
Creation Answers

Creation Education Materials, P.O. Box 1818, Arlington, TX 76004

Who does this newsletter?

This newsletter is produced by Wayne Spencer of Creation Education Materials on a Quarterly basis. Its purpose is to bring creationary research within the reach of Christian families and provide up-to-date reliable information on the creation issue. Wayne Spencer is a creation researcher and former teacher who has presented papers at the International Conference on Creationism and contributed to radio programs for the Institute for Creation Research.

This newsletter is meant to help people plug into creation resources and get informed about creation and evolution. It is provided free of charge on request. Using the Adobe Acrobat Reader, available for download on the internet, is the best way to view the newsletter. There are no restrictions in copying this newsletter or passing it on to others. To request to be placed on the e-mail list, send a request to Wayne at w.spencer@attbi.com.

More information on Wayne Spencer's education and publications can be found on the **creationanswers.net** web site. You'll also find a variety of articles, teaching aids, and how to contact creation organizations. <http://creationanswers.net>

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A Personal Note from Wayne Spencer

Greetings. In this issue of the newsletter I've included an article relevant to every Christian and every church, "The Creation Foundation." Please show it to your Pastor or to others at your church. It addresses why the issue of creation versus evolution matters to Christians. I wish every Pastor and Sunday School teacher or Small Group leader could read this article.

Secondly, the article "Dinotopia vs Hatari: Movies and a Biblical View of Nature" reviews a very interesting six hour mini-series made for television. It was produced by Hallmark productions, and is called Dinotopia, based on a children's book by the same name. This movie has been on television and will be again. Though generally it is a good program for the family to watch, there are issues Parents should be aware of. This article hopefully will help sort out ideas in the film that are not Biblical. The movie has dinosaurs and humans living together as equals. Which movie would be more Biblical, Dinotopia or the older John Wayne movie Hatari? My thoughts on this are in this issue.

My old web site, called DFW Creation Net, no longer exists. My new web site, creationanswers.net, is now available. If you have not looked at it please do. All previous issues of this newsletter are available for download from the new site as well. Please update any links you have saved to my new web site. (The old site address was pws.prserv.net/creation/creation.htm.)

Wayne Spencer, M.S., Physics

The Creation Foundation

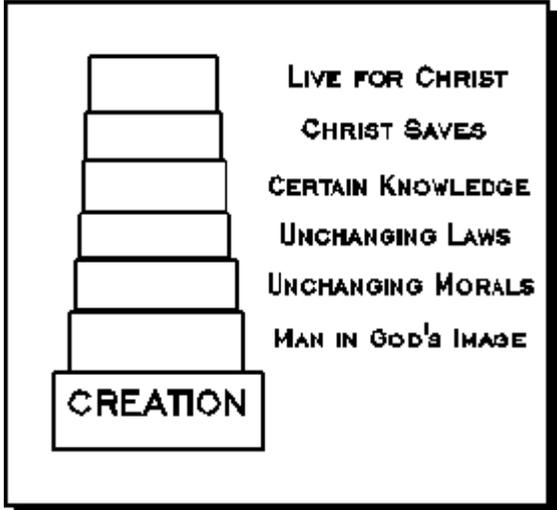
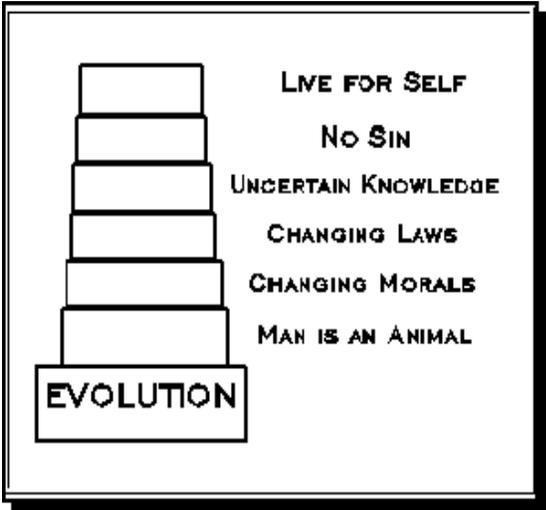
Creation is the logical foundation of the Christian World-View

Christians today are very concerned about the moral decay underway in our culture. Abortion, pornography, euthanasia, homosexuality, contempt for authority, and the abandonment of the Biblical concept of marriage are all culturally acceptable. There is a widespread concept that the Bible cannot be considered literally true and authoritative on certain matters, especially history and science. Many people question the historical truth of the early chapters of Genesis. Many believe that modern scientific knowledge has shown the Bible to be inaccurate about nature and generally out of date. Also, Pastors are concerned that Christians sometimes suffer from an inadequate understanding of God's nature and character. Christians today need to grasp anew God's greatness as the infinite Creator-God.

