

# Think Believe

Discover Creation...Worship the Creator

A Publication of Alpha Omega Institute

July/August, 2023; Vol. 41, No. 4

## Why is Creation Important?

by Adam and Angel Habluetzel

**W**e have been asked why our ministry focuses on Genesis, God as Creator, and the evidence for the creation/flood accounts in our teaching and evangelism. There are several good answers to this question, and I will briefly lay out a couple of them.

The evolutionary worldview remains a huge stumbling block to many young people coming to faith in Jesus Christ

Maybe you've seen the statistics. Young people are walking away from the Church and from Biblical faith in alarming numbers. The reasons? Research shows that one of the biggest is because they cannot reconcile the Bible with what they've been told is "irrefutable science." Common thinking is that "science has proven the Bible wrong" or that we need to change the Bible to fit in with the conventional evolutionary story. But is that true?

I do not need to see statistics to understand the effects of an evolutionary worldview on the minds of young people. In over 20 years of youth ministry, I can testify that difficulty reconciling "science" and the Word of God is a huge obstacle to faith. Most young people have never heard a good defense of the Biblical account of creation, and unfortunately, very few churches teach anything about it. Many church kids (and adults)

don't even realize there is a Biblical alternative to the evolutionary origins story! How sad is that? The good news, however, is that I've discovered through experience that many are eager to hear it, receive it, and believe it – they just need to

---

**“God cannot redeem that which He previously did not own. And logically, He does not own us if He did not create us.”**

---

be told! For some, understanding creation can be the eye-opening beginning to true faith in Jesus Christ. Others, however, will walk away from the faith if they don't have their questions answered. As the Bible warns us in 1 Timothy 6:20-21, "Turn away from godless chatter and the opposing ideas of what is falsely called knowledge (also translated "science"), which some have professed and in so doing have wandered from the faith."

If God is not our Creator, then He cannot be our Redeemer. Job testified, "I know that my Redeemer lives." (Job 19:25) Christ as our Redeemer and the concept of redemption is at the core of the Good News of Jesus. Redemption can generally mean something good coming out of something bad, like the feel-good ending of

a movie. However, the biblical definition can be more intentional and specific: "to purchase back that which was previously yours but was lost." God doesn't just bring us a general feel-good movie story of overcoming evil, but gives a very specific message of "I have come to **buy you back.**" The story of Hosea beautifully illustrates this kind of redemption when Hosea rescues his unfaithful wife, buying her back off the slavery block. She was already his wife, but he had to pay a steep price to **redeem** her when she left him for other lovers.

In the same way, Jesus paid heavily with His own blood to purchase you and me. He redeemed His lost creation from the clutches of sin and death. But logically, He cannot redeem that which He previously did not own. And logically, He does not own us if He did not create us. His right to us **as His own**, as well as His position as Judge and Lawgiver, cannot exist if He did not create us. Jesus, as Creator, means Jesus can also be our Redeemer. This is vital for us to understand. As it says in Colossians 1:16: "For by him [Jesus] all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him."

[Editor note: We are glad that Adam & Angel have recently moved to Grand Junction to join AOI's ministry! Pray for them as they finish raising support and that their family will be blessed in this move.] **AOI**



## God as Creator... *by Adam Habluetzel*

The Apostle Paul used creation to reach many pagan cultures. In Acts 17:16-31, he was confronted with a culture in Athens that worshiped many gods and had zero context for the Messiah or the Jewish scriptures. (Acts 17:16-31) When Paul first began to reason with the Greeks about Jesus Christ, their response was, "What is this babbler trying to say?" (vs. 18) Sounds increasingly like our culture today in America, don't you think? How does one begin

to talk with people in such a culture about the reality of God, their sin, and their need for redemption? Where would you begin?

Paul started "in the beginning" with creation and the Creator. The true God was "unknown" to them, so Paul revealed Him to them as Creator. In verse 24 he tells them, "The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands." Continuing in verse 26, he says, "From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth."

People in our country used to have a collective understanding – at least in part – of the Bible and Judeo-Christian truths. But now we are a nation much like the pagan Greeks of Paul's time, most being ignorant of God and His Word. How do we introduce the liberating message of the Gospel to people in such a culture? Maybe it's best to start "in the beginning" and give an illuminating context for our message – there is only one God and that He created everything, including you and me! **AOI**

## Dinosaurs, Dragons, and the Bible

New Book by Bodie Hodge: Middle School to Adult!

Review by Dave Nutting

We have highlighted some great books on dinosaurs, many of which are dismissed by skeptics as "kid's books."

**Dinosaurs, Dragons, and the Bible** is meant for middle schoolers and adults. Bodie Hodge clearly addresses the dinosaur/Bible issue from his own perspective – coming out of the dinosaur/evolution/millions of years indoctrination he received in his youth. His fair approach should make this book somewhat palatable to the skeptic even though it clearly presents the Biblical worldview model in contrast to the secular models. This is one subject area that churches often do not address!



