



The heavens declare the glory of God” (Psalm 19:1)

## REASONS TO BELIEVE - SEATTLE AREA CHAPTER

NEWS AND VIEWS

AUGUST 2002

### CHAPTER INFORMATION

#### Hugh Ross Visit

Dr. Ross will be visiting the Seattle area September 19-20. On the 19th, he will be at Microsoft at 11 a.m. and Northshore Christian Church in Everett at 7 p.m. On the 20th, he will be at Seattle University at 1 p.m. and Westminster Chapel in Bellevue at 7 p.m. More information to come!

#### Get Involved

Join us in spreading the word that science and the Bible agree! We’re looking for people who want to make a difference in their local communities. If this interests you, contact us at [seattle@reasons.org](mailto:seattle@reasons.org).

#### Free Training

Reasons to Believe’s Science and the Bible Apologetics Training Course is now available free through the chapter on CDROM. For more information, contact us at [seattle@reasons.org](mailto:seattle@reasons.org).

#### Chapter Changes

After several years as chapter president, Stan Lennard is passing the torch to Greg Moore, one of the original founders of the chapter. Stan will continue to play a key role in the chapter. Our hats go off to Stan for his outstanding leadership!

### GOD’S TWO REVELATIONS

PATRICIA LEWIS

The Creator did not leave us without knowledge of Him. In ancient times, He spoke directly to Adam, Eve and many others. Then through Moses, the poets and prophets, He gave us thousands of written words explaining what He requires of us. This vital information and the account of the earthly life of Jesus Christ are contained in the 66 books of the Bible.

God has also revealed Himself in another way – through the observable creation. “The things that are made” (Romans 1:20) speak of His eternal power and divine nature. Paul tells us that by looking at the creation everyone knows they were created by God, that He can hold them accountable for their actions, and they must worship and obey Him. Anyone who does not respond to this revelation is pronounced “without excuse,” even those who do not have His written word.

Many other Scriptures also proclaim God’s revelation in nature. The psalmist sings, “The heavens declare the glory of God... there is no speech nor language where their voice is not heard” (Ps. 19:1,3). Isaiah asks, “Lift up your eyes and look at the heavens: Who created all these?” (Is. 40:26). What we are to perceive is not merely a sky full of stars but the mighty One who created them.

The two revelations cannot contradict each other. They come from the same Source and they must always agree. The Bible tells us that God created the universe and man, that mankind rebelled against Him, yet He loved us so much that He provided a Redeemer. Nature also testifies about Him. The stars inspire us to praise their Maker. The rocks speak of the uplift of the continents, erosion, deposition and vulcanism. Fossils testify to the sudden appearance (Cambrian explosion) of all modern animal phyla. All of this is in perfect harmony with creation passages in the Bible.<sup>1</sup>

“The two revelations can not contradict each other... they must always agree.”



## DOUBTFUL ARGUMENTS FOR A YOUNG EARTH

Many of you are familiar with Answers in Genesis (AIG). It is a prominent young-Earth organization headed by Ken Ham. Recently they published a list of arguments that creationists shouldn't use – many of which are arguments for a young Earth. What may surprise you is that many of them are still being used. Here's some:

- **Moon-dust thickness proves a young moon**  
This was based on faulty estimates of the influx of dust to the moon and can't be used as proof of a young moon.
- **Entropy began at the Fall**  
Entropy or disorder (2nd Law of Thermodynamics) is essential to human survival and must have been in effect in the Garden.
- **Speed of light has decreased over time**  
There are a number of scientific problems with this claim which have not been satisfactorily answered.
- **Plate tectonics is fallacious**  
Much evidence supports plate tectonics and it provides a sound explanation of the continental shifts.
- **Earth's axis was vertical before the Fall**  
There is no scriptural or scientific basis for this claim. The current tilt of the Earth is ideal for human survival.
- **Flood waters came from a canopy**  
This is not a direct teaching of Scripture and there is no canopy model that provides sufficient water for the Flood.
- **No rain/rainbows before the Flood**  
This is not a direct teaching of Scripture and the Bible doesn't rule out either rain or rainbows before the Flood.
- **Paluxy tracks prove men and dinosaurs co-existed**  
The tracks are controversial and there is evidence that the supposed human tracks are eroded dinosaur tracks.

The article also addresses a number of Christian myths. One is that Darwin recanted on his deathbed. There is no corroborating evidence this occurred. Another is that NASA discovered Joshua's missing day. This is a hoax and a mathematical impossibility. Other myths that are discussed include the claim that women have one more rib than men, a dead plesiosaur was caught off the coast of New Zealand and the gospel is taught in the stars.

In all fairness, it should be noted the article also includes some old-Earth arguments that AIG disputes. While we may disagree with their position, it is helpful to understand their perspective. To check-out the article go to [www.answersingenesis.org](http://www.answersingenesis.org), select the Q&A tab and find "Arguments Creationists Should Not Use."