All these issues and more are linked to how people think about origins. This may sound surprising, but it is true. It has been said that the New Testament rests on the Old Testament and the Old Testament rests on the book of Genesis. The early chapters of Genesis tend to be the first portion of the Bible to be rejected and criticized. And yet, Genesis may be quoted in the Bible more

than any other Bible book. If the miracles in the early chapters of Genesis cannot be fully trusted and taken as true history, then how can other miraculous events in the Bible be believed with any confidence? Since much of the Bible's teaching ultimately has its logical basis in Genesis, when Christians reject creation from Genesis they compromise the foundation of their own faith. As a result, there are many Christians today who do not understand their own faith well. Believers without the creation foundation in their thinking are not adequately prepared to answer many important questions from their children or from nonchristian. Thus at our time in history, we need to rebuild the logical foundation of the Christian world view. The diagrams below illustrate how one idea is built on another.

Evolution was put forward in the 1800's as an attempt to explain man's origin without God, though some suggest God used an evolutionary process to create man. According to evolution, man is essentially an intelligent animal and thus many aspects of man's behavior is due to having evolved from lower animals. Evolution also implies man is not fundamentally superior to other animals on Earth, man is just smarter. But the Biblical view is that man was created in the image of God and given responsibility over the Earth. If we evolved from lower animals without the involvement of God, then what basis would



their be for morals or for law? On the other hand, Biblically, the Creator-God put us on Earth for a reason, which is to know and serve Him. He created all life, and we are given rule over the Earth and its resources. Morality and Law then should be based on the purposes and directions our Creator has for our lives. He has the right to tell us how to live since He is our Maker.

The Biblical concept of sin does not fit well into a strict evolutionary viewpoint. This is because various behavior, such as some violent or sexual behaviors are often explained as resulting from our evolution from animals that do the same behaviors. Nature programming on television often attempts to make such arguments. Students are often exposed to this way of thinking in Biology and Psychology courses as well. But the moral directions God gives in the Bible express what is healthiest and best for us because we are designed to live as He intended. The Bible is the Creator's unique authoritative revelation to mankind. God's general revelation to us in nature testifies to His existence and his greatness, and God's special revelation in the Bible tell us how to enter a relationship with Him through faith in Jesus Christ. If the Creator-God has spoken to us in the Bible, then we have a kind of knowledge that is different from what is learned from science, knowledge from God's written revelation. With God's revelation in the Bible we can have certainty about fundamental questions such as origins and our reason for existence. This is briefly how the Biblical teaching of creation from Genesis relates to the Christian world view.

Many Christians have found that learning about creation and evolution has been the key to resolving questions in their minds about many issues. Creation Education Materials exists to educate Christians regarding origins in order to restore a sound foundation for Christian thinking and living, and to promote a balanced Biblical view of science. Thus, the creation/evolution issue is much more than just a science issue. It has bearing on how we value human life, how we understand history, how we interpret the

Bible, and how we worship God. The more we understand of the complexity and beauty of nature, the more it should motivate us to know and worship God. Thus science should reinforce our faith rather than undermining it.

God has revealed to man wonderful answers to life's important questions, in His word and in what He has made. Consider the following questions, which are related to origins: Why is there marriage? Can marriage change to allow for homosexual marriages? Why is there right and wrong? What is the meaning of work--is it a curse due to the fall? What is the difference between spare cats and spare kids (abortion)? Why is pornography wrong? (It treats people like animals.) Who is God? Where do the races come from? Did humans evolve from lower animals by natural processes? Why was Christ's death on the cross necessary? It is impossible to adequately answer these and other questions without considering the teachings of Genesis.

Evolution has been used to justify many evils in our world and to make nonchristian values acceptable. Some leading atheists, scientists, and educators have known this for a long time and have deliberately used evolution to promote a non-Biblical world-view in our society. If we evolved from lower animals then we are only animals, really, and there is no reason our moral values cannot change according to what we want. But if we are created, as the Bible says, in the image of God then He sets the rules, regardless of our opinions. Evolution has been used to justify racism, sexual immorality, abortion, the use of drugs, and is part of the foundation for godless world-views such as humanism and New Age Pantheism. Even leading atheists have written about how evolution conflicts with Biblical Christianity. Consider the following quote by a committed evolutionist and well-known scientist, Dr. William Provine of Cornell University. This quote represents a very strict point of view that could be called evolutionary humanism.

