



AT A BOY ATTA ANT

Wise Solomon wrote “Go to the ant thou sluggard; consider her ways and be wise...”. This advice is still pertinent hundreds of years later. Insects have always bugged evolutionists and Darwin was no exception. Darwin’s study of ants was almost enough to make him give up his theory, and the ants in Darwin’s pants will be discussed next time. This article is going to deal only with an amazing group of ants of the genus *Atta* or, the spectacular leaf-cutters.

A freshly fertilized leaf-cutter queen has no other ants to help her cut off her wings and dig into the soil. She seals the entrance and emits, from a pouch in her mouth, a start of a special fungus which she has carried from her old nest. She fertilizes this fungus with material from her alimentary canal and receives nourishment from the breaking down of her large flight muscles. If her garden fails she is doomed. If successful her nest will someday have nearly eight million members.

Her eggs hatch and the young ants begin to care for her and work on expansion of the nest. These orangish colored workers range in size from 1-16 to 5/8 inches long compared to the queen which can be over one inch long. They are divided into four groups of jobs: gardener-nurse, nest generalist, forager, or soldier. The nest workers cultivate and weed the fungus gardens as well as care for the young. Soldiers guard the nest and trails with jaws sharp enough to slice leather. Foragers are the “slash and dash” crew.

Forager workers travel along trails that run hundreds of yards. The two inch wide paths are worn smooth from thousands of ant feet. When a worker gets onto a leaf she measures it with her leg span and shears it in a circular shape with scissor-like jaws. Leaf-cutters can completely defoliate a tree or garden overnight. They serve as natural pruners and are beneficial to native plants, but are destructive to agricultural crops.

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DEVOTIONAL IN THE IMAGE OF GOD

“So God created man in His own image, in the image of God created He him; male and female created He them” (Genesis 1:27).

The Lord Jesus Christ “is the image of God” (II Corinthians 4:4), “the brightness of His glory, and the express image of His person” (Hebrews 1:3), “the image of the invisible God” (Colossians 1:15). Human beings were created “in” God’s image. From the beginning we were made to be like Jesus, God

the Son, but we miserably failed.

God the Father did not forsake His purposes, however. In the fullness of time He sent His Son to take on our flesh so that the believer might “be conformed to the image of His Son” (Romans 8:29), “renewed in knowledge after the image of Him that created Him” (Colossians 3:10).

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Special points of interest:

- *October Meeting: 19th; First Baptist Concord, Fireside Room, 7:00 PM.*
- *November Meeting: 16th; Baptist Student Union, University of Tennessee campus.*
- *We have books, videos and tapes for sale! Check out our website for more details: www.etcsa.org/*

A parade of ants carries the leaf pieces back to the nest that is in an area that can look like a moonscape in the middle of a rain forest. The nest area can cover a region the size of a major league baseball field and have nearly a thousand entrances. Beneath the ground the ants dig tunnels that may go down twenty feet and branch out into football shaped chambers that are up to ten inches high and 36 inches long. In those



“Neither the Attas or their fungus can survive without the other.”

bulbs. The adult and young ants eat these capsules as their only source of food.

chambers the leaf-cutters grow their fungus gardens.

Leaf-cutters skillfully cultivate a special fungus on chewed up leaf fragments. A soggy piece of leaf is placed with the fungus and the ants connect fungus strands to it. The fungus feeds on the wet ball of leaf producing a cottony grayish growth which forms small

An early leaf-cutter ant observer was a preacher named Henry C. McCook. He said the leaf-cutter ant trails looked like “Sunday-school children carrying banners”. Leaf-cutters have such an amazingly sophisticated society that scientists at first could not believe the fantastic observations of this little creature. An evolutionist, in the 1990s, called the remarkable leaf-cutters “complex in the extreme”. The leaf-cutter society raises the old “chicken-egg” question. Which came first: the Attas or their unique fungus? Neither the Attas or their fungus can survive without the other. Evolutionists will spin some “just-so-story” of co-evolution to explain the Attas, but if the Attas were really carrying banners, emblazoned upon each banner would be: CREATED!

At a boy, Atta ant!

Next time, read about other ants that are ruining the evolutionism picnic.

