

Think Believe

Discover Creation...Worship the Creator

A Publication of Alpha Omega Institute

March/April, 2023; Vol. 41, No.2

“Warm” of the Day

by Mark Sonmor

In Genesis chapter 3, after Adam and Eve sinned, it is recorded that they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day¹. Because of the overriding tension in the narrative, it’s easy to skip over that last bit of information. However, if there was a “cool” of the day, does that mean there was a “warm” of the day? If there was a time that offered greater comfort to go walking, could that mean there was a time of **discomfort**?

Because scripture doesn’t give a lot of details, we are left to imagine what some things were like in the garden. Was creation pristine and perfectly suited for man – like sitting in one of those manicure salons at the mall? No needs, no worries, no annoyances? God said it was very good so, consequently, I’ve assumed that any discomforts we currently experience are not God’s design but results of sin; and that one day, God will restore creation to its original glory – pedicures and all.

Yet, I wonder, why did God make us with soft, vulnerable skin? No protective fur – and no claws or horns for that matter. If there was a warm of the day, did that mean that Adam and Eve could have been subject to sunburn? Blisters? Chapped lips? If not that, I’m fairly certain they had to deal with other unpleasantries – like certain off-putting bodily functions.

If I was in the Garden, I would have been asking God some

questions. Why, for instance, can’t we discreetly cough up a pellet like owls do? Why do we have to deal with waste at all? For that matter, why make us with the need to eat in the first place? Seems like I could have done a better job if it was left to me!

To the Israelites coming out of Egypt, God’s new law and system of worship might have seemed fairly disturbing as well. All that blood – sprinkled seemingly everywhere and on everything. Why all the sacrifices? Why all the regulations? And the tabernacle!? Why is it so small? Compared to the Egyptian temples, it’s embarrassing!

Gone unchecked, we, like the Israelites, can build a toxic mushroom-cloud of doubt, blame, and prideful accusation. If God loves me, why...? If God is good, why...? This frenzy can build until we, like squirrels running around the deck of an oil tanker, totally miss God’s presence, purpose, and sovereignty. What we may fear to be capricious, will, one day, reveal itself to be oh, so far above what we can imagine.

Although the Old Testament law had some element of glory, Paul writes in 2 Cor. 3 that the glory of the Spirit found in the new covenant of the gospel is so surpassing that it makes the law look as if it had no glory at all. If this can be true of God’s law given to Moses,

can it also be true of our humanness?

In 1 Cor. 15, Paul goes to great lengths to explain the transformation we can anticipate at Christ’s return. In speaking of the body, Paul says, “It is sown a perishable body, it is raised imperishable. It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body...Just as we have borne the image of the earthy, we will also bear the image of the heavenly.”

In 2 Cor. 5, Paul adds that we, in our current state (nakedness), long to be clothed; and that our current mortal state will be swallowed up by **life**. Not only can we look forward to a new, glorious physical state, but one that brings completion to the healing of our guilt and shame.

Why did God make us susceptible to corruption? I don’t know. We can only speculate what life was like before the Fall since our current state is all we’ve known. What I do know is

that God meets us in our messy awkwardness and is not afraid to “get His nose bloody.”

Throughout history, and in the person of Jesus Christ, He has revealed his character and His

ways to be good beyond human comprehension and certainly not subject to man’s fallen flesh and insecurities. **AOI**



¹Some translate this as the time of the afternoon or evening breezes. The Septuagint reads, afternoon.

Dr. John Morris will be missed! *by Dave Nutting*

I am sad to report that my friend and creation colleague, Dr. John Morris, passed away at 76 years of age on January 29, 2023. Dr. John Morris was the son of the late Dr. Henry M. Morris, founder of the Institute for Creation Research, and who was known as the father of modern creationism. After his father's retirement, Dr. John became the president of ICR.

He has been appreciated by countless individuals in audiences across the nation as an engaging speaker – especially when recounting




his search for Noah's ark in the mountains of Ararat. One of his most memorable lines in that presentation was, "And this is where I was struck by lightning," – something he circled back to several times in each presentation.

Dr. John and I have shared a common goal to make the creation message understandable even to younger children. As such, he would often be heard saying, "I like pictures!" With permission, we have utilized each other's pictures in various presentations.



