in Genesis (wwwAnswersInGenesis.org)

Dr. Jason Lisle is an astrophysicist, an apologetics teacher, and an author who works with the USA creationist group Answers in Genesis (www.AnswersInGenesis.org).

He recently published a book with an audacious title – the book is called “The Ultimate Proof of Creation.” In it he defends six-day creation and gives a straightforward strategy on how to answer the arguments of an evolutionist. His book also includes chapters on logic and logical fallacies as they occur in the origins debate.

I recently had a chance to talk with him about his book, and ask him what exactly is at the heart of the evolution/creation debate.

Sarah Chase: *What was your goal for writing this book?*

Dr. Jason Lisle: The goal to writing *The Ultimate Proof* was to get people to start thinking Biblically. Many Christians don’t know how to defend their faith at all, and those that do attempt to defend the faith don’t really do it properly. I wanted to write a book that takes everything I know about defending the faith, so people could learn, at an easy-to-read level, how to think Biblically and logically.

SC: *In the creation/evolution debate, some people argue that we should just follow where the evidence leads... and they seem to think that this evidence leads to evolution. What is the place of evidence in the origins debate?*

JL: The problem with following the evidence where it leads is that evidence doesn’t actually lead. Evidence, in a sense, actually follows what we already believe about the universe. People come to the evidence with a belief system – with a bias – that helps them to interpret that evidence. The origins debate really is about how evidence should be interpreted. In the Christian worldview we are to deal with evidence in a way that treats it as subordinate to the Biblical God, because God, after all, created the universe. All evidence – all the facts of the universe – are His and they must be interpreted in the light of Scripture in order for them to be meaningful. I realize that evolutionists would contest that statement, but that’s the point of the book. The point of the book is to give an argument that the Biblical worldview alone is the correct way in which to interpret evidence.

SC: *Does this mean that worldviews are important?*

JL: That’s what the debate is really about. Your worldview is all of your basic beliefs and presuppositions, taken together, and it tells you how to interpret the evidence. People try to support their worldview by evidence, but that isn’t legitimate, logically, because it’s a worldview that declares what the evidence means in the first place.

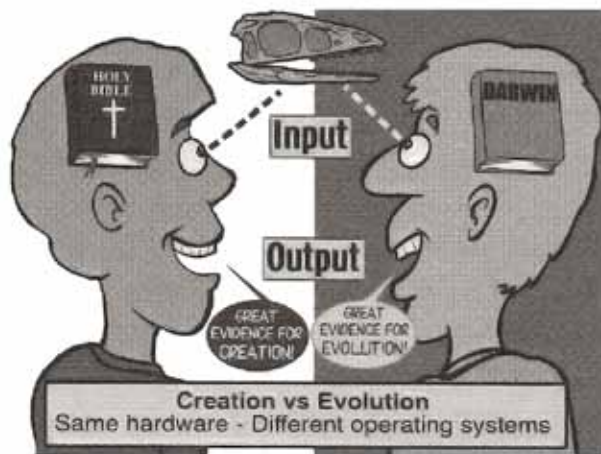
SC: *It is really possible to provide an Ultimate Proof of Creation, to have a proof that will convince everyone?*

JL: You can’t convince everyone, because people are not always persuaded by a good argument. People are not always rigorously rational. People are not always persuaded – there’s a difference between proof and persuasion – and people are not always persuaded by a very good argument. Unfortunately, people are sometimes persuaded by a very bad argument – logical fallacies are bad arguments that people tend to find convincing! So while there’s not an ultimate proof that will *convince* everyone, I believe that there is an ultimate proof in which the Bible can be demonstrated to be true rationally in the sense that *no one can refute*. That’s the theme that I’ve emphasized in the book, *The Ultimate Proof of Creation*, that the Bible is the ultimate proof of Creation. You can’t refute it.

SC: *Is the Ultimate Proof truly the Ultimate proof?*

JL: I think so. Because I believe with other alleged “proofs” that I’ve seen of creation, ultimately you can always construct at least one hypothetical rebuttal. You can come up with a “rescuing device,” as I say in the book. That’s a term that I got from Dr. Greg Bahnsen – the idea of a “rescuing device.” You can come up with an explanation that will explain away just about any other evidence (See the sidebar article “What is a rescuing device?”)

But with the Ultimate Proof of Creation, there is no rescuing device, because we’re dealing with worldviews. The Bible has to be true, because if it weren’t you couldn’t prove that anything is true because the Bible alone accounts for the laws of logic, uniformity of nature, morality, etc. (see illustration). These are ideas that we take for granted. They are necessary for knowledge and are things that are only meaningful in a biblical worldview and no other. And that seems like the Ultimate Proof of Creation is all about so it’s not just a name. It’s what I think that book is all about.



Creationists and evolutionists interpret the same evidence differently because they have different worldviews

From The Ultimate Proof of Creation by Jason Lisle and illustrated by Dan Lietha, 2nd printing 2009; page 26. Used with permission from the publisher - Master Books, Green Forest, AR; copyright 2009.

SC: As I was reading your book, I came across the term “preconditions of intelligibility.” What does this mean?

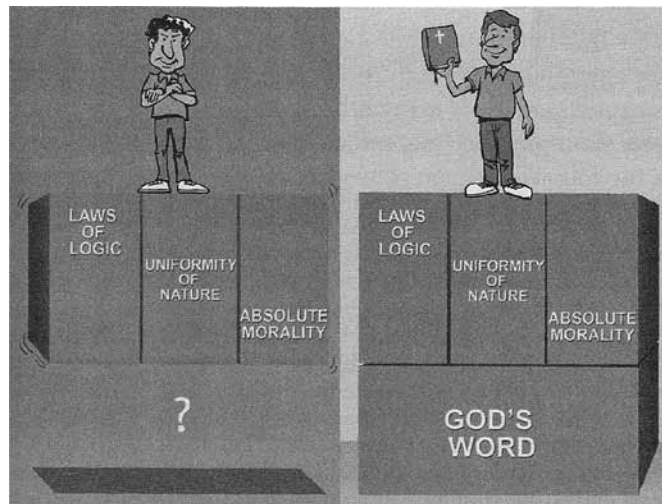
JL: It’s a term used by Dr. Greg Bahnsen. A precondition is a condition that has to be true in advance. Intelligibility just refers to something that makes sense. There are certain things that have to be true in advance in order for this universe to make sense.

An example is the laws of logic that govern correct reasoning. I couldn’t prove that there are laws of logic without also using laws of logic to do it. God knew that we would need these preconditions so He hardwired them into us. We all know that there are laws of logic, although people may not describe them using that term. But we all know instinctively that they exist.

SC: In your book, you quoted Proverbs 26.4-5, which says, “Answer not a fool according to his folly, lest you be like him yourself. Answer a fool according to his folly lest he be wise in his own eyes.” You then created an “answer-don’t-answer” strategy based off of this passage. What is that strategy?

JL: Basically, it’s what I believe Proverbs 24 is teaching: that on the one hand we should not answer a person according to his folly. We should not give in and accept his or her standard. So if someone comes and says we must use naturalism – the notion that there is nothing beyond nature – rather than God’s Word to interpret all the evidence, I would not embrace that standard. I wouldn’t try to prove that the Bible is true using his naturalism standard, because you can’t do

that. If naturalism is right, then the Bible is wrong anyways. You can’t win an argument by conceding to it on the outset. On the other hand, you should answer a fool according to his folly, in the sense that he must not be wise in his own eyes. It implies a refutation that demonstrates that his position is not sound. So I might take his standards hypothetically to show that they are irrational. I’m not embracing my critics’ worldview, but I’m temporarily showing how that worldview would work out if (for the sake of argument) it were true, just to show that it would destroy itself.



From The Ultimate Proof of Creation by Jason Lisle and illustrated by Dan Lietha, 2nd printing 2009; page 63. Used with permission from the publisher - Master Books, Green Forest, AR; copyright 2009.

The secular world uses the laws of logic, but can’t explain where they come from. They also know that natural laws operate the same here, as they do over there – there is a uniformity in how these laws operate. But why is that? They have no explanation. And when it comes to morals, they have no explanation for an absolute moral code that should apply to everyone (like, don’t murder). So they believe in the laws of logic, in the uniformity of nature and in absolute morals for no rational reasons at all. Christians, however, know that morals, and the laws of logic spring for the very character of God, and the uniformity of nature makes sense to us, because we worship a God of order. They all fit with our Christian worldview – looking at the world through the prism of God’s Word allows us to make sense of things.

SC: What's a good example of the "Answer/Don't Answer" strategy?

JL: Someone comes to you and says that naturalism is the way to go – that nature's all that there is – and he says that we have to use that standard to interpret the data and challenges us: "Now prove to me that creation's true."

I would say, "First of all, I don't accept your standard that naturalism is true; my standard is the Bible, not naturalism." That's the "don't answer" part.