'Let me summarize my views on what modern evolutionary biology tells us loud and clear . . . There are no gods, no purposes, no goal-directed forces of any kind. There is no life after death. . . . There is no ultimate foundation for ethics, no ultimate meaning to life, and no free will for humans, either.'

(*Origins Research*, vol. 16, (1/2):9, 1994)

In time what people believe and think tends to be worked out in their actions, though not necessarily completely. About one hundred and forty years ago the idea became accepted that humans evolved from lower animals. Since that time evolution has been used to justify many evils in the world and in society. Today society accepts people living like lower animals in some respects; and evolutionists justify alternate lifestyles by alluding to our evolution from animals. And so as we fight moral battles today over issues such as abortion or pornography or public school policies we must do more than only fight the issue itself. We must also fight the battle at its foundation--that of people's basic beliefs about who we are and how the world came to be. Of course, evolution has not caused all of societies problems, but it has had a great influence on the world view of many people. The leading humanists, who have been very influential in western society, have understood for years that attacking creation is an excellent means of attacking Christianity. Without the thinking of people in our culture returning to a Christian world-view based on creation, how could any legal and political victories last?

Unfortunately, creation versus evolution is seldom addressed in many churches and so there is a great need for Christians to become informed. Young people and college students should also be exposed to creation-based materials, so they can be exposed to more than just the evolution point of view. There are many excellent creation resources available. There are many creation speakers, films, videos,

and books appropriate for all ages and interests. Perhaps your church or Bible study group needs to use these resources soon. The creationanswers.net web site has a page telling how you can contact a variety of creation ministries. If you would like assistance addressing the creation issue in your church, contact Wayne Spencer at the e-mail or address below.

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Dinotopia vs Hatari: Movies and a Biblical View of Nature

Earlier this year a mini-series called *Dinotopia* aired on television. The six hour movie is based on a popular series of books by James Gurney. This fall, beginning in October ABC will aire a new television series called *Dinotopia*, based on the movie. The movie and series are likely to capture the attention of children and adults alike. The story revolves around a long lost island where dinosaurs and humans live together as equals. On the *Dinotopia* island, the dinosaurs are intelligent and are able to speak. This makes this movie and series put dinosaurs and humans actively interacting in ways that have not been done before. The *Dinotopia* movie was nominated for seven Grammy awards and received very high Nielsen ratings as a television miniseries on the "Wonderful World of Disney" program.

The movie is generally a good clean program intended for family entertainment. But there are some aspects of the movie that Christian parents should be aware of. In some ways *Dinotopia* may seem similar to how God created Earth to be at the time of Creation. There are some good values promoted in the film, but the film also revolves around a very New Age or Pantheistic view of nature that is not Biblical. Thus it distorts mankind's relationship to nature. Christian parents should be aware of

this as their children watch the program.

The much older movie, *Hatari*, made in 1962 starring John Wayne, actually has a much more Biblical and correct view of nature and mankind's relationship to it. *Hatari* is about a man (played by John Wayne) who runs a business capturing wild animals in Africa to sell them to zoos. *Hatari* and *Dinotopia* are not meant to be "Christian" movies, but *Hatari* was made at a time (40 years ago) when a Christian world view had more influence than today. Also, evolution is not mentioned in *Hatari*, but concepts from evolutionary science are forced into the *Dinotopia* story, though it seems very awkward and unnecessary.

In the *Dinotopia* movie, the setting is an unknown island (called Dinotopia) 200 miles across. The island has 6,000 foot cliffs and yet is unseen by anyone in the rest of the world, in spite of modern technology. The Dinotopia island is located over a site of a large impact millions of years ago (this comes out in end of the movie). The island is inhabited by people who are descendants of individuals who were shipwrecked on the island throughout history. Now, two young men (half-brothers Carl and David) and their Dad suffer a plane crash. The boys swim ashore and find themselves on Dinotopia. On the Dinotopia island, Dinosaurs are not extinct but in fact have somehow gained the ability to speak. Thus on Dinotopia, Dinosaurs and humans live together and cooperate as equals. Dinosaurs do a variety of tasks for humans and also have a voice in making decisions. The story centers around special rocks called "sunstones" that emit light. The sunstones are a natural power source for Dinotopia but mysteriously they are going out and no longer giving off their light. The sunstones somehow originate from the object that collided with the Earth 65 million years ago, when dinosaurs outside Dinotopia went extinct. Including this aspect of modern evolutionary science is very awkward and out of place in the story.

