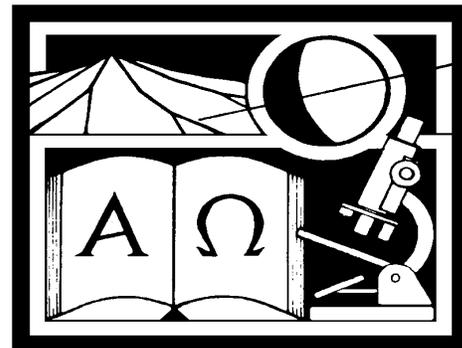


Origins Insights

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE
CREATION SCIENCE FELLOWSHIP



TM

July 2000

INHERIT THE MONKEY TRIAL

by Bob Harsh

An interesting interview with Scopes trial historian Ed Larson, a law professor at the University of Georgia, appeared in the May 22, 2000 issue of *Christianity Today*.

When asked about his thoughts on the Kansas schools controversy, he expressed a desire that local school districts would continue to teach about evolution. "These are important ideas that every educated person in America should understand." I agree that every educated student should have an understanding of how evolution is supposed to work. However, I would go much further, as an educator, and teach in which particular ways evolution is an invalid explanation of nature.

Surveys taken about the proportion of scientists who believe in a traditional theistic God was done by James Leuba in 1914 and 1933. He "found about 40% belief among the rank and file and much lower belief among the elites." Larson has found about the same levels of belief today. What amazed

people at the time of the Scopes trial was that so many [40%] of the scientists were **unbelievers** in a traditional God. What amazes people today is that so many scientists are **believers** [40%]. I thought Dr. Larson made an interesting point

about the importance of Philip Johnson and the other "Intelligent Design" proponents. Larson thinks that "intelligent design" has an appeal only for the non-scientists and not for working scientists. "If Johnson and others in the

MEETING INFORMATION

HOST: Reid Moon

TOPIC: Anthropological Evidence for Creation and the Flood

How a picture is worth 1000 words... and more!

Anthropology is the science that deals with the study of human culture and its evolution. One of its many sub disciplines is anthropological linguistics.

Language and its development has played a key role in the preservation of mankind's cultural advances. In July, Reid Moon will present the fascinating facts of how Chinese pictographs have embedded within them the Hebrew account of Genesis chapters 1-9. The core reaction teachings about monotheism, the creation, the temptation and mankind's fall, the flood and the Tower of Babel are all recovered through a study of this 4,500 year old language. It represents important scientific evidence for the Genesis account of creation from a most surprising source.

DATE: Tuesday, July 18, 2000

TIME: 7:30 PM

PLACE: Mars CMA Church, 997 Route 228, Mars, PA, 16046.
Church Phone: (724)776-9400

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intellectual-design movement are going to change science, it is going to have to be through scientists and not through the general public.”

I believe Dr. Larson is right about how “intelligent design” can have a greater impact. But how do we get our scientists to believe in God? I believe that the genuine personal faith displayed by family-members, church background, and personal Bible study are the greatest influences on whether a person is an adult believer. On the other hand, the influence of the evolutionary dogma that seeks to indoctrinate any serious science student consistently from elementary school through post-graduate studies takes its toll in many young scientists. Ordinary people do have a responsibility to teach our future scientists well.

The real shame is that the science professors of many Christian universities have gone through the same evolutionary indoctrination and although they may have been able to maintain their belief in God, they teach the same evolutionary dogma they were taught, with perhaps less fervor. All good quality textbooks are based on evolutionary naturalism.

WE MUST DO BETTER! WE MUST START TEACHING THE INVALIDITY OF EVOLUTION FROM A SCIENTIFIC STANDPOINT! WHATEVER WE CAN FIND TO TEACH FROM THE WORLDVIEW OF BIBLICAL NATURALISM

MUST BE EMPHASIZED IN A VERY POSITIVE WAY! WE MUST GIVE OUR YOUNG PROFESSIONAL SCIENTISTS THE EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND THAT CAN HELP IN BUILDING RATHER THAN DESTROYING THEIR FAITH!

[See Giberson and Yerxa, “Inherit the Monkey Trial”, *Christianity Today*, May 22, 2000.]