And then I would say, "but for the sake of argument, if naturalism were true, you could not prove anything at all, because you can't have laws of logic if nature's all that there is. Laws of logic aren't part of nature, and without them you couldn't prove anything. Your worldview refutes itself!" That's the answer part.

You don't have to be explicit, but you should follow that basic approach.

SC: You also talked about logical fallacies in your book. What did you find was the most common logical fallacy in the creation/evolution debate?

JL: Probably the most common fallacy in the evolutionary literature is "affirming the consequence": "My theory predicts X; I see X, therefore my theory is true." They say because evolution predicts similarity in DNA, and we see similarities in DNA, evolution is probably true. Now what if I said that the cars in the parking lot were all related, that biologically they were descended from a common ancestor so they ought to share certain similarities like all having four wheels? Low and behold they all have four wheels so that demonstrates very likely that they descended from a common ancestor. Nobody's being fooled by that argument, but evolutionists use that type of reasoning all the time – it's totally fallacious. As a close second, I think equivocation, as a fallacy is very, very common. This is where they equivocate on the word "evolution." On the one hand, they'll use that term to describe change in a general sense: "We see evolution all the time – we see things change." But then they'll also use that same word to describe "molecules to man evolution." This is the idea that we're all biologically descended from a common ancestor. Either definition is fine, but you have to stick to one when you make an argument, otherwise the argument is invalid and unfounded.



What is a "rescuing device"?

"An evolutionist can invent a story to explain away apparently contrary evidence. Let's see how this works with the comets' argument for a young solar system. The evolutionist astronomer believes that the solar system is billions of years old, yet he sees comets within it. He can observe that comets can disintegrate quite rapidly, and he computes that they can only last 100,000 years or so. How can he resolve this dilemma? 'Obviously,' says the secular astronomer, 'there must be a source that generates new comets to replace the old ones as they disintegrate.' So secular astronomers have proposed that there is an 'Oort cloud' (named after its inventor, Jan Oort). The Oort cloud is an enormous hypothetical sphere of icy masses surrounding our solar system. It is supposedly far beyond the most distant planets, beyond the range of our most powerful telescopes. Secular astro-



mers propose that occasionally objects in the Oort cloud are dislodged from their distant orbit and thrown into the inner solar system to become brand-new comets. Since these new comets continually replace the old ones, the solar system could be billions of years old after all.

"Now keep in mind that no one has ever seen an Oort cloud. . . . Currently there is no observational evidence of any kind for an Oort cloud. So as a creationist, I have no particular reason to think that there is such a thing. As far as I'm concerned, the Oort cloud exists only in the mind of evolutionists. It's just a rescuing device that 'saves' the evolutionist's view from evidence that would otherwise seem to refute it."

– from page 23 of Jason Lisle's
The Ultimate Proof of Creation

Salt n' Light Contest **WINNERS**



Salt n' Light YouTube Contest Winners

It doesn't seem that long ago that ARPA Canada and *Reformed Perspective* launched the Salt n' Light YouTube contest. Our aim was to encourage Christians to communicate God's Truth to the world through the medium of YouTube videos. Well, this month we are announcing the winners!

First some thank-you's are definitely in order. We would like to thank everyone who entered. We applaud your efforts and hope you will continue to keep YouTubing! We would also like to thank our sponsor, CV Benefits, who enabled us to offer two \$250 first prizes. Thank-you for your generosity and encouragement! And we would like to thank everyone who voted. If watching these video had you itching to give it a try yourself, check out the special YouTube section on

ReformedPerspective.ca, under the menu heading "Resource Articles" – we have posted the winning entries there along with some instructional articles to point you to all the tools you need to turn your ideas into mini-movies.

And without further adieu. . . the winners!

Popular vote – *Think about it*

The winner of the popular vote conducted at ReformedPerspective.ca is Jacob Houweling's *Think about it*. It picked up almost half of the more than 600 votes cast! Mr. Houweling used a stark black and white setting along with a colorful way of talking to present a clear pro-life message. And not only did he run away with the voting, his video also had a sizeable viewership on YouTube, with more than 1,200 people viewing it there.



Judge pick – *Droids for life*

The judge pick was Burke VanderHorst's *Droids for life*. Mr. Vanderhorst used a great script and an intriguing free program (available at www.xtranormal.com) to get two robots talking about how our worth as human beings isn't based on what we can do, but rather on Who has made us. This was also the video with the second-most views on YouTube; over 1,000 people have seen it on that site.



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How I made my YouTube Film

“Richard Dawkins like you’ve never seen him before”

by Renton Maclachlan

I heard Richard Dawkins, the world-renowned atheist, was coming to town, and thought that I would produce something for him as a “welcoming present.” The result? A 10-minute in-depth video “interview” satire: *Richard Dawkins like you’ve never seen him before* (www.snipurl.com/dawkinsinterview).

A number of elements are involved in producing such a video and I was asked to share these with you. They can basically be reduced to two: The creative and the technical aspects. A third could be added, the philosophical, which undergirds the other two, but I’ll only touch briefly on that.

The creative

The creative side is quite hard to talk about as it is intangible and subjective. It involves the idea, the inspiration that pops into our head, and the nurturing and crafting of that idea into something substantial. While ideas/inspiration often seem to come out of nowhere, the process by which these ideas become videos (or books, or articles or songs or paintings, etc.) is something we can practice and improve on throughout our life.

I am not a fan of the “discover your gift” type of idea, where you try and figure out your personality-type and present interests, so as to determine what gifts God has blessed you with. Such a mentality tends to lock us into only what we know of now, and shut doors on what may be. We should, of course, use the abilities we know we have at present, but also pursue our interests with passion so that we can develop

new skills for new tasks that we may come upon. God may very well surprise us and open doors which enable gifts we never dreamed we had, to be exposed and developed.

For example, it wasn’t until I was around 30 that I began writing. Till then I didn’t really know I could. It started with a single letter to a newspaper, which literally launched me like a rocket into writing to various media. To start with, letters took hours to write as I sweated and slaved to develop my ideas clearly and concisely and get a pleasing way with words. But I thought that, seeing as I could be speaking to tens of thousands of people through these letters, it justified my spending time giving it my best shot (for those who are interested, I have written a paper on writing letters to print media: www.snipurl.com/write).

This letter-writing ability has recently begun to be utilized in scriptwriting. It wasn’t until I was 55 that I held a video camera for the first time, as a result of a vision for a project I had. I had never till then dreamed I would be using this medium.

So, in short, do all you do to the glory of God, treating it also as personal development. Go to it with perseverance and passion developing all the diversity of creative skills and insights you can. These skills and insights can be turned to good use in many different ways once you have them. A good book to direct you overall in this regard is Isaac Botkin’s *Outside of Hollywood: The Young Christians Guide to Vocational Filmmaking*.



Technical tips

Technical matters are easier to talk about and so I'll pass on a few tips I have learnt. I am new to this so these things are still fresh to me.

Audio

One very important thing to realize, rather counter-intuitively, is that video is primarily an audio medium. If you have great picture and lousy sound you have a lousy video. But if you have less than perfect picture but good audio, it can still work. Of course the aim is to have both good picture and good sound, but never forget that good sound is absolutely crucial and will drive virtually all productions. Do not treat audio as of secondary importance.

Script

In the light of this, the script is everything. So far I've found it takes me about six weeks to write a 10-minute script for YouTube. 10 minutes – the YouTube limit – is for me about 1,800 words. Once that number is reached in my draft, the pressure is on, as I think of other good ideas to include, to cut out what is less important in favor of what is more important. Only what best moves the “story” forward should be in the script. Sometimes an idea for a video pops into my head fully formed, and just needs honing. Other times I've had to sweat to make it come together.

As a script is developing, I pass it by a number of other people to get their critical thoughts on it. I ask them to be as hard on it as they like. This can be discouraging at times, but it's better to be beaten up by friends so as to avoid being beaten up later by enemies who will show no mercy. I've been told by a number of people that my videos should be shorter. That's something I need to work on.

Research

I started into video only four years ago. I knew nothing about it and

began the steepest learning curve in my life. First I bought a book on my summer holiday to get me underway, the Reader's Digest *The Complete Digital Video Guide* by Bob Brandon. It is an excellent book covering the whole range of things necessary to know for video. I highly recommended it as a comprehensive starter. Once I got home, I wanted to get up to speed as fast as possible. In such situations, my approach is to seek out those who really know their stuff and ask their advice. The web provides almost unlimited scope in this regard, and so I found such people on a simply amazing website. It unfortunately has just gone offline but was really humming when I started. I freely acknowledge the huge debt I owe the participants in that group, especially Guy Bruner (who now runs a new discussion group at www.camcorderuser.net). I produced my first DVD for sale about one month after buying my first video camera and could never have done so without the help of Guy and the others on that group.