The publisher says this about this easy-to-read treatment of this fascinating topic:

**"Dinosaurs, Dragons, and the**

**Bible** will prepare your heart and your home to believe every word of the historical account of creation found in Genesis. Filled with biblical, scientific, and historical facts, the answers found within this faith-building book will help you stand on the authority of God's Word to demolish the evolutionary myths

which cause people to doubt God. Sharing your faith will be much easier after reading this apologetic resource on the fascinating topic of dinosaurs and dragons."

I really like the topics presented in each of the 25 short chapters covering:

- Dinos in a Biblical Worldview.
- When did God create dinosaurs, pterosaurs, plesiosaurs?
- How do teeth and claws fit in a "perfect" world?
- Did dinosaurs go on the ark?
- Dinosaurs – recent or millions of years ago?
- Are dinosaurs and dragons the same?
- Are dinosaurs mentioned in the Bible?
- Do we find human fossils buried with dinosaurs?
- What about the many footprints of humans in dinosaur layers?
- What about dinosaur soft tissue?
- Are birds just modern dinosaurs?
- Are there feathered dinosaurs?

I believe you and your family will really enjoy this book. It would also make a great gift!

246 pages, Soft-cover, 6" x 9"  
– **\$15 + \$4** shipping/handling.  
Remember: Your purchase helps support and spread AOI's Creation ministry! **AOI**



# Boulders in Coal?

By Dave Nutting

So, what do boulders in layers of coal have to do with anything? More than you think! Read on.

The prevailing theory for the formation of coal deposits, that almost all students have learned, is the swamp theory. We are told that over vast amounts of time, small fragments of trees and other vegetation fell to the bottom of a swamp. Over eons of time, a huge amount of these fragments accumulated. The weight of the swamp debris as well as subsequent deposits of sand and other sediments, we are told, caused this mass to slowly sink deeper and deeper into the earth where temperatures get very hot. This heat slowly baked the debris which eventually caused it to become coal. "Millions" of years later, earth forces caused these layers to be pushed up revealing very extensive beds of coal.

That idea seems to make sense if you don't consider some major problems. One of them is the fact that large boulders are sometimes found deep within very rich coal deposits. In fact, a large machine (called a long-wall miner) which is used to cut the coal out of these beds, will sometimes clang to an abrupt halt when the blades encounter a boulder. Miners aren't happy with that as it means a major repair is necessary.

Since large boulders don't grow in swamps, where did they come from? One clue is that some of the boulders in certain coal beds are

jam would rub and bang into each other causing water-logged debris to fall off and sink to the bottom.

Additionally, as smaller material was washed out of the roots, boulders could more easily have been dislodged. Roots would also break from the floating trees releasing the boulders into the accumulating debris underneath.

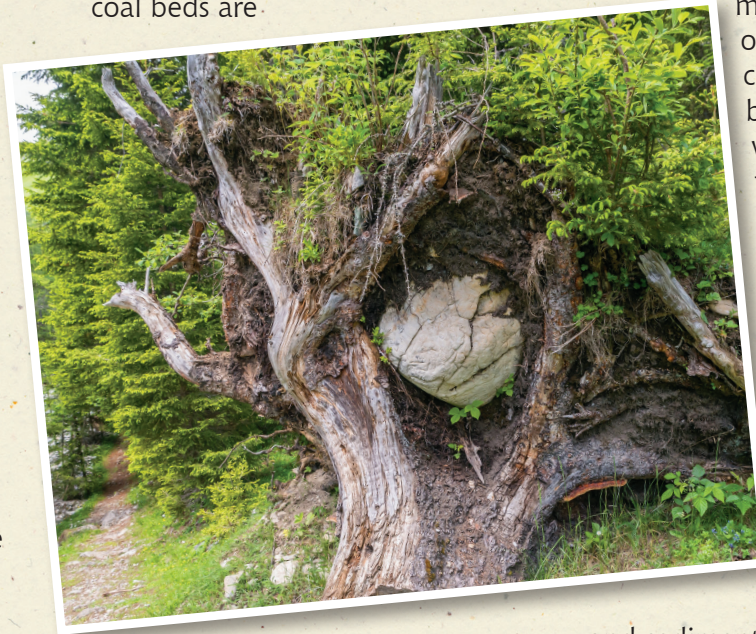
You now have a large boulder in the midst of a "peat bed." During a world-wide flood scenario, this "peat bed" would quickly become buried under massive amounts of additional flood debris

and sediments – eventually sinking deeper into the earth. There, the heat and pressure bake the peat to form a coal bed and cause the other layers to lithify (turn to sedimentary rock).