Karl C. Priest September 1998

Dinosaurs A book review

It is not farfetched to say that dinosaurs have been used extensively as an entrance into accepting evolutionary ideas. Many book stores and libraries have multiple listings of books and magazines about the creatures of the misty past. Most place these reptiles into some kind of evolutionary framework. Most publications seem intended for consumption by children. There are coloring books, picture books, and stories about them, hoping the young readers can identify with the age of the dinosaurs, an age often assumed to be millions and millions of years ago. In more recent years several books have been published with the hope of bringing balance to this subject. One of these is: Dinosaurs and Creation, by Dr. Donald DeYoung. Published this year by Baker Book House, this book is comprised of 50 frequently asked question (FAQ) about dinosaurs.

DeYoung chairs the Natural Science Division at Grace College, Winona Lake, Indiana (near Warsaw) and is president of the Creation Research Society. He is no stranger to the battle between evolution and creation. DeYoung lets his readers, know up front in the introduction, that this 120 page book presents dinosaur material from the creationary perspective. “Clearly the creationist view of dinosaurs,” he says, “presented in this book is at odds with the interpretation of most natural history museums,” and he gives several points as to what is meant by the creationary view. He notes that the “creation view ...provides many new avenues to explore.” While standing firmly on the creationary path, DeYoung encourages his readers to consider an alternative perspective when thinking about dinosaurs.

Dinosaurs and Creation has five parts: Dinosaurs and History, Dinosaurs and Modern Times, The Dinosaur Family, The Bi-

ology of Dinosaurs and The Physics of Dinosaurs. In each he begins with asking common questions and providing balanced answers, noting both the evolutionary as well as the creationary stance. The book is not intended for very young readers; their understanding would be limited by the vocabulary but older children, maybe over 10 years of age and parents would benefit from this book. This would especially be true for parents wishing to have good answers when the youngsters come up with some tough questions. Or when an opportunity arises to assist children to appreciate good science, and not fanciful imaginations. There are a few graphics and drawings but the book is largely text.



DeYoung, for example, deals with the possibility of radiometric dating of dinosaurs and where do these creatures fit into biblical history; he looks at the various ideas about dinosaur extinction and dinosaur physiology. There is a list of scripture references to dinosaurian type of creatures, a summary of dinosaur names & a good glossary of words often used when discussing dinosaurs.

“the creationist view of dinosaurs... is at odds with the interpretation of most natural history museums...”

It is a generally easy-to-read book and can be a helpful source on an interesting topic. It would be a good item for anyone's bookshelf.

Reviewed: August 23, 2000
Dan Schobert

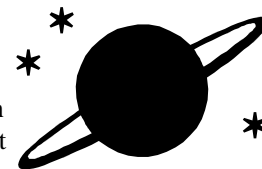
STARLIGHT AND TIME

The Scripture declares that God spoke the material universe, the heavens and the Earth into existence and stretched out the heavens in a time past which fits within the first four days of a six twenty four hour days period of creation. The biblical texts regarding the stretching out of the heavens do not allow for a continually expanding universe or the so-called "Big Bang" theory of cosmology [i.e. how the universe came to be]. The statement that God stretched out the heavens occurs eleven times in the Bible [Job 9:8; 26:7, 13; Ps. 104:2; Isa. 40:22; 42:5; 44:24; 45:12; 51:13; Jer. 10:12; 51:15; Zech. 12:1], and should always be seen as a completed event. The Hebrew word translated stretched in its various forms is always in the past action tense and/or context [Detailed exegesis of these passages was presented by this author at the International Creation Conference {ICC} in 1998]. The problem with this declaration by God is that the majority of today's astronomers indicate that the most distant stars and galaxies are millions of light-years away in terms of the present speed of light. It has been theorized that the speed of light was much higher in the past not only by creationists but by evolutionists, who in order to make the Big Bang work in the initial seconds had to come up with an "inflation theory" which violates all of the present physical laws of space, time, and matter. Is it any harder to understand that the Creator not only created the stars themselves, but also filled space with their lights so that Adam and Eve and their children saw the heavens filled with stars. The stars were visible as signs and time tellers from the fourth day of creation

to this present day.