Cameras

You can spend a lot of money on gear, something I'm not inclined to do. However I do want good gear and so I have constantly been seeking to make good choices when purchasing, to get quality for minimal cost. I have not done any recent research in this area so I can't advise on the presently available cameras other than to emphasize doing a lot of study before buying. Again, Guy Bruner's site www.camcorderuser.net may be as a good place to start.

Microphones

You need one or a number of microphones, because on-camera microphones are not good enough for decent recording, and normally you need your microphone far closer to your talent than you want your camera. I took advice here also, first buying a reasonably priced shotgun mic, then because I got to film a number of weddings, bought a number of cheap lapel microphones that run to MP3 players. With the latter I was able to mic the officiant, the groom, fathers of the bride/groom, podiums, etc. At a wedding, every place



“Richard Dawkins” in a scene from *Richard Dawkins like you've never seen him before* (www.snipurl.com/dawkinsinterview)

that speaking is going to be done from needs to be mic'd! If you are going to be recording outside, you will definitely need microphone protection. If you live or will film in a windy location, you most likely will need a microphone blimp to remove the wind noise from the microphone. Microphone blimps out of India (on Ebay) are fantastic for a really low price.

It is very important to learn about audio for video, so you could buy, for example, *Great Sound for Digital Video* by Jay Rose. A good website is www.juicedlink.com which has some great tutorials that give basic audio instructions. There is a lot to audio and it's something that needs to be learnt if you're serious about doing video.

Lighting

Lighting is critical and I'll recommend two resources I have found extremely helpful. The book, *Lighting for Digital Video & Television* (3rd edition) by John Jackman, and the DVD *How to Setup and Light Great Looking Interviews (using a light kit that costs under \$1500)* by Vortex Media. The DVD is quite expensive,

but really is excellent. I highly recommend it. I've have largely followed its advice through buying the lighting gear recommended. This allows me to do basic three point lighting, or any other configuration I want.

For great deals on lighting Ebay is a good place to go. I recently got a wonderful bargain on a versatile piece of lighting gear – it is called a “126 LED on-camera light” – from Ebay, at a fraction of the price of other models around.

Green screen

Ok, so you have all your gear. Now you may need a place to shoot your productions. We have a large spare room which I've set up as a studio. From very early on I decided I wanted to be able to shoot against a green screen as this would allow me to put whatever background I liked behind my subjects. I use a custom 2.7 meter wide green screen paper which I roll down as my backdrop when filming. I light this with eight 1.2 meter diffused fluorescents tubes. Even lighting on a green screen is important. One thing I've

learnt with green screen filming is that because it is so easy to place any image you want (video or still) behind your talent, there is a strong temptation to put an image there to show off, rather than to support the talent. No image put behind talent should compete, or distract, or detract, from the talent. Rather it should always enhance the talent, or place them in a location that enhances the content of the video. In my Dawkins video, I used a “cloud” image I made up Photoshop – guided by someone's Adobe tutorial on the web. It turned out to be a professional looking but neutral background, and I think highlights the talent nicely.

Photographic Composition

Two things are critical in terms of composing your shot:

1. Following the rule of thirds: you shouldn't generally position the people or object you are filming right smack in the middle of the frame, but instead should have them more or less on a ‘third’ line. Read up more about this, then apply it. It makes shots much more visually interesting.
2. Head and nose room: if you are filming people, you need to provide “Nose room” – there should be more space in front of the person's nose than behind their head. “Head room” is also important – there should be minimal space above the person's head. It is acceptable in close shots to even to cut off the top of the persons head with the frame. If you were to divide the frame into horizontal thirds (the rule of thirds) a person's eyes should be roughly on the top third line.

Editing

Then of course, once your filming is done, it needs to all be brought together in your editing program which may constrain you in some ways depending



Interviewer Renton Maclachlan in a scene from *Richard Dawkins like you've never seen him before* (www.snipurl.com/dawkinsinterview)

on what program you use. I use Sony Vegas Pro which is a top end, but reasonably priced product – which I find fantastic and which provides no constraints. For those just starting out, there are movie editing programs which are much less expensive, or even free. IMovie for the Mac is part of iLife which costs \$80 and Windows Movie Maker for the PC is free from Microsoft.

Then of course to do any video editing you need a pretty powerful computer and large hard drives, but they are becoming almost standard these days.

Christian communication to a secular world. . .

For those of us who want to communicate a Christian message into a secular world, there are a number of pitfalls possible in regard to the message. Most Christians are immersed in the Christian subculture of their church/denomination, which has its own language forms and culture. In my experience, few Christians are good at communicating the Gospel to others in ways that are free from jargon or the cultural preconceptions/qwerks of our group. . . if they do it at all! Thus we may easily present a wooden, preachy, or culture-bound statement that can be heard, but doesn't really connect with our hearers. This is an enormous problem and I would recommend the book, *Total Truth: Liberating Christianity from its Cultural Captivity* by Nancy Pearcey as a guide to understanding one of the greatest hurdles we have to overcome in communicating the Gospel within a secular culture. It is also why the biblical model we should follow is that of the Apostle Paul speaking to the secular philosophers in Athens, rather than Peter's way of addressing the Jewish, biblically-literate crowds in Jerusalem.

Never such a time as this

There has never been a day such as ours when such fantastic tools have been available at such reasonable cost to so many people. What is going to mark you apart from the rest is not the tools you use (except if you're a show off. . . though that is not the sort of marking apart you want!) but the dedication, biblical insight, and persistently-honed and developed creativity and skills you bring to the task. I am a project orientated person and learn best through doing real projects. I've had the opportunity to film five weddings, and used these to the max to learn filming and editing techniques. Such projects are a great way to acquire skills.

So. . . communicating a biblical ethos through film or video is a huge task but an interesting and exciting one, one that requires perseverance, understanding and insight. If like me you're a beginner at it but see its value, go to it with all your might, give it the best you've got, to the glory of God and the extension of his rule.



Five Lines FREE

Pro-life 101 in Hamilton (April 22) and Chatham (April 23) – We all know we need to speak up for the unborn, but not all of us feel equipped. Come hear Jon Dykstra teach Pro-life 101, a one-night course to equip us to speak up confidently.

March for Life – Ottawa (Parliament Hill) May 13, 2010 “Abortion: A crime against humanity” For more info go to www.campaignlifecoalition.com A prayer service will be held at 10:00 am prior to the march at Jubilee Canadian Reformed Church in Ottawa.

Support Christian schooling while surfing: Go to GoodSearch.com, designate Cornerstone Christian School as your charity, and make Goodsearch.com your default search engine and Cornerstone will get 1-2 pennies every time you do a search.

HOW TO GET YOUR AD POSTED HERE FOR FREE:

- Ad should include information such as **What, Where, When, How much** and **Contact info**, be no more than **250 characters** (and that's including spaces).
- Ad must be for events that go beyond the local – if it's just for your congregation you can advertise it in your bulletin – and for non-commercial groups like Young People's, Ladies Aid, schools, or churches, etc to sell cookbooks, announce speeches, rallies, plays, etc.
- Send your requests to editor@reformedperspective.ca. Ads will appear in the issue **two months after submission** (ex. if you submit in December, it will appear in February).

This is for groups and individuals whose philosophy and worldview is in accord with that of *Reformed Perspective*, so we reserve the right to refuse any ad.



IN A NUTSHELL

**Tidbit relevant,
and not so,
to Christian life**

by Jon Dykstra

Free Calvin biography

John Piper has republished T.H.L. Parker's 1954 biography of Calvin and made it available online as a free download. It is a short book, only 127 pages, that can be read in an evening, and it is well worth doing so. You can find it at www.snipurl.com/calvinbio.

Lyric o' the month

From MercyMe's album
"Coming up to Breathe"

Well if I come across a little bit distant
It's just because I am
Things just seem to feel a little bit
different
You understand
Believe it or not but life is not
apparently
About me anyways
But I have met the One who really is
worthy
So let me say

So long, self
Well, it's been fun, but I have found
somebody else
So long, self
There's just no room for two
So you are gonna have to move
So long, self
Don't take this wrong but you are
wrong for me, farewell
Oh well, goodbye, don't cry
So long, self

Stop right there because I know what
you're thinking
But no we can't be friends

And even though I know your heart is
breaking
This has to end
And come to think of it the blame for
all of this
Simply falls on me
For wanting something more in life
than all of this
Can't you see

Farewell, goodbye
So long self

Ping Pong

by Jay Adams

"A soft answer turns away wrath.
But a foolish word stirs up anger."
— Proverbs 15:1

Every time I read that Proverb, I think
of Ping Pong.

How's that?

Oh. . . it just seems to illustrate the
principle in the proverb so well!

Don't get it.

You see, many Proverbs are pictured
principles of portable truth.

What about Ping Pong?

Oh! Here's what I meant. One player
slams a ball as hard as he can.

What happens after that?

Dunno.

The other guy has to move away in
order to receive it. It drives them
farther apart.

Yeah? And. . . . ?

And if he slams one back just as hard,
or harder, that separates them all
the more.