What is the Dinotopian society like? Humans are vegetarians in Dinotopia (which is like it was at Creation according to Genesis

1:29-30 and Genesis 9:3). The dinosaurs that are plant-eaters are friendly in Dinotopia but the meat-eaters are not. Dinotopians do not use weapons and are not allowed to carry weapons, even for self-defense. Huge Brachiosaurus serve as buses, other dinosaurs help with farming and other tasks. It may have been possible at Creation for some of the smaller plant-eating dinosaurs to be trained to help humans in some way, but probably not to the degree it occurs in *Dinotopia*. At the time of Creation, I suspect humans and dinosaurs did not live very close to each other most of the time, though they did live at the same time. Evolution actually says that man and dinosaur did not live at the same time at all, but this aspect of evolution is ignored in *Dinotopia*.

On the Dinotopia island, human life is considered no more precious than the life of a Tyrannosaurus Rex. Marion, the heroine of the story, points out the evolutionary ideas, that dinosaurs have lived on Earth for 160 million years but humans are "recent guests," having evolved later. Carl believes humans to be superior to dinosaurs and so he argues with Marion.

The Earth globe at the entrance to Waterfall City shows the Pangea supercontinent. Marion comments that at the beginning of the Triassic period the continents were joined. I think this brief insertion of evolutionary geology is out of place entirely in the story. The Dinotopian culture is said to be tens of thousands of years old. When the impact occurred long ago, dinosaurs and humans sought refuge in caves where they found the sunstones. There, in the caves referred to as "the world beneath" the Dinotopian culture began and the "codes" or laws of Dinotopia were written. Then in time it became forbidden to return to these caves.

At one point in the movie Carl gets up late at night and, breaking the rules, he enters the girls sleeping quarters. Then Carl and Marion go swimming together, again breaking the rules. They were apparently skinny dipping together. I feel this is not appropriate for a movie meant for children.

Parents may want to discuss this with their kids or skip this part. The movie does not show anything inappropriate but it does show Carl and Marion kissing.

At one point there's a mystical ceremony where children and young people finishing their schooling sit on the ground bowing down. "See as the dinosaurs see," they are told. "Listen to the Earth," "clear your mind of all thoughts," "we are all part of everything," and "everything on Earth has the same heartbeat." This is very much like New Age, Pantheistic religion. Biblically, everything is not the same as the statements above imply (see I Corinthians 15:39).

In *Hatari*, John Wayne portrays Sean Mercer, who runs a business in Africa capturing wild animals for Zoos. In *Hatari*, there is no questioning what Sean Mercer's business does. No one in the movie makes an issue over the fact that they are capturing animals to sell to Zoos. The animals in *Hatari* are not shot or treated with cruelty, they are just captured. In fact the movie shows a lot of kindness to animals. The movie has a number of amusing moments and has little for Christians to object to. There are some scenes where people are drunk but this is a minor part of the movie. There is little or no bad language in the movie. There are no sex scenes and in fact the movie basically honors marriage. *Dinotopia* on the other hand, has the Mayor and Matriarch of Dinotopia having lived separated from each other for years though they are married. There is no mention of evolution in *Hatari* and the New Age ideas in *Dinotopia* would be absurd and totally out of place in *Hatari*. In *Hatari*, humans are clearly superior to and in charge of animals. This is Biblical. Genesis 1:26-27 teaches human beings are given dominion over the Earth and the life on it. Also in *Hatari*, as animals are captured, a man who is a very good shot stands by with a rifle in case the animal gets loose and becomes dangerous to people. There is one scene where a crocodile is shot when it attacks a man. This is also Biblical in the light of Genesis 9:5-6 because human beings are made in God's image and God has given mankind dominion

over the Earth and its life. This passage in Genesis 9 says God demands an accounting for any animal that takes the life of a man.

My conclusion is that *Hatari* is really more Biblical than *Dinotopia*, though both programs are basically clean entertainment. I do not mean to imply that Christians necessarily should not watch *Dinotopia*. But I would encourage Parents to use it as an opportunity to teach their young children about God making mankind responsible for ruling over and managing the Earth. The *Dinotopia* story could be a beautiful fictional story if the evolutionary concepts and New Age religious ideas would simply have been left out. The makers of the movie were not content to just leave it as a fictional story. The makers seem to have an agenda of manipulating young minds toward evolutionary New Age values and beliefs. The real world is not a utopia or a *Dinotopia*, it is a fallen world that's been drastically marred by the sin of mankind.

You can find out more about the *Dinotopia* movie and TV series from the *Dinotopia* web site: <http://www.dinotopia.com>.

Creation 2003 Conference

Answers in Genesis is sponsoring an excellent conference May 22-26, 2003. [Pastors can attend free if they register early.](http://www.Creation2003.info) Go to <http://www.Creation2003.info> to get details.