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT RTB

### Weekly Creation Update

Join Hugh Ross and Fuz Rana every week for a two-hour dialogue about scientific discoveries that provide powerful new evidence for the God of the Bible! Listen to the Webcast and ask the experts your questions about science and Bible live over the Internet each Tuesday, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (PT) at [www.reasons.org](http://www.reasons.org) or [www.oneplace.com/ministries/creation\\_update](http://www.oneplace.com/ministries/creation_update).

### Message of the Month

Become a regular supporter of Reasons to Believe and receive monthly audio tapes on this year's hot-topic, "Dissecting Evolution." To subscribe, call 800-482-7836 or sign-up via Reason to Believe's web site, [www.reasons.org](http://www.reasons.org).

### RTB Newsletter

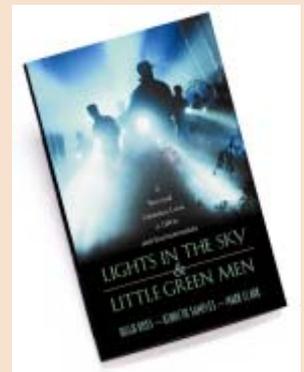
Get Reasons to Believe's free newsletter, *Connections*. It's packed full of great science information. The latest issue features an article by Fuz Rana on how sea vents have been ruled-out as an origin-of-life site. To subscribe call 626-335-1480 or go to [www.reasons.org/forms/maillist.html?main](http://www.reasons.org/forms/maillist.html?main). You can also receive it via the RTB website. Just go to [store.reasons.org](http://store.reasons.org) (do not type "www"), click the Connections tab and provide your e-mail address.

### Hot New Book

Movie and media hype about UFOs and ETs abound. If you're looking for well-documented information, get Reasons to Believe's new

book, "Lights in the Sky & Little Green Men" by Hugh Ross, Kenneth Samples and Mark Clark. It's available from the Reasons to Believe webstore for only \$11.95.

Currently, there's a webstore special that includes the book and two great videos on the RUFO hypothesis for only \$29.95. Go to [www.reasons.org](http://www.reasons.org).



# LEAVING THE SIDELINES

GREG MOORE

It's easy to sit on the sidelines. I know I did for a number of years. I dabbled with science apologetics but didn't invest much time in them. I remember speaking to the high school group at my church about evolution. My goal was to help them challenge the propaganda that is taught in the public schools. What I unknowingly presented was a combination of young- and old-Earth apologetics. Looking back, I cringe to think of the difficulties they may have encountered because I wasn't equipped to minister to them effectively.

A few years later, I discovered Reasons to Believe. I was drawn by the integrity of their science and their steadfast commitment to the Bible. At first, it was mainly an intellectual exercise – I was enthralled by the scientific evidence for creation and how the record of nature supports the Bible. But the more I learned, the more it became an incredible faith-building journey for me. And, what was once a casual interest in science apologetics has become my passion.

I know many of you have been similarly impacted by the Reasons to Believe ministry. The question is what are you going to do about it? Are you going to sit on the sidelines or are you going to help us use this wonderful ministry to reach the hearts and minds of people in the Puget Sound area? I challenge each of you to consider this question prayerfully. If this is something you feel called to do, there are a number of ways you can get involved.

First, take advantage of the Apologetics Training Course that is available through the chapter. This free, 20-session course will educate you about the issues and equip you to use science to communicate effectively about the truth of the Bible. By taking the course, you will also be able to participate in special on-line meetings of trained apologists and an e-mail group with RTB apologists from around the world.

Second, get involved in the local chapter. We're looking for people who have a passion for science apologetics and want to make a difference in their communities. Regardless of your age, background or skills, you can help us to increase awareness of Reasons to Believe, bring high-profile speakers into the area and creating a vibrant ministry team.

Third, you can support the local chapter financially. Your tax-deductible contribution will help us develop effective outreach programs and bring speakers, like Dr. Ross, into the area to defend the truth of the Bible. Donations can be sent to: Reasons to Believe - Seattle Area Chapter, 1314 Mukilteo Boulevard, Everett, 98203.

If you're ready to leave the sidelines, contact us at [seattle@reasons.org](mailto:seattle@reasons.org). Regardless of your level of involvement, we look forward to welcoming you to the RTB team!