Sure.

But if he simply answers the slam with
a gentle return by merely holding
his paddle still in receiving it, the
ball barely goes back over the net
and. . .

. . . and that draws them closer together.

Right! So what's the principle in the
picture?

Don't slam people?

I give up.

SOURCE: Taken, with permission, from www.nouthetic.org where you can find more of Jay Adams' wit and wisdom.

C.S. Lewis on: "Should you risk asking her out?"

"To love at all is to be vulnerable. Love anything, and your heart will certainly be wrung and possibly be broken. If you want to make sure of keeping it intact, you must give your heart to no one, not even to an animal. Wrap it carefully around your hobbies and little luxuries; avoid all entanglements; lock it up safe in the casket or coffin of your selfishness. But in that casket – safe, dark, motionless, airless – it will change. It will not be broken; it will become unbreakable, impenetrable, irredeemable.

SOURCE: *The Four Loves*, chapter 6

Taming the terrible tongue

"One of the first things that happens when a man is really filled with the Spirit is not that he speaks with tongues, but that he learns to hold the one he already has."

— J. Sidlow Baxter

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...and thank you to all our loyal readers who gave the gift of *Reformed Perspective*, or helped sign someone up. You answered our subscription drive and because of you we now have *hundreds of new readers*.

If you've just started receiving our little magazine our aim is to give you plenty of reasons to keep on reading. And hopefully you'll soon be impressed enough to want to give someone the gift of *Reformed Perspective* too.



UFC:

Ultimate Fighting's Condemnation

by Trent Herbert with Jon Dykstra

"You know, it is probably more exciting to die in a competition than it is to die, you know, an old man peeing your pants in a bed somewhere."

Color commentator Joe Rogan, talking about the dangers of fighting in the Ultimate Fighting Championship.¹

These smug words may sound impressive to a world obsessed with self-glory, but they show no fear of God or concern about hell. Should we expect anything different from those who reject God's values? No. Unbelievers will act like unbelievers. From a human perspective UFC may seem justifiable. These are, after all, consenting adults, and there are refs there to try and make sure no one gets too hurt. There is even a measure of respect between the fighters.

Yet, we're not interested in the human perspective; God's perspective is what really matters. Two thousand years ago, it was the spread of Christianity that brought an end to gladiators and yet today professing believers are watching and even defending the modern-day equivalent, the UFC.

What is UFC fighting?

Ultimate Fighting Championship is a "sport" that puts two fighters in an octagon-shaped cage to fight until one submits. It is also known as Mixed Martial Arts (MMA). More rules have been added since its inception but it is still widely seen as the most brutal "sport." A winner is declared when one



of the competitors is knocked out, "taps out" (submits), or is no longer able to defend himself. Head strikes, choking, ground and pound (beating on an opponent on the ground) are just a number of ways this is accomplished.

A CTV online article states, "However, it's hard not to be squeamish at the amount of blood some fights have. . . or when a fighter is knocked out by a quick strike to the head and falls like a rag doll."²

Christians watching it?

Some readers may ask, "Why do we need an article in *Reformed Perspective* on this topic? The problem is that many professing believers are watching these fights. In some churches there are even fight nights for young men and other church-goers. One pastor has written that watching UFC is, ". . . a matter of Biblical freedom." Another pastor has endorsed these brawls and linked watching them with

male headship. “‘The man should be the overall leader of the household,’ said Ryan Dobson, 39, a pastor and fan of mixed martial arts who is the son of James C. Dobson, the founder of Focus on the Family. . . . ‘We’ve raised a generation of little boys.’”³ As if this is the answer to our ills! Male leadership has nothing to do with being able to pummel someone else into the ground.

Of course most of *RP*’s readers don’t have pastors endorsing these brawls, but you might be surprised how many young men in your local congregation are watching this. If we feel that this is not having an impact on the visible church, this simply is not reality.

It is interesting that if we were to go back into history, even boxing was banned from the Roman Empire and, shortly after that, gladiatorial fights ended. They were ended because it was seen as an insult to God and an attack against those created in His image. Today, it should be no different. If you can watch someone’s arm being busted or leg being shattered and quip, “well he should have had more calcium pills before he went into the ring,” your heart is cold. If you cringe for a little while, and cheer on the next fight, you are well on your way.

A friend, who used to watch UFC before he became a Christian, said it made him feel sick the first time he watched it. He needed to be desensitized to it, which, given time, will happen as people’s natural sense of human compassion is seared.

Why is this any worse than hockey or football?

The difference between these sports and UFC is in the goal or aim of the sport. The goal of football is to get a touchdown; the goal of hockey is to put the puck in the net – neither sport has as its aim to maim or hurt an opponent.

The fact is, fighting in hockey is illegal. If a hockey player gets in a fight he’ll get a penalty or even be suspended if it is serious enough. Of course fighting still happens in the NHL. Instead of the zero-tolerance standard adopted in Europe, the NHL approach is more of a slap-on-the-wrist-and-then-send-them-on-their-way approach. People continue to stand and cheer whenever a couple of 200-pound players line up and drop the gloves, ready to pummel each other until they bleed, so fighting is too much of a moneymaker for the NHL to end it entirely.

It’s so easy to forget just how wrong and how hateful it is to seek to spill another’s blood. The Bible says that hatred is akin to murder (1 John 3:15). Should we pause to think about this issue only when someone gets seriously hurt or even dies?

(New York Times “Senior Player Dies From Injury Sustained in On-Ice Fight” by Stu Hackel & Jeff Z. Kohtp, January 2, 2009). Do some players head out onto the ice with the intention of hurting someone? Yes, and it is sin. There is a name for guys like this: goon, which literally means a hired thug or rough criminal. It seems to fit.

The nature of hockey has nothing to do with maiming and hurting your opponent. There are rules and protective gear meant to minimize any injuries. If someone gets hurt during the game, everyone claps and bangs their stick on the ice for a reason – as a sign they are glad he is fine – or they are stunned into silence if it is serious enough.

What a contrast with the UFC! Its very nature is fighting, to hurt and maim. And people cheer when the fighters get hurt. People can try and sanctify it all they want, and call it a sport, but it is legalized criminal activity.

Football too, is a physical sport. But like hockey, if you fight you get penalized for it. The nature of football is to not allow fighting. They have rules and wear extensive equipment so that they won’t get hurt. Do guys go out and try to hurt people? Sure they do. But again, it is sin. I remember when Lawrence Taylor tackled Joe Theisman and seriously injured him. Taylor was calling for help, grabbing his helmet and going crazy because Theisman was so hurt. Taylor was distraught – his intent was not to maim and harm. If someone in the stands stood up and started cheering that Theisman was hurt, people would have been outraged. Theisman says he got the biggest cheer and standing ovation he had ever had for himself as he was carried off. This is the true nature of this sport. Again, the very nature of UFC is to hurt, maim and harm your opponent into submission and to glory in it. The list of suspensions for injuries after every fight night should inform us that it is a very different “sport” indeed.

Of course, that doesn’t mean that all that happens in the NHL and NFL is appropriate. It is, however, important to recognize the differences. The difference between a “sport” in which the intent is to injure, and a sport where the intent is to score a goal, is the difference between night and day.

Conclusion

The Psalmist wrote these sobering words. “The one who loves violence His soul hates” (Psalm 11:5). Do you love this “sport”? How far must it go before we stand up and say, “This is wrong; this is sin and if you watch this you are sinning”?

Endnotes

¹ CBC News: MMA Documentary, May 28, 2006.

² Josh Visser, CTV.ca News Staff, Jul. 11 2009. www.ctv.ca/servlet/ArticleNews/story/CTVNews/20090710/ufc_ontario_090711/20090711?hub=TopStories

³ New York Times, R. M. Schneidman: “Flock Is Now a Fight Team in Some Ministries,” February 1, 2010. www.nytimes.com/2010/02/02/us/02fight.html

Scripture taken from the New King James Version, © 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc.

This is an abbreviated version of a much more detailed article that can be found on the ARPA Canada website. You can find it there or by going to www.snipurl.com/arpa-ufc.



Deluded and dangerous

The Bible explains why the environmental movement gets it so wrong so often

by James Wanliss

The Bible says that those who do not love Jesus Christ have minds naturally subject to deceit and strong delusions. They are fooled...