John has written or co-authored several books which we at AOI have featured in this publication. These include **The Young Earth, The Global Flood, and The Fossil Record.**

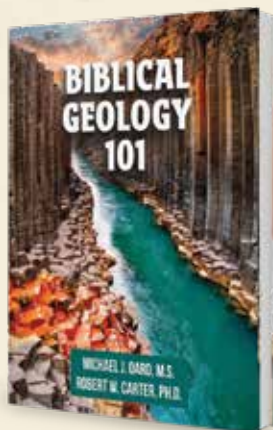
It was special for us at AOI when he supported our ministry by speaking at one of our milestone anniversary celebrations. We will miss him as we prepare to celebrate AOI's 40th anniversary this coming year.

Our condolences go to his wife, Dalta, his family, and to all of ICR. He will be greatly missed! 

Biblical Geology 101 *by Dr. Robert Carter and Michael Oard*

Review by Dave Nutting


While studying geology in college, I was confronted daily with concepts framed in millions of years of geologic time. Sometimes, I had professors introduce a topic by saying, "We knew those creationists were wrong decades ago." Then, they would mount a case against the Bible and creationists. This was in a conservative college. But conservative or not, students like me, were (and are even more so today) being indoctrinated by anti-Biblical propaganda. For me, it was too easy to buy into that concept since that is all I had



ever heard. At that point in my life, I had no inkling of Biblical Creation let alone a Biblical perspective of Geology. Today, the same is true for a high percentage of middle school and high school students or students in virtually any college course – especially those who study physical science or geology.

However, the exciting thing is that there **is** a Biblical perspective of geology that fits with the scientific data – even better than the long-age perspective. Keep in mind, if those "millions of years"

of earth history didn't exist, and the Biblical time frame is valid, then the "goo-to-you" story of evolution crumbles since it is totally dependent on vast amounts of time.

Biblical Geology 101 is a very easy-to-read resource for you and your family. Learn the key concepts of geology and how rocks are formed without having to wade through a bunch of technical jargon or an anti-biblical philosophy. I highly recommend this excellent book. Geology can be fun – especially when you see how it fits with the Flood of Noah's day. You can trust all of the Bible! (200 full-color, 8.5 x 11 pages! **\$20** plus shipping/handling) 

Larvae, and Pupae, and Flies, Oh, My!

By Mark Sonmor

As Easter approaches, it's good to set aside some time to ponder the death, burial, and resurrection of our Jesus and what is promised at His return. We associate this time with new life and transformation – springtime! That's why, in the stores, you'll see flowers, bunnies, cute, little maggots... **Maggots!?**

Well, we should. The pesky housefly is a better reminder of our future hope than any Easter bunny. While much has been made of butterflies and their miraculous progression from caterpillar, to pupa, to flying adult, many other insects go through similar transformations. In fact, 80% of all insects, including flies, go through some form of complete or incomplete metamorphosis. When you consider that insects make up 65% of animal species, that's a lot of change on a massive scale.¹

For example, that bungling June bug that's banging into your porch light? It started out as a grub worm in your lawn. Dragonflies spent their early life as nymphs in a pond or lake nearby. That cloud of mayflies swarming on the edge of the lake? They lived two years below the surface breathing through gills like a fish. Give them some space because they only have a day or two to mate and lay their eggs back in the water. Cicadas? Give them some respect too. They lived at the base of a tree for 17 years before coming to the surface for their final molt into adulthood.

(See image page one.)

Scientists have categorized metamorphosis based on the amount of change that happens. The first is called complete metamorphosis, where the insect hatches from an egg, lives for some time as a larva, and then enters the pupal stage. Set about by hormones, this is where wings are expressed and the most dramatic changes occur. During this process, some cells are broken down and repurposed to build new structures. It's like a submarine that rises to the surface, is torn down from the inside out, and takes off as a helicopter!

The second type, called incomplete metamorphosis, is when an insect like a cockroach or cricket hatches as a miniature form of the adult. As it grows, it passes through several molting stages before reaching adulthood. The process is called incomplete because it lacks the larval and pupal stages. The origin of these terms is rooted in the evolutionary assumption that the more complicated process was derived from the simpler one.

While comparatively little has

been written on the evolution of insect metamorphosis, one idea proposes that, while in the egg, the embryo of an ancient insect – a grasshopper, let's say – encountered a mutation and couldn't absorb all the nutrients in the egg. It's not clear how the embryo survived without these "crucial" nutrients, but the need forced future embryos to prematurely acquire the physical parts

necessary to consume and digest what remained. This new ability also allowed them to hatch sooner and begin eating vegetation. Eventually, this became the larval stage.