So, when a granite boulder 1,000 miles from the boulder's

source is found in a coal layer, it speaks volumes against the traditional swamp model for coal formation which supposedly took millions of years to form. Instead, the evidence indicates a

scenario much more in keeping with Noah's Flood. In other words, the boulders in coal cry out, "Flood! – The Biblical account is true!" **AOI**

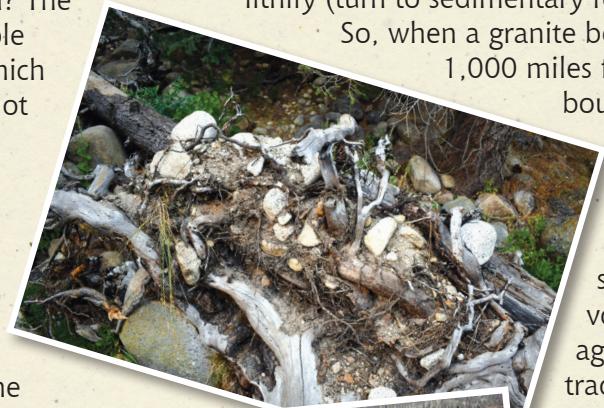
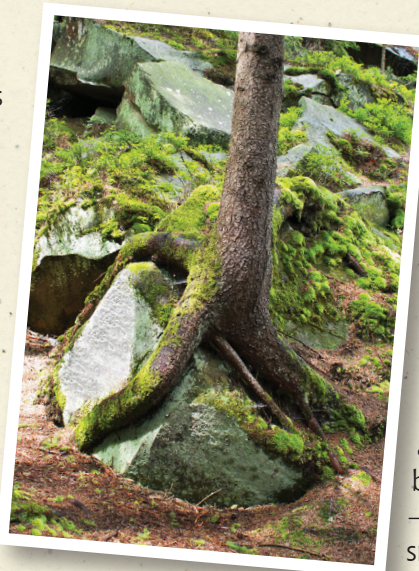


made of granite. However, the nearest source for the granite is 1,000 miles away. How did they get transported? The following is a possible

scenario which involves a lot of water.

If you have seen a tree that has fallen over, you might notice that the roots have entwined around boulders – some small and some very

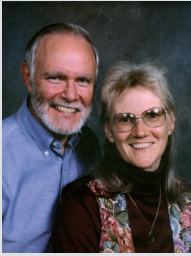
large. In a major flood scenario, a vast amount of trees would have been ripped up and transported great distances. Large numbers of these trees would form floating log jams. In rough waters, the trees in the log





## Director's Column: Building Update and Use

by Dave Nutting



**W**e are enclosing an update of the AOI building remodel.

Even though the upstairs student apartments still need a lot of work, the downstairs is back to looking like our normal offices, meeting rooms, and library! This is after having to totally fireproof it from the upstairs apartments as required by the City. To do this, the ceiling was removed, electric conduit dropped, etc., etc., and a new ceiling was installed consisting of insulation placed between ceiling/floor joists. New, metal tracks had to be installed, and extra-thick, drywall screwed

to it. After that, every crack was fire-proofed. Underneath that new ceiling, brand new ductwork (required) and a fire sprinkler system (required) were put in place. After several other things, a new drop-ceiling frame and tiles were installed. Whew! We **passed** the final inspection on that and are currently trying to spruce it up.

**The enclosed sheet delineates the current progress on the apartments and what is still left to do.** When the apartments are finished, we need students who would be blessed to be part of AOI's discipleship training! (If you know of students who would be interested in AOI's discipleship program, please have them contact Dave at: 970-523-9943.


With all the obstacles we have

encountered, it has taken much longer and **cost way more money than expected.** We are chomping at the bit to have the project done so we can focus on reaching out to this very needy world with the vital creation message! YOU can help:

1. Pray – for funds to complete and furnish the project and for students for the discipleship program.

2. Keep your ears open for students that might be interested in the discipleship program and have them contact us.

3. Help out financially. We really could use your help! **We still have significant needs to finish the project.** See the enclosed insert for more specifics.

**Thank you** for your partnership with us. God bless you! 

## Costa Rica Creation Adventure

February 25 – March 5, 2024



### Online Zoom Classes:

Free

**Creation vs Evolution "Firehose"**  
*Fireproof your family! – with Dave and Mary Jo Nutting*

- August 8-10 at 7-9 PM
- Repeated:
- September 11-13 at 10-11:30 AM

For details visit:

[www.DiscoverCreation.org/Fireproof](http://www.DiscoverCreation.org/Fireproof)

\* All times are Mountain Time Zone

Things change so fast in this modern culture. We would like to be able to offer you more than just the bi-monthly Think & Believe. **Please** send us your email address so we can connect more than once every two months! (We won't spam you and you can unsubscribe at any time.)



Alpha Omega Institute • PO Box 4343 • 1011 N. 10th • Grand Junction, CO • 81502 • (970) 523-9943 • [www.DiscoverCreation.org](http://www.DiscoverCreation.org)

Think and Believe is published by Alpha Omega Institute, a tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Editors: Dave & Mary Jo Nutting. Single copies are free upon request. Please write for permission to reprint material in this publication. Your donations are much needed and appreciated. © Alpha Omega Institute 2023