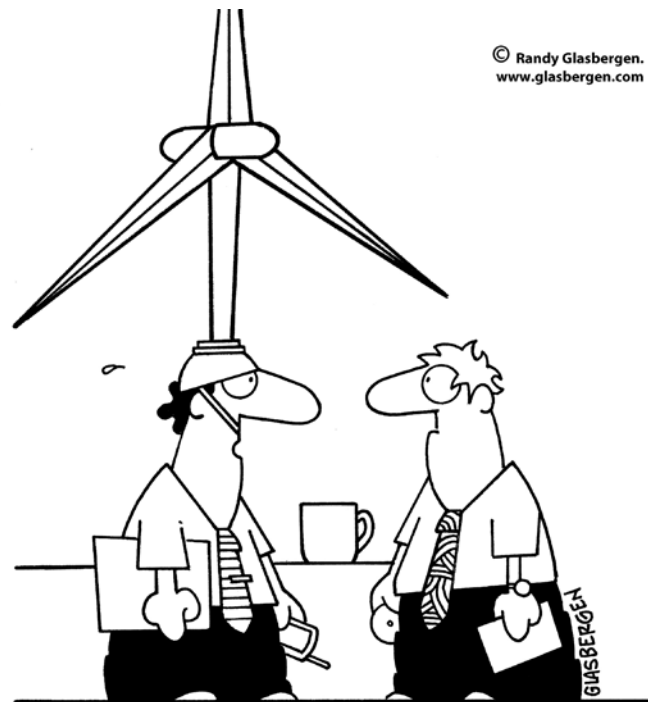
“with all the deceit of unrighteousness in those who perish, because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie, that they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness”
(2 Thessalonians 2:10-12).

Loving the planet above all else

One of the strongest delusions of our time is the vanity that unless mankind returns to a pre-industrial age our planet will be destroyed. This vanity is called environmentalism. To an already anxious people this idea is the sum of all fears. It embodies in it all the hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, droughts, plagues, pestilence, pollutions, and almost any other ecological disaster that one can imagine.

Environmental epocalypse – the idea that the end is nigh because of the presence of polluting people – is a catchall, seemingly able to explain anything. Global warming is currently the most prominent environmental terror, and media reports attribute just about anything to it, from more stray cats in the alleys of Toronto (*National Post* headline: “Stray cat explosion joins list of evils blamed on global warming”) to fewer prostitutes in the brothels of Bulgaria (*Metro* headline: “Global Warming: Now it hits brothels”). It seems greens leave no bizarre brick unturned. Apparently global warming has not only caused the death of the Loch Ness Monster, but also birthed two-headed turtles, and increased Italian suicide rates.

It may not be too much of a stretch to rationalize the increasing suicide rates among Western youth in terms of the dissonance the supposed environmental crisis foment. If it is true that human beings are not merely insignificant, but the root of environmental problems, then the final solution to save the earth is human extinction. Cut away Christian hope and the Christian basis for Western civilization and the strong delusion of *salvation by environmentalism* provides some certainty for people without God, who drift steadily from their rational moorings, and for whom there is an increasing sense of separation anxiety. Radical environmentalism



“If I run around the building 40 times, I can generate enough wind power to operate my cell phone for 2 minutes!”

has become the central organizing principle of a new cult, an oracle that provides all answers.

Hating the people on it

So the love of God is supplanted by the love of Earth. It shouldn't surprise us then, that along with rejecting the great and first commandment (Matt. 22:37-39), those who place their faith in environmentalism also reject the second, to love our neighbor.

This faith in environmentalism doesn't lead women to embrace their fertility, but to abort their children to save the planet. Why raise children when one can go out and work to save the world!? People who choose not to breed have lost all hope in the future. Suicide among animals is hardly known, but this curse is a growing affliction in the West. It is not

surprising to find such behavior from a people that have absorbed the intoxicating green lessons.

Environmentalist sensibilities may be broad, and include reasonable folks interested in clean water and responsible human behavior, but when its diffuse principles settle, like the dust of nuclear fallout, the answer that invariably radiates from the movement is that mankind is insignificant and unimportant; and irremediably wicked. The ultimate agenda of the environmental movement is to cut man down, to reduce population and population growth, whatever it takes to do so. True believers like Toni Vernelli fit right in here. She cares so deeply for all the trees and little animals that she has denied herself children for the sake of the planet.

Ten years ago she aborted her first child. It was not that she was too busy in her job coordinating the European ops for PETA, the warm and snuggly animal-rights group. She said that she just “passionately wanted to save the planet — not produce a new life which would only add to the problem.”¹ Eight years ago she ended the life of her second child by abortion, before finally managing to hunt down a doctor that would agree to sterilize her. She now enjoys a satisfying vegan lifestyle, recycles, claims to have a small carbon footprint, and no (living) children. Her only frustration is the occasional person that does not appreciate her impregnable perspective: “When I tell people why I don’t want children, they look at me as if I was planning to commit murder.”² Indeed.

Unfortunately the green vision extends beyond abortion of children in the West. After a lull of eight years the Obama administration is now reloading population-control programs in poorer countries. For decades, and now with a vengeance, environmental activists have used their influence with the US State Department to activate population-control programs that use aid money to encourage governments of less developed countries to abort their children. . . all in the name of saving the planet. As if the blood of near sixty million murdered babies in North America was not enough, we are once again witnessing globalization of infanticide.

Instead of saving the world “for the children” the road to green hell is paved with the skulls of children. The UK *Daily Mail* reported in March 2010 on the pathetic case of the Lotero family in Argentina. Francisco Lotero and his wife shot their two young children before killing themselves. Their suicide pact was prompted over fears about global warming. Their two-year old son died from a gunshot wound to his back. By God’s grace, their seven-month-old daughter miraculously survived a gunshot wound to the chest, after the bullet missed all her vital organs. We can thank God that her parents are now unable to correct their abortive attempt on her life.

One can only imagine the fevered discussions around their kitchen table, their no doubt painful conclusion that the only way to reduce their carbon footprint was to kill themselves.

If only they had listened to politicians they might have stayed their hands. Al Gore, for instance, in his speech to

the Nobel Peace Prize Committee said, “We must abandon the conceit that individual, isolated, private actions are the answer. They can and do help. But they will not take us far enough without collective action.” By deluded green thinking the isolated, private actions of the Lotero’s might be considered selfless, and heroic, even if a little misguided.

Conclusion

God says we should love Him above all else, and our neighbor as ourselves. This is the Christian view. But many in the environmental movement who reject the greater commandment have rejected the lesser as well: they act as if they love the planet above all else, and become misanthropic in their thinking. And God has given them over to their delusions. Christians, of all people, should care about the world we live in. So Christians are to be in favor of correct attitudes towards the rest of the created order. We also need to be aware that many of the obligations environmental leaders seek to place on us have unbiblical roots and fruit. As such, radical environmentalism has all the hallmarks of a dangerous and false religion, one that should not easily seduce Christians from their one true love. As I mentioned already, there is a sensible approach to the environment, and Christians should be concerned to take it. Work by groups such as the *Cornwall Alliance* (www.cornwallalliance.org) have helped bring a much needed and balanced Biblical view of stewardship to the critical issues of environment and development

We acknowledge, with environmentalists, that humans are unquestionably sinful. The answer to this sin problem is not, however, to kill them and falsely accuse them of various environmental crimes. We know also that we should not fear children. Within marriage the fruit of the womb is a great reward. And Jesus said, “Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven.” Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni recently said, “I am not one of those worried about the ‘population explosion’. This [population] is a great resource.” We may learn something from Museveni. His nation chooses to reject international offers to cut down their population. Instead of cringing in horror, he smiles in delight at the little children. Once a man looks on Christ with a spiritual eye he goes away quite changed.

End notes

¹ Courtney-Smith, Natasha, and Morag Turner, Meet the women who won’t have babies – because they’re not eco-friendly, *Daily Mail*, 21 November 2007, online at http://www.dailymail.co.uk/pages/live/femail/article.html?in_article_id=495495&in_page_id=1879; viewed 7/3/2009.

² Ibid.

Dr. James Wanliss is the author of an upcoming book on environmentalism called Green Dragon that is to be published sometime this summer.



Sleuthing a Cold Case

by Margaret Helder

The victim-to-be was a baby sauropod dinosaur, just emerged from an egg. The would-be perpetrator was a snake, coiled in the nest, with a crushed eggshell in its close embrace. The scene was western India, near the coast, and the situation was a sudden event, which overtook them all. This cold case, recently discovered and published in the scientific press, is fraught with fascinating issues. Like ripples on a pond when a stone is thrown into it, this case reverberates with interesting details and questions.

The victim

The victim has been identified as a newly hatched sauropod dinosaur called a *titanosaur*. Sauropods, known to us only from fossils, are believed to have been the largest animals ever to live on land. These were the dinosaurs which boasted of large bodies, extremely long necks and even longer tails. In fossil deposits in the western United States, impressive communities of sauropod dinosaurs have been discovered. Around the world, where there are terrestrial fossils in deposits at similar levels, similar sauropod dinosaurs have been found. Next to *T. rex*, the sauropods are some of the most famous dinosaurs.