Intelligent Design: A Great Weapon Against the Priests of Atheism

by Bob Harsh

I recently had the opportunity to read an article in *Christianity Today* by one of my favorite authors, Nancy Pearcey. [If you ever run across anything written by her, read it. You’ll be glad you did.] Being a public school teacher, I was attracted to the title, “We’re Not In Kansas Anymore”.

Most everyone knows about the Kansas school board decision, even though much of their knowledge is based on misinformation. I was aware that biology textbooks in Alabama’s public schools must contain a disclaimer that evolution is a controversial theory. What I found, to my pleasant surprise, was that Oklahoma has a similar requirement. In Kentucky, education officials replaced the word “evolution” with “change over time”. In New Mexico they revoked a requirement for their teachers to present evidence for and

against evolution. Finally, our friends in nearby Kanawha County, West Virginia were defeated in their attempt to “permit” teachers to present evidence for and against the theories of evolution.

The high priests of the establishment have been in a tizzy [I don’t know if tizzy is a proper word, but that pretty much describes their attitude.] The AAAS found it necessary to issue a warning about the inadequacy of students educated in Kansas’ public schools. The news media have had a heyday with their deceptive editorializing. The Associated Press voted the Kansas School Board decision the top story of 1999. As a person involved with trying to get people to rethink their acceptance of evolution as a valid scientific explanation of nature I have loved the controversy. People like Philip Johnson and organizations like AIG, ICR, and CRS have received a lot of valuable exposure.

Pearcey had an interesting section on the rapidly growing popularity of the “intelligent Design” movement. She observed that instead of nibbling away at the specifics in differences of interpretation of nature between evolutionists and creationists, Intelligent Design threatens the most basic paradigm of science itself!

A revealing quote from our friend, Paul Nelson is interesting. “Design is ruled out not because it has been shown to be false but because science itself has been defined as applied materialistic philosophy.” [Nelson as quoted by Pearcey, 2000] “One goal of the ID movement is to drive a wedge between two operative definitions of science. The Kansas board made its own contribution to the “wedge strategy” when it changed the standards’ definition of *science* from an activity that seeks “**natural explanations**” to one that seeks “**logical explanations**”. The idea is that science should be open to any rational, test-

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able theory, and not limited to naturalistic theories. Design theorists hope to press the case against Darwinism until scientists are forced to decide which is the *real* definition of science: Will they follow the evidence wherever it leads, or will they insist on naturalistic theories regardless of the evidence?" [Pearcey, 2000]

"On this issue the Christian world was playing defense. We were saying, 'What can we defend? How much do we have to give up?' We're leaving the fortress and heading behind the lines to blow up the other side's headquarters, its ammunition store." [Johnson, 2000 as quoted by Pearcey]

Many in our movement have derided those of us who are primarily spreading the word on the basis of "what is invalid with various evolutionary theories" and not offering "what is valid" with creationism. I think design in nature has been good positive evidence for a Creator. Although many ID people don't go so far as to give God the glory for being that Intelligent Designer, I believe they are still providing a great service to us who do give God the adoration due to Him. I believe we should give them all of the support that we can. Let us not be so cantankerous that we discourage our brothers when the best they can do is to find fault with the opposition and at the same to put down people who are trying to show positive evidence for design.

Pearcey concluded her article with what has troubled me the most. Although I have always been a creationist, for many years I basically went along with the attitude that one of my teaching colleagues had. He simply told his students that life either started by evolution or creation and it didn't matter to him which side they chose. When the textbooks all teach evolution as scientific dogma, guess which side seemed to come out the winner to the students.

Many people have become convinced that evolution is in the domain of science while creation is in the domain of religion and the two should not be mixed in polite company. The 1981 resolution by NAS stated, "Religion and science are separate and mutually exclusive realms of human thought whose presentation in the same corner leads to misunderstandings of both scientific theories and religious belief." Stephen Gould assured the readers of *Time*, "No scientific theory, including evolution, can pose any threat of religion because they belong to separate non-overlapping spheres."

We have allowed that lie to go on long enough! Let's get off our apathetic lazy rear-ends and start standing against what we know is wrong! A survey in *Scientific American* revealed that more than 90% of NAS members reject belief in a personal God. Gould is proud to be an atheist. "Roughly 90% of Americans believe that God created life either directly or by guiding a gradual process." [Pearcey, 2000] How long are we going to allow the high priests of the false religion of atheism to be allowed to define science for us? Our great scientific forefathers like Newton did their science to bring glory to God. Let us join together to take back the domain of science from the atheists.