## APOLOGETIC RESOURCES

If you have questions about science and the Bible or want hone your apologetics, there's a lot of great information on the internet. Here are some of our favorite websites:

- [www.afterall.net/citizens/moreland](http://www.afterall.net/citizens/moreland)  
J.P. Moreland's website
- [www.arn.org](http://www.arn.org)  
Access Research Network
- [www.bibleandscience.com](http://www.bibleandscience.com)  
Stephen Meyer's website
- [www.carm.org](http://www.carm.org)  
Christian Apologetics & Reseach Ministry
- [www.discovery.org](http://www.discovery.org)  
Discovery Institute
- [www.godandscience.org](http://www.godandscience.org)  
Richard Deem, RTB apologist
- [www.geocities.com/darrickdean/relsci.html](http://www.geocities.com/darrickdean/relsci.html)  
Darrick Dean, RTB apologist
- [www.idurc.org/index.shtml](http://www.idurc.org/index.shtml)  
Intelligent Design Research Center
- [www.leaderu.com](http://www.leaderu.com)  
Leader U, William Dembski and others
- [www.lordibelieve.com](http://www.lordibelieve.com)  
Hill Roberts, RTB apologist
- [www.normgeisler.com](http://www.normgeisler.com)  
Norm Geisler's webpage
- [www.origins.org/menus/pjohnson.html](http://www.origins.org/menus/pjohnson.html)  
Phillip Johnson's webpage
- [www.probe.org](http://www.probe.org)  
Probe Ministries' webpage
- [www.reasons.org](http://www.reasons.org)  
Reasons to Believe's homepage
- [www.str.org](http://www.str.org)  
Stand to Reason
- [www.swordandspirit.com](http://www.swordandspirit.com)  
Mark Ritter, RTB apologist

Here are some additional sites to check out just for fun. There's an astronomy picture of the day at <http://antwrp.gsfc.nasa.gov/apod/astropix.html>, photo-journal of the solar system at <http://photojournal.jpl.nasa.gov>, and a library of Hubble Space Telescope photos at: [www.seds.org/hst/hst.html](http://www.seds.org/hst/hst.html).

## Job's Crash Course in Creation

An impressive illustration of the power of nature to reveal God comes to us in the Book of Job. Job lived in the Patriarchal Age around the time of Abraham. There is little evidence he was acquainted with the Hebrews or the verbal revelation God had given them. Yet, he understood much about God. He lived uprightly and prayed daily for his children. He even offered sacrifices in case his sons may have offended God.

God allowed Job to be put to a severe test. With catastrophic suddenness everything went wrong – his property was wiped out, his children were killed and he was smitten with skin disease. His wife told him to curse God and die, but Job refused. “Though He slay me, yet will I hope in Him,” (Job 13:15) was his amazing reply.

Job's friends thought his suffering was God's punishment for concealed sin. For days they accused and harangued him while he sat among the ashes scraping his sores. Yet, over and over, he insisted that he did not deserve what was happening to him and he cried out for God to come down and explain why He was acting so unfairly.

At last Job's prayers were answered and God granted him an interview. But God asked all the questions! He knew Job wanted to ask *Why* but his real need was to know *Who*. So God gave him a quiz on the subject of Creation. “Where were you when I founded the Earth? Do you know the laws of the heavens and how the stars are held in their places? Do you understand light and darkness, snow and hail, rain and thunderbolts?” Today we can answer some of these questions but Job was understandably silent.



THE ORION NEBULA

“Can you bind the chains of Pleiades, or loose the cords of Orion? Do you know the ordinances of the heavens or can you fix their rule over the earth?” (Job 38:31,33)

Next, God gave Job a lecture. He reminded him how He cares for the lion, raven, mountain goat, deer, donkey, ox, ostrich, horse, hawk, eagle – even the fearsome Behemoth and Leviathan. Then, in a divinely sarcastic passage, God invited Job to assume the majesty of divinity and show how *he* would rule the earth.

God's purpose in all this was to focus Job's attention on His power and loving care and the overwhelming contrast between Him and man. At the end of the interview Job was a changed man. His new attitude is reflected in his reply, “My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you. Therefore, I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes” (Job 42:5-6).

“My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you.”

We do not know exactly what Job saw, for we are told that no man can see God and live. But the eyes of his understanding were certainly opened. Previously he had prided himself on a clear conscience. Now he saw his self-righteousness as an abhorrent thing – an appropriate response when one recognizes the majesty of God. And once his attitude changed, God vindicated him, returned him to health and restored him to a place of respect. God even blessed him with a new family. In fact, Job's situation is much better at the end of the story than at the beginning.

Now this great ancient poem is in the Bible where anyone can read and ponder it and, like Job, see how the Creator is revealed in His creation. How great is the grace of God to us in the twenty-first century! Not only do we have His Word in our own language but through modern science He is constantly showing us more about His mighty works which, like His word, tell of His majesty, power and glory!

### NOTES

1. See Gen. 1:9-10, Ps. 74:13a, Ps. 104:5-8 for continental uplift; Job 14:18-19 for erosion and deposition; Job 9:5-6, Ps. 46:2-3, Jer. 4:23-24, Ps. 104:5,32 for vulcanism; Gen. 1:20-22, Ps. 104:25 for Cambrian explosion.

Patricia Lewis is a member of the chapter steering committee. She has a B.S. in Zoology and worked as a research technologist at the University of Washington School of Dentistry. Now retired, she is an avid amateur astronomer, writes radio astronomy programs and lectures on astronomy-related topics.