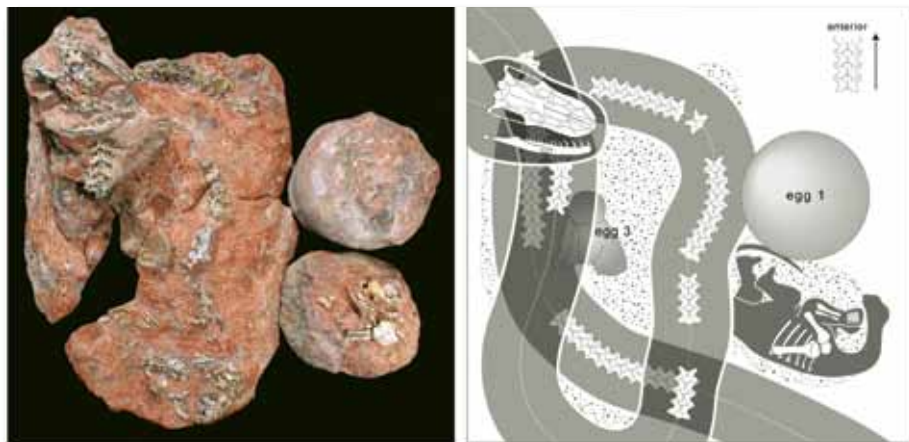
To locate the appropriate layers of rock where these dinosaurs are found, let's do a "thought experiment." If we take bed rock as an easy reference point and move upward through rocks deposited initially as sediments, assuming all possible rock layers are present, we would pass through Primary (or Paleozoic rocks) to Secondary (or Mesozoic rocks). The Secondary rocks are divided into lower (Triassic) layers, mid (Jurassic) layers and higher (Cretaceous) layers. Above the Secondary rocks there are Tertiary layers and finally Quaternary deposits

as we approach ground/surface level. To set things in perspective, the great depth of the Grand Canyon includes only Primary rocks (and not even all of them).

The famous sauropods occur in mid secondary (Jurassic) level rocks, mainly near the top of the Jurassic layers. Canada, however, although she boasts lots of interesting dinosaurs, cannot lay claim to sauropod dinosaur remains. In Canada, the exposed fossil bearing rocks were deposited at lower levels than Jurassic (in eastern Canada) and at higher levels (Cretaceous) on the western plains. The interesting thing however is that although North America mostly lacks sauropod dinosaurs in Cretaceous sediments, many places elsewhere do boast of sauropods in Cretaceous sediments. It is an additional interesting fact that the sauropod dinosaurs found at the highest levels, are unlike sauropods found in lower lying Jurassic sediments. These Cretaceous sauropods are called titanosaurs, and they have plenty of interesting claims to fame.

The titanosaurs are named for the titans of Greek mythology. The name suggests that these dinosaurs were huge, but actually they probably ranged from relatively small (like 12 meters long) to impressive 30 m giants. The titanosaurs are rarely found in North American deposits. While the North American middle and upper Cretaceous sediments did not contain sauropods, suitable rocks of India, France, Romania, parts of Africa and especially South America, have yielded abundant fragments of titanosaur sauropods. The only continents with no such specimens are Australia and Antarctica.

Since titanosaur remains consist only of sparse fragments, one might ask whether these remains really are different from other sauropod remains. Palaeontologists however are certain that there really was such a unique group of dinosaurs. While working for the Geological Survey of India, English naturalist Richard Lydekker described the first titanosaur. This was in 1877 and he based his description on two



1. Photo of fossil snake preserved within a sauropod dinosaur nesting ground

2. Interpretive map of photo

Photo and illustration used with permission from Wilson JA, Mohabey DM, Peters SE, Head JJ (2010) Predation upon Hatching Dinosaurs by a New Snake from the Late Cretaceous of India. *PLoS Biol* 8(3): e1000322. doi:10.1371/journal.pbio.1000322.g005

vertebrae from the tail region of an animal and a poorly preserved upper leg bone. Some features of titanosaurs however were so different from other sauropods that assignment of suitable specimens to this group was possible even when only a few bones were found.

The most unusual and thus characteristic feature of the group is the shape of the bones in the tail region. These bones have a deep cup on the front of each backbone (vertebra) and a large ball on the back of each vertebra. Thus the ball structure fits into the cavity in the adjacent backbone. This design gives the tail great flexibility! The backbone in the main area of the torso is also different from that of other sauropods. The Jurassic sauropods boasted elaborate cavities in their backbones which substantially reduced the skeleton's weight. In titanosaurs, on the other hand, these bones exhibit only slight pitting which would do little to reduce the animal's weight.

It seems strange to some scientists that the least fancy backbone designs should be found in the animals which occur in the top dinosaur containing layers of rock. Thus specialists Zdenek Spinar and Philip Currie remarked: "the rather solid nature of the vertebrae suggests that this group may be much older than its fossil record" (*The Great Dinosaurs*. 1994. p. 86). What they meant was that logically, these dinosaurs should have been found lower down than the Jurassic sauropods, not higher up in more recent deposits. If evolution had occurred, the fancier and better designed creatures, should be more recent and thus in higher lying sediments.

One big gap in information concerning titanosaurs has long been the anatomy of the head. Until the new millennium, no complete skulls had ever been found. Then in 2001, a group from Argentina described six newly discovered titanosaur eggs which contained exquisitely preserved and nearly complete skulls. It is true that these skulls were only about the size of postage stamps, but they were far superior to no information at all! (See Chiappe, Salgado and Coria. 2001. *Science* September 28 pp. 2444-2446.) Hundreds of titanosaur egg clutches have been found at this site in Patagonia. In a later article concerning this site, another group (Schweitzer, Chiappe, Garrido, Lowenstein and Pincus) described exceptionally preserved eggshells in which soft tissues and skeletal remains could be found. Concerning this unusual find, they remarked: "To preserve these labile [unstable] embryonic remains, the rate of mineral precipitation must have superseded post-mortem degradative processes [burial was faster than decay], resulting in *virtually instantaneous mineralization of soft tissues*" [*Proc. Royal Society B* 2005. April 22 pp. 775-784. *italics mine*]. This is a great example of the potential speed of fossilization.

In India, in recent years, hundreds of spectacular titanosaur nesting sites have been found in rocks identified as the highest (most recent) level of Cretaceous sediments. The eggs are large and spherical, ranging in size from 14-20 cm or more in diameter. Some of these thick-shelled eggs are similar to eggs attributed to a relatively small titanosaur from Aix-en-Provence, France. The titanosaurs of India however

(*Isisaurus* and *Jainosaurus*), are believed to have become large creatures, up to 20-25 m. Nevertheless they obviously started out small and vulnerable to predation.

The predator

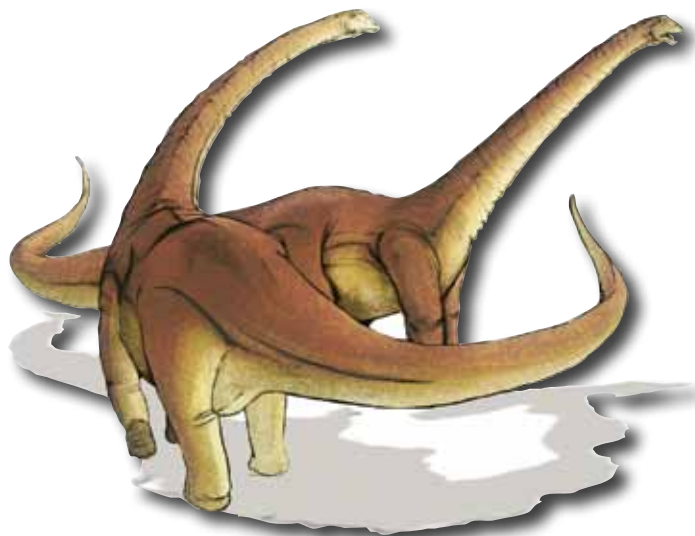
The "cold case" fossil specimen (described by Wilson, Mohabey, Peters and Head. 2010. *PLoS Biology* March vol 8 #3 p. 1-10) includes a snake with bones connected as in life, as well as part of a tiny dinosaur skeleton. This artifact is only the second recorded association between sauropod bones and eggs. The tiny sauropod, presumably just emerged from an egg, is represented by some ribs, a partial shoulder girdle and partial front limb, all connected as in life (articulated). Snake fossils, especially of this quality, are almost unheard of at this level in the rock record. Furthermore, while the remains of at least three snakes have been found near sauropod eggs, this specimen is the first example of snake predation on hatchling dinosaurs. Up until this point, it has been mainly carnivorous dinosaurs which have been shown to prey on other dinosaurs.

Because of the shape of its jaw, palaeontologists infer that the snake lacked the ability to consume large rigid dinosaur eggs. Rather, it appears that the snake snacked on newly emerged hatchlings. Comparison of this Cretaceous snake with other fossil specimens, reveals that similar fossil snakes have been found in Australia. Interestingly the Australian specimens occur in sediments which are considered to represent high level tertiary rocks, close to the quaternary level, rather than secondary rocks. According to a standard evolutionary interpretation, the Indian snake occurs in rocks dated at 67 million years (m.y.) and the Australian specimens at about 25 m.y.