Other evolutionists postulate that the stages of complete metamorphosis are enhancements of slight variations seen in the nymphal stages of incomplete metamorphosis.

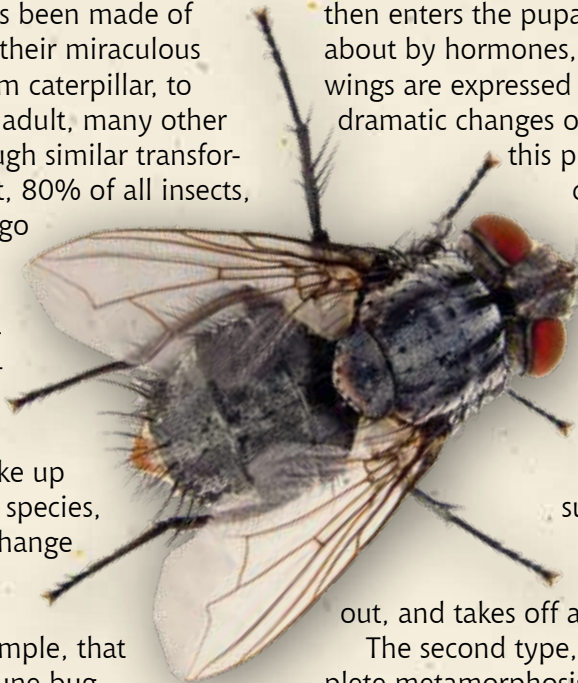
Ascribing an evolutionary reason why, however, **does not tell us how**. The planning and particulars of hormone-induced structural transformation within the pupal stage alone, are not explained by trial-and-error natural selection. All the components must be in place and working or the system breaks down.

Evolutionists are quick to note that new theories will be forthcoming and debated. Yet, they remain optimistic that they will solve the riddle of metamorphosis in time.

It might be more accurate to say that both creationists and evolutionists have more in common than they think. They both believe in miracles – but differ in who or what they give credit to. **AOI**



Mosquito pupa in transition



¹<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6711294/#RSTB20190063C54>, *Complete Metamorphosis of Insects*, Roff, Johnston, Reynolds

Director's Column: Creation Vacations

by Dave Nutting



This coming summer, we have added a **June Creation Tour of Yellowstone National Park.**

We did this so that families who have school conflicts in August or September, can still attend.

Even those who have already attended one of our Yellowstone tours may want to come again because, earlier in the summer, the baby animals are frequently seen. Participants can come multiple times and not get bored because Yellowstone is always changing. You can never predict what new surprises await you.

These tours offer an excellent opportunity to fortify yourself and your family with the truth of the Bible while seeing absolutely amazing sites! Yellowstone is a must-visit National Park,

We have kept the tour affordable for the entire family. This year's fall tours will be only

\$320 per teen through adult. Children 12 and under are \$250. Where else can you get a quality creation tour that includes all meals, lodging, bus tour of Yellowstone, and camp activities so inexpensively? (The June tour is a bit more because of the extra day offered.)

Another excellent opportunity would be our **Twin Peaks Creation Vacation** in the mountains of Colorado. This camp includes dynamic creation teaching with Rich Stepanek and an exciting kid's program with Lanny & Marilyn Johnson. This is a very affordable camp with fun, food, facts, and fellowship.

Yellowstone Dates:

June 18-23 • Aug 25-29 • Sep 1-5
Call to register (970-523-9943) or visit <https://www.discovercreation.org/camps-tours/>.

If you can't make it in person, check out our Yellowstone App. It is a comprehensive tour app with lots of creation-related articles of Yellowstone with, quality photos, and included audio. **AOI**

Twin Peaks Family Mountain Creation Vacation

July 30 – August 4



Canyons and Dinosaur Museum tours included!

Contact AOI or visit:
[DiscoverCreation.org/camps-tours/](https://www.discovercreation.org/camps-tours/)

Reminder:

Alpha Omega Institute is supported by your faithful giving. Your donations help our creation speaking teams minister to youth and adults. If you can help as well with gifts to finish the conversion of our upstairs to housing, that would be much appreciated! Please call Dave to discuss the full vision of the space utilization.

Yellowstone Tour 2023 June 18-23, August 25-29, September 1-5



Great family adventure!

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



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