Looking back in time at changes in the stars, such as exploding stars, supernovas et al we also see an argument for a biblical scenario of a fallen universe. Rather than fitting an evolutionary scenario, this may be best explained as a once perfect creation now decaying. Romans 8:22 tells us that the entire creation is now groaning and experiencing some destructive change. Thus, every part of the universe fits into the 2nd Law of Thermodynamics, which speaks of decreasing order, not increasing order as the theory of evolution requires. In a paper presented at the 1994 ICC by Keith Davies the case for a young universe was well made by showing that the number of supernova remnants observable is consistent with the number expected to be formed if the universe is less than 7000 years old. This is based on the known rate of production of super novas [about one every 25 yrs in our own galaxy] whose remnants would theoretically be observable for one million years before they merge into the stellar background, yet we only find 280 remnants, such as the Crab Nebula and the Ring Nebula, which is entirely consistent with a 7000 year or less age of the galaxy.

--William M. Curtis B.S.,M.S.,Th.M.,Th.D



“...God stretched out the heavens ...”

UPCOMING EVENTS

Dr. Kent Hovind will be debating one of the UT science professors (probably Dr. Pigliucci) on Oct. 28, in the Music Building Auditorium at the University of TN, Knoxville, TN
Contact: Jeremy Lee at (865) 607-8463

Date: Oct 29-30, '00
Location: First Baptist Church
7706 Ewing Road,
Powell, TN

Speaker: Dr. Kent Hovind
Contact: Pastor Phil Jones at (865) 947-9074

Date: Oct 22-24, '00
Location: Liberty Baptist Church
661 Wears Valley Road
Pigeon Forge, TN
Speaker: Mike Schultz
Contact: Pastor Dr. Robert Settle at (865) 453-8857

Date: Apr 8, '01
Location: South Haven Baptist Church
116 Academy Drive
Springfield, TN
Speaker: Dr. Kent Hovind
Contact: Pastor Frank Gagliano at (615) 384-5073

QUOTES

“I can take my telescope and look millions and millions of miles into space; but I can lay it aside and go into my room, shut the door, get down on my knees in earnest prayer, and see more of Heaven and get closer to God than I can assisted by all the telescopes and material agencies on earth.”
Sir Isaac Newton

“When it gets dark enough you can see the stars.”
Ralph Waldo Emerson

“It is he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers; that stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain, and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in.” Isa. 40:22

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We're on the Web!
www.etcsa.org/



ETCSA

“Set in the Defense of Creation Science”

STARGAZING

Steve Miller, an amateur astronomer, will be coming to Knoxville in November. Steve has one of the largest telescopes owned by an amateur, and he wants to share it with us! Providing the weather is clear, he will be giving his outdoor presentation which includes a chance for all to gaze at the heavens through his 20 inch telescope (this measurement refers to the diameter of the mirror, not the length of the scope)! At this time of year, we will be able to view Saturn, Jupiter and 4 of its moons, as well as several galaxies! The date for this event will be November 24 and will be in the evening. More details will follow. We will be doing our star gazing at the home of Pam Massey in Corryton. Be sure and dress warmly! For directions, please e-mail Pam at pjmassey63@aol.com or call (865) 689-0070.

*“When I consider the
thy heavens, the
work of thy fingers,
the moon and the
stars, which thou
hast ordained; What
is man, that thou art
mindful of him? And
the son of man, that
thou visitest him?”*
Psa. 8:3-4

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Animals do not share this privilege. They were not made to resemble Jesus. Animals have instinct; humans, creativity—like the Creator! He reasons with His human creatures and wants us to reason back (cf. Isaiah 1:18). Like Jesus, we also have authority. He calmed the storm; we tame killer whales and whole herds of cattle. Yet, our rebellion against God shows up in many and varied abuses, but the ingredients are stamped on our beings nevertheless.

The fact that we can worship God and commune with Him in prayer is a tremendous truth. God is tripersonal; each Person of the Trinity communes with the Other. But God also invites us into His fellowship. Let us be what we were meant to be. Let us imitate the Lord Jesus Christ—trusting solely in the merits of His cross, commune with the Father through the Son, and experience the joy of fellowship with the Spirit for all eternity so that “we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord” (II Corinthians 3:18).
Paul G. Humber, M.S.