The scene

A chart which accompanies this cold case specimen, illustrates the surrounding rock layers from basement rock to the soil surface. The basement rock, called Precambrian, is said to have been formed *before* the Primary rocks. From there to the surface we find 5 meters of rock. The snake/cold case specimen occurs at a level 2.8 m above the basement rock. "What?!!!" you say. "How can this represent the whole series of primary and secondary rocks, at the very least, and how is this specimen dated by evolutionists at about 67 m.y.?"

This situation demonstrates that rocks are often not dated by their occurrence in an actual stack of rocks. These particular sediments are considered to have eroded from exposed Precambrian basement rocks which specialists might date at 600 million years old or more. The Cretaceous date however comes from the nearby occurrence of volcanic rocks in India. The Deccan traps are the remains of amazing lava flows in central India which buried up to two million square kilometers of landscape. The basalt rock varies from 2400 m thick in the west but it thins towards the east of the continent. These rocks have been variously dated by radiometric methods, but they are considered to have been laid down on top of the Cretaceous sediments, about 65 m.y. ago.



Two full-grown sauropods

Thus the fact that some Deccan trap basalt lies within some sediments which contain dinosaur artifacts, means that all these sediments are considered to represent top of the Cretaceous layers.

The situation

Michael Benton, in commenting on the significance of various fossil artifacts, declared that “Sometimes one organism is preserved *in flagrante delicto*, as it were. . . .” *PLoS Biology* March 2010). What Dr. Benton meant is that sometimes fossils are preserved in compromising positions, the postures of life, proof positive that they actually engaged in these activities. He continues: “It seems most likely, as the authors argue, that this 3.5-meter-long snake was waiting and snatching juveniles as they hatched.” Wilson et al, who described the cold case specimen, themselves declare: “Multiple lines of evidence suggest that the snake-dinosaur association preserved at Dholi Dungri was the result of a preservation of organisms ‘caught in the act’ rather than a postmortem accumulation of independently transported elements. . . .” They continue that the characteristics of the snake, hatchling and eggs “rule out substantial transport [after death] and are indicative of relatively rapid and deep burial.” Something sudden and disastrous they say, buried these creatures presumably in a flash flood. They have stayed buried up to the present under only a few meters of rock. Things happened quickly and then they remained in a similar state up to modern times.

What does it all mean?

Many science books give the impression that fossil bearing rocks accumulated slowly over millions of years. In that case, the rate of sedimentation could be slow and so could the process of mineralizing of specimens (turning them into rock). In the case at hand however, the creatures were buried so rapidly that they were preserved in a posture of life. Moreover in Argentina, scientists have concluded that simi-

lar specimens underwent almost instantaneous mineralization! Such situations nicely fit a global flood scenario where events would have to occur rapidly. There have actually been quite a number of creatures preserved in the postures of life. Some of the more famous ones include the fighting dinosaurs of Mongolia and the dinosaur mother, entombed and fossilized while incubating her nest, also in Mongolia.

The similar snake fossils of India and Australia are supposedly separated by more than 40 million years. The evolutionists assume that such snakes continued to live but that they were not preserved as fossils during that time. The presumed populations, for which we have no evidence, are called ghost lineages. It might make more sense however to suggest that the Indian and Australian snakes were contemporaries, which were overtaken sooner or later in the flood, depending upon their geographical location. This would account for their preservation at different levels.

The titanosaurs themselves provide lots of interest for specialists. Their occurrence on some continents, and not on others, is difficult to explain in evolutionary terms. Scientists appeal to the idea of drifting continents which were initially joined together, to try to explain the distribution of titanosaurs. The problem is the timing of the separations of continents. Thus scientists cannot explain similarities of the Indian titanosaurs not only to those in South America but also to those in Europe. The pattern doesn’t make sense when long ages are postulated. Also it is hard to explain why the titanosaurs are missing from most of North America and why supposedly older sauropods appeared more sophisticated in their designs. However if the pattern of fossil occurrences reflects contemporary ecological communities, all buried about the same time, many of these difficulties disappear.

Thus we have investigated one small specimen which provides interesting questions about many aspects of earth history. It always pays to ask questions and to pursue the answers, just like any good detective!



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Soup & Buns

Limping to Victory

by Sharon L. Bratcher

Peter is a wonderful example of a committed Christian. He loves the Lord with all his heart, and yet he blurts out the wrong thing to say when he goes up on the Mount of Transfiguration. He sees Jesus perform a lot of miracles, but at the crucial moment when he doesn't understand why Jesus is letting Himself get arrested, he jumps forward and chops off the ear of the high priest's servant. He sees Jesus walking on the water, and knows that the Lord can give him the same ability, so he asks for the privilege. Then he notices the wild waves coming his way, has second thoughts, and questions whether the Lord will continue to provide or not; he starts to sink. He gives up his fishing business to follow the Lord everywhere, and he even travels with another disciple to preach the good news of Christ's coming. But then when something terrifying and bewildering happens and he is asked if he is a follower of Christ, he chooses the obvious route of safety, and denies the Lord. He weeps with repentance and is very eager to be forgiven.

David is another example of someone who loved the Lord, but he messed up big time. He is a "man after God's own heart" and he makes many wise and godly decisions. But then he falls prey to lust and covetousness that leads to murder. Like Peter, he truly repents.

Now say to yourself, "and then there's me." Write out your own strengths and victories and areas of growth from the past few years. Then write down your weaknesses and all the stupid things you have done and said. Ouch!

Mine goes something like this: I have completed mounds of bookkeeping paperwork and processed everything correctly, but I have also forgotten to enter a \$2,500 payment to a vendor. I was praised for being an excellent bank teller, but one day I gave away an extra \$500 (which the customer thankfully returned) and another time I foolishly set off the alarm! I have reached out to others with help and encouragement, but I have also gossiped about those who have hurt me. I have been strengthened by God's Word in my every day life and trials; but I have also despaired and felt the anguish of losing my personal pride and "status" rather than reach out to the culprit in genuine love that "bears all things." I have prayed together with grieving people, and yet I have opened my mouth and inserted my foot, ankle, and calf and sometimes not realized until years later that I offended someone.

I heard a minister state: "we limp to victory." I envision our friend Jerry at the end of his 26-mile marathon in New York City. He says that the last six miles are when the marathon part really begins. He also says that, "the pride lasts longer than the pain." Relating that to the first quotation, I see it as saying that the race is worth it – even if it causes a limp.

There are two conclusions to this subject. First, as the Apostle Paul said in 2 Corinthians 4 (and please read the entire chapter):

"Therefore, since through God's mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart. . . . But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; . . . Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal."

Our all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.

Secondly, we simply *must* lift up and love one another. Jerry told of two policemen entering the street at the marathon and helping a man finish the race. Joshua and Aaron held Moses' arms up so the Israelites would win the fight. And how dare we, knowing our own weaknesses and sins, tear down one another, acting impatient, unkind, envious, boastful, proud, rude, self-seeking, easily angered, and bitter? (see 1 Corinthians 13).

But we do, frequently. Like Peter and David we mess up royally. As we compare our own behavior to the commands in God's Word, we should find our own faults and repent of them, like Peter and David.

And as we limp along the path to victory, we should also lovingly pull each other up on the street again, not push each other down. We are all in this "race" together.

"Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you."

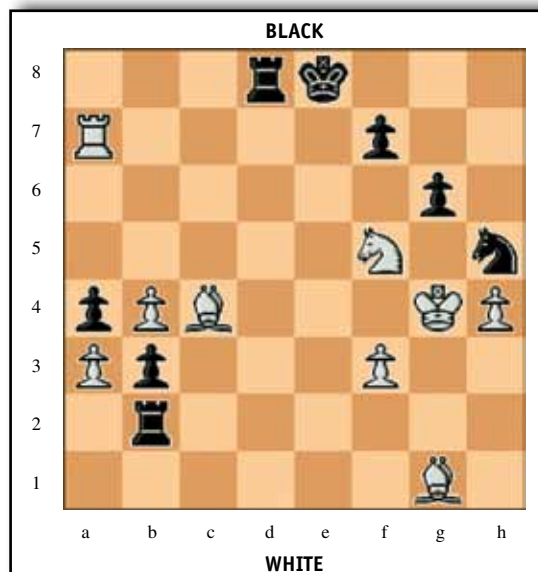
Colossians 3:13



ENTICING ENIGMAS AND CEREBRAL CHALLENGES

Send Puzzles, Solutions, Ideas to Puzzle Page, 43 Summerhill Place, Winnipeg, MB R2C 4V4 OR robgleach@gmail.com

CHESS PUZZLE # 165



White to Mate in 3
Or, if it is BLACK's Move,
BLACK to Mate in 2

NEW PUZZLES

Riddles for Punsters #165 – “Fruitful Racing, Yet Overall Fruitless”

Why did the race car driver make a PIT stop during a race? So that the car would continue to run just p ____.

Why did the race car driver make a PIT stop after the race was over? Because he was p __ _ tired out.