Mission to Perm, Russia Report

by Bob Harsh

It will not be long before I will be climbing on that plane and heading for one of the biggest challenges and opportunities I have ever been involved with.

I want to thank CSF for your financial support.

I have been working diligently and prayerfully on the lessons I am planning to present. The lessons have the following titles:

- 1- Neo-Darwinism Impossible
- 2- Will a Case of Irreducible Complexity Prove To Be Fatal?
- 3- Design Demands a Designer
- 4- The Bible, Not Just An Ordinary Book
- 5- Dinosaurs In the Bible

The first two are mostly arguments against the scientific validity of evolution. The third is a strong case for the validity of intelligent design of the human body. The fourth is intended to show that several Bible writers knew things about nature centuries before legitimate investigation by scientists discovered the same principles. The last lesson is an eye-opening verse-by-verse analysis of Job 40 and 41. See what kind of animals you think God was describing to Job. More importantly, what was Job's response to God's biology lesson?

Lesson one will be presented on Monday and Tuesday, July 17 & 18 and lesson two will be shared on Wednesday and Thursday the 19th and 20th. Lesson three is planned for the next Monday and Tuesday July 24&25, while #4 will be presented on Wednesday and Thursday. We had to change our plans several times with feedback from our Russian friends.

I have given (you such page)

(Continued from page 3)

tails so that you can be specific in your daily prayers. I have personally seen answers to my prayers during my preparation time and believe God will use me to bring a little more light to the people of Perm. Please pray for open hearts and minds on the part of the hearers in Perm, for the ability of my translator to get across what could be difficult ideas and for me to be able to be a light rather than just a transmitter of information.

Attention: Tape Orders

For those who are unable to attend our monthly meetings. In response to requests, we are making available tapes and study notes from the following meetings for 1999. The tapes are 90 minutes long and include the very extensive set of overheads and notes used by the speakers for these presentations.

Prices are: \$6.00 for tape and notes + 1.00 shipping. Order by title given below by check, Visa, Mastercard or cash at the meeting.

JAN 99: "Developing the creation model for yourself" by Robert Walsh. A how-to-guide on doing Biblical creation studies at home and studying the Bible in general. Excellent resource and guide.

FEB 99: "The age of the earth. What does the Bible say?" by Robert Walsh and Don Schell. An in depth scripture study of two of the most popular compromise explanations for genesis account of origins given in the church. Learn about the day/age and gap theories.

MAR 99: "Rocks around the

clock" - Chuck Danley. What does the Bible say about the original created geology of the world and do any of those features remain on the earth today?

MAY 99: "The pre-flood world" - Robert Walsh and Henry Jackson. A close look at the Biblical descriptions of the pre-fall and pre-flood world in the areas of climate, geology, anthropology, and religion. A discussion of the zodiac and its relationship to the Bible is included in this lively presentation.

JUN 99: "Noah's Ark - Robert Walsh and Jeff Lawther. This presentation developed the Biblical framework regarding the Ark and Flood, examining the sequence and duration of Noah's Flood. The Biblical texts that discuss the sources of the Flood waters were examined along with the data provided for the Ark itself. Jeff and Bob examined some of the frequent questions that often arise when discussing Noah's Ark. These questions include (1) Was the Ark large enough to repopulate the world with all of the known extinct and extant creatures?; (2) How could fresh and salt water fish exist in the same ocean?; (3) Was Noah's Flood local or global in extent?; (4) If the Ark existed, could it be sea worthy? (5) How could Noah feed and care for all of the required animals while on the Ark?; and more...

AUG 99: "The Dead Speak" - Dennis E. Wert. This talk examined the effect of the flood on living things. In particular, what was the impact of the world wide flood of Noah on all the living creatures on the earth at the time of that flood. We looked at the questions of evidences for the flood in the fossil record and ef-

fect of the flood on the survival of the animals taken on the ark and those that were not taken. This lively talk had a number of good questions and answers at the end.