What did the race car driver say to an interviewer after coming in last? That race was just the p ____.

Problem to Ponder #165 – “Colourful Spending for Colourful Photos”

Imagine a country, Colouradia, where the value of its coins depends on their colour. Three blue coins have the same value as eight red coins. Two red coins equals five yellow coins and four yellow coins equals thirteen green coins. Omar wants to buy a digital camera that costs 99 blue coins. There is no sales tax in Colouradia! If Omar has 200 red coins and 200 yellow coins, does he have enough money to buy the camera? If so, after buying the camera how much money will have left over a) in yellow coins? b) in green coins?

SOLUTIONS TO THE (MARCH) PUZZLE PAGE

Answer to Riddles for Punsters #164 – “Plans Gone A-fowl”

What did the poetic farmer say when he saw that the goose that he wanted to cook for supper was free and running around in the yard?

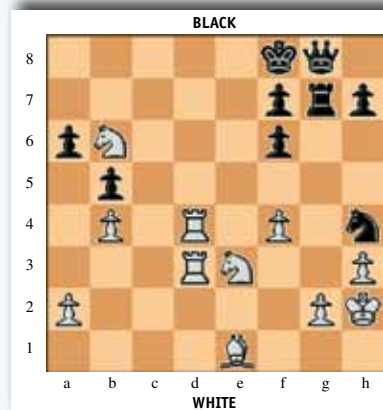
Find me a **n o o s e** that I can **u s e** to snare the **g o o s e** that's running **l o o s e**.

Answer to Problem to Ponder #164 – “Verb FindING”

Determine the described verb. All verbs end in “ing”.

1. travelling in a wind-driven sea vessel – **sailing**
2. attempting to catch aquatic life-forms – **fishing**
3. assembling physical structures or objects – **building**
4. restoring health and well-being – **healing**
5. controlling a motor-powered vehicle's motion – **driving**
6. imparting knowledge and imparting learning – **teaching**
7. experiencing cognitive (mental) processes – **thinking**
8. using mathematical processes to determine an answer – **calculating**
9. exceeding upper limits for the motion of a vehicle – **speeding**
10. causing bewilderment – **confusing**

SOLUTION TO CHESS PUZZLE # 164



WHITE to Mate in 3 Descriptive Notation

1. R-Q8 ch K-K2
2. N-B8 ch K-K3
3. R/Q3-Q6 mate

Algebraic Notation

1. Rd4-d8 + Kf8-e7
2. Nb6-c8 + Ke7-e6
3. Rd3-d6 ++

BLACK to Mate in 3 Descriptive Notation

1. _____ RxP ch
2. K-R1 R-N8 ch
3. K-R2 N-B6 mate

Note BLACK WINS sooner if:

1. _____ RxP ch
2. NxR QxN mate

Algebraic Notation

1. _____ Rg7xg2 +
2. Kh2-h1 Rg2-g1 +

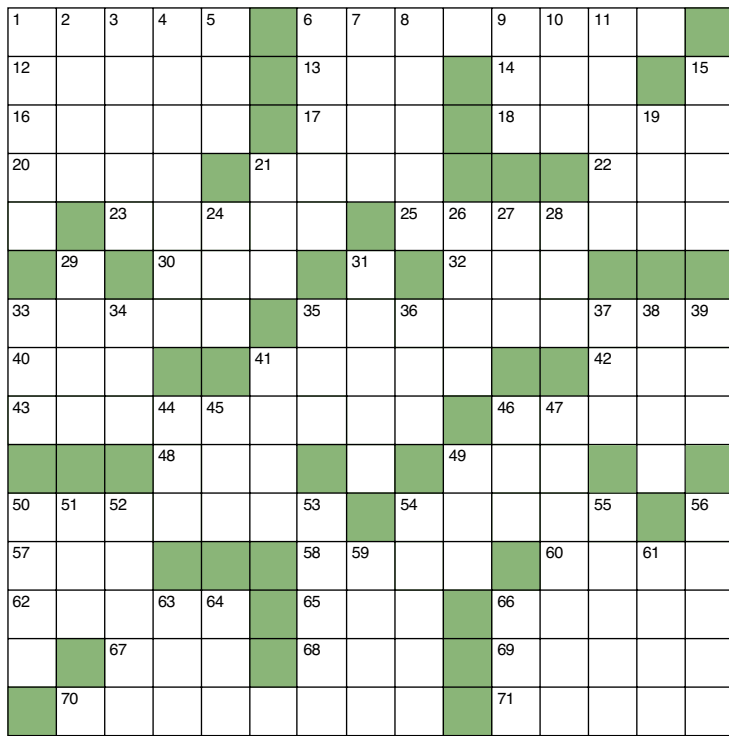
Note BLACK WINS sooner if:

1. _____ Rg7xg2+
2. Ne3xg2 Qg8xg2 ++

Crossword Puzzle

Series 17 No 4

Last Month's solution
Series 17 No 3



1	F	2	L	3	O	4	W	5	E	6	R	7	A	8	S	9	H	10	E	11	P	12	O	13	S
14	R	15	E	16	L	17	I	18	S	19	H	20	S	21	O	22	O	23	D	24	E	25	C	26	A
27	E	28	V	29	I	30	N	31	C	32	E	33	P	34	U	35	R	36	I	37	D	38	E	39	M
40	T	41	A	42	G	43	O	44	A	45	R	46	P	47	E	48	P	49	A	50	L	51	I	52	
53		54		55	A	56	R	57	S	58	O	59	N	60	B	61	A	62	L	63	L	64	O	65	T
66	C	67	R	68	U	69	S	70	T	71	B	72	I	73	N	74	W	75	A	76	S	77	T	78	E
79	R	80	I	81	S	82	K	83	A	84	O	85	K	86	P	87	E	88	W	89		90		91	
92	U	93	T	94	E	95	A	96	N	97	T	98	R	99	E	100	D	101	T	102	O	103	Y	104	
105		106		107	I	108	N	109	N	110	A	111	H	112	A	113	B	114	A	115	B	116	E	117	
118	S	119	L	120	A	121	N	122	G	123	E	124	G	125	O	126	C	127	U	128	M	129	I	130	N
131	C	132	I	133	R	134	C	135	U	136	S	137	A	138	D	139	D	140	O	141	N	142		143	
144	A	145	N	146	C	147	S	148	U	149	M	150	A	151	I	152	R	153	E	154	D	155	O	156	
157	M	158	E	159	T	160	E	161	G	162	U	163	M	164	A	165	S	166	I	167	D	168	E	169	S
170	P	171	A	172	I	173	R	174	A	175	S	176	A	177	L	178	E	179	V	180	E	181	L	182	S
183	O	184	R	185	C	186	A	187	R	188	E	189	P	190	S	191	T	192	Y	193	R	194	I	195	A

ACROSS:

1. A medieval peasant
6. Sky sight
12. Rose, to her friends
13. Edgar Allan ____
14. Time period
16. Highpriest vestments
17. Map abbr.
18. Slope sight
20. Chemical that repels insects
21. Old TV knob
22. Big tub
23. Befitting a king
25. What a spring month might bring
30. Sleep stage
32. Plural of os
33. Cold plant killer
35. Type of ground covering, or country music
40. What plants might do after a frost
41. Stretches across
42. Helpful insect
43. Compost the soil and enrich it
46. Sovereign decree
48. Strange space sight
49. Turkish general
50. People indigenous to a country
54. Sad sounds
57. Inuit knife
58. Aluminum, for short
60. Hill with a broad top
62. Fragrant plant
65. Air pollution from a volcano
66. Longed for something
67. Institute of Industrial Engineers
68. Environmental Protection Agency (US)
69. Lift up, or grow
70. Butter knife
71. Communication word for "O"

Joyce

DOWN:

1. Doctrine of belief
2. To believe or trust
3. Wedding attendant
4. People in an unruly mob
5. Guided
6. Flowery month
7. Little bit
8. Fishing items
9. ____ Miserables
10. Giant boat
11. Ingenuous
15. Type of learning
19. Corn part
21. Beaver building
24. Obtain
26. Garden implements
27. Organization, for short
28. Armed conflict
29. ____-dieu
31. Pottery, or pastry covering
33. File extension format in PDF
34. Over, poetically speaking
35. Bytes per inch (abbr.)
36. French one
37. Acquired Brain Injury (abbr.)
38. Persons in a certain faith
39. Matching pair
41. Blackthorn bush
44. New Zealand bird, a.k.a. parson bird
45. Infantry Fighting Vehicle, for short
46. Breakfast staple
47. Flowers
49. Shoot for
50. Without value, nothing
51. ____ Baba
52. Spring flower
53. Set aside, collected
54. Cake ingredient
55. Relating to sound waves
56. Shorebird with long legs, long neck and long bill
59. Easy, natural horse gait
61. Flat-topped elevation
63. Atmosphere
64. Letter
66. Expert