SEP 99: "Should Creationism be Taught in Public Schools?" This presentation is done by Robert Walsh at a local secular political "think tank" meeting. It defines and examines the issues involved and clears of the confusion that clouds this topic. It attacks the assumption that evolution is science and creation is religion and clearly differentiates what science can say about how the universe operates versus what they "believe" about how the universe came to be.

NOV 99: "Creation: What's All the Fuss" is topic of Bob Walsh's talk at this monthly meeting. His emphasis is on the effect of "compromise" efforts by the Church have had on its effectiveness and doctrine. He clearly shows how the doctrine of creation affects all aspects of Christian Doctrine and Practice. The destructive effect on the Christian view of marriage and the family is also discussed. The very basis of our political founding documents rest on the fact of the creation of man by God.

JAN 2000: "Philosophical and Logical Evidences for Creation" by Dr. Stephen Rodabaugh. This talk investigates the basis and consequences of a persons "worldview" or guiding philosophy on not only what they think but how they act. Dr. Rodabaugh points out the moral bankruptcy of the evolutionary philosophy and the superiority of life from a creationist perspective.

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APR 2000: "Living Things As Evidence for Creation". This presentation was done by Dennis Wert and seeks to compare and contrast the views of life—including mankind - as seen from an evolutionary and creationist perspective. The more explanatory and scientifically valid theory of why living things look the same as well as different is shown to be creationism. Its logical and satisfying elements better describe not only what we see but how living things came to be as they appear today. This is short and BASIC introductory talk suitable for 6th grade and up.

MAY 2000: "Geologic Evidences for Creation and the Flood" by Chuck Danley. Chuck gives an overview of the geologic evidences for the creation of the earth and the worldwide flood of Noah. In this talk he compares and contrasts the evidences as described by evolutionary geology with the better explanation of a fiat creation and the sedimentary effects of a global flood. A must hear talk on basic creationist geology.

JUN 2000: "Evidences for a Young Earth" presented by Jeff Lawther. Jeff first examines the issue of, Does a young earth position matter to the origin's debate and the church. His reasons will clearly demonstrate the necessity of affirming the Biblical young earth model. Then Jeff moves on to cite the physical evidences for a young age for the earth and the universe: decay of the earth's magnetic field, decay of comets, seafloor sediments, out of sequence fossils, polystrate fossils, helium in the atmosphere, abrupt appearance of history and

society, radio halos of Polonium 210, population of the earth, and the recession of the moon. This is another excellent overview, introductory talk on the basics of these evidence for a recent creation.

Email Preferences

We are seeking input on ways of disseminating this newsletter. If you would like to receive this newsletter via email, let us know at csf@trfn.clpgh.org. Please let us know what format you would like to receive this document—Word Perfect, MS Word, RTF, etc... Thank you!

ATTENTION:

We offer childcare service for ages 3-8 in an attempt to include Mom's and Dad's in the Creation Science Fellowship meetings. Come join us!

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AFTER EDEN

by Dan Lietha



Tell me again why I should trust scientists' ability to be accurate about life on Earth "millions of years" ago...

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SALE**

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Members receive 30% off!

**Meeting Topics for the
Calendar Year 2000**

AUGUST 15: Fossil Evidence for the
Flood—Robert Ivey

**PLEASE NOTE DATE
CHANGE FOR SEPTEMBER**

SEPTEMBER 23: 9 AM SPECIAL SATUR-
DAY FIELD TRIP MEETING; Empirical
Evidence for the Flood: Tour of the Carne-
gie Museum—hosted by Dennis Wert &
Bob Harsh

OCTOBER 17: Mankind Evidence for being
Made In God's Image—Robert Walsh

NOVEMBER 21: Evidence for the Design of
the Physical Man—Robert Harsh

Science and Nature Two Votes for God

We want to pass on the news that an excellent author and speaker, Bert Thompson, will be presenting a 3-day seminar August 11-13. The seminar is free to the audience and will be held at the Church of Christ, Virginia Avenue & Second Street, Chester, W. Va. Chester is across the Ohio River from East Liverpool, Ohio and is about 45 minutes from Pittsburgh. Church's phone # is 304-387-1030 or 1680.

Bert Thompson is a "Young Earth Creationist" and his seminar will present evidence for the scientific accuracy of the Bible and the scientific problems with evolution.