



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

REASONS TO BELIEVE - SEATTLE AREA CHAPTER

NEWS AND VIEWS

JUNE 2003

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

RTB Conference

RTB's conference, "Who is the Designer?" will be held June 26th to 28th in Cypress, California. The conference will feature Dr. Ross and other great speakers. For more information, go to www.reasons.org.

Teacher Seminar

The chapter plans to host a seminar for teachers in the fall focusing on the legal issues of teaching creation in public schools. If you would like to help, contact us at seattle@reasons.org.

Get Connected

Join us in spreading the word science and the Bible agree! We're looking for people who want to make a difference in their communities. If this interests you, contact us at seattle@reasons.org.

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Seeing the RTB Impact

GREG MOORE

In April, the chapter brought Dr. Ross to the Seattle area for two outreach events. One was held at Kane Hall on the University of Washington campus, the other was at Highlands Community Church in Renton. The response was simply fantastic! I wish we could bottle some of the excitement they generated and give it to people who are thirsty for answers and reasons for hope.

Over 750 students attended the event at Kane Hall which was cosponsored by Campus Crusade for Christ. You could have heard a pin drop as Dr. Ross spoke about the latest scientific evidence for the God of the Bible. After the presentation, Dr. Ross fielded questions for nearly two hours. Dr. Robert Marks, Campus Crusade's faculty advisor and an engineering professor, told us he has heard many presentations and this was "the best college presentation he had ever heard."

"This is a powerful argument for God"

UW Professor

Here are some of the other comments we received:

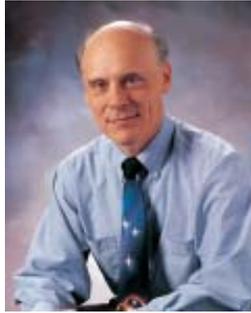
- "Thank you for a REAL scientific discussion, with REAL citations of REAL research papers from REAL scientists."*
- "Your presentation of hard science was wonderful, as a humanities student I have little/no exposure to this!"*
- "I might change my field of study based on what I've heard tonight."*
- "You are reaching people that no one else can even begin to convince."*
- "This is a powerful argument for God and the God of the Bible."*

Needless to say, the event at the University of Washington has opened an important door for us. Campus Crusade would like Dr. Ross to speak at the UW on a regular basis. They have also asked the chapter to help train their student leaders in the area of science apologetics.

See SEEING THE IMPACT, page 2

Over 500 people attended the presentation at Highlands Community Church titled, "Putting Creation to the Test." The audience was totally spellbound as Dr. Ross laid out the scientific case for special creation. After the presentation, there was a lively question and answer period. In fact, the discussion lasted an hour longer than planned.

At the chapter tables, we set new records. About 150 people signed up to be on the RTB mailing list and we sold over \$1,300 worth of RTB books and videos. Based on the response, Highlands would like the chapter to help put on a science and the Bible training course there.



It is amazing to see the impact Reasons to Believe can have in removing the doubts of unbelievers and strengthening the faith of believers. Our goal is to have Dr. Ross visit this area at least twice a year. We are in the process of planning his next visit which will be in September. We hope to follow that with a visit in the spring of 2004.

We also want to get some of the other RTB scholars up to the Seattle area. In particular, we would like to host Dr. Fuz Rana, their biochemist, who is an expert on the fossil record and biological evolution. Dr. Rana uses the latest scientific findings to challenge the evolutionary model of origins. This is something that is sorely needed to balance what students are being taught in our schools and colleges.

Of course, there is a catch. Before we can embark on this plan, we must have the financial resources to make it happen. If this is an area where you can help, we need your support. The chapter is a 501C3 corporation and all donations are tax deductible. Mail your donations to RTB Seattle Chapter, 1314 Mukilteo Boulevard, Everett, WA 98203. Please write "speaker fund" on your check. All donations to this fund will be specifically for the purpose of bringing more RTB speakers into the area.

Greg Moore is president of the local chapter of Reasons to Believe. He is a trained RTB apologist and works for the City of Everett.

The God Who Truly Exists

PAT LEWIS

A generation ago Dr. Francis Sheaffer, ministering in Switzerland to young people from all over Europe, produced his landmark book, *The God Who is There*. Many of the young people he was dealing with were convinced science had proven the Genesis account to be wrong. As a result, they rejected the entire Bible, including the existence of a Supreme Being, and were left to wander in nihilistic doubt and denial. The churches, particularly the Catholic Church, were not very effective in opposing these ideas, which dominate western Europe to this day.

Many in the United States were similarly affected by this faith-destroying philosophy, but here it was countered by some strong church and parachurch movements. The battle continues today. Christian apologists frequently encounter people who feel it is impossible to know God exists. They begin by rejecting everything taught in the Bible – our greatest source of information about the Creator! A similar barrier exists in the minds of many who follow non-Christian religions such as Islam. How can they be reached?

To people who know something of science, we can point to the Big Bang and show how it inescapably points to a Beginner. Dr. Hugh Ross demonstrates this method with great effectiveness. How satisfying it is to note the ongoing and developing support of Bible truth that comes from modern science! Yet we frequently encounter some people whose minds are not attuned to scientific arguments. Talk of the Big Bang or recent scientific discoveries is not meaningful to them. For them, a different approach should be sought.

One fruitful method is to simply and persistently make use of the Scripture itself. We should not be easily put off by their statements of unbelief. There is a surprising power inherent in the words of the Bible. If we can achieve a genuine dialog with a questioner, we may be able to open his or her mind to the great sayings of God's Book.

One good starting point is the passage in Exodus 3 where the LORD introduces Himself to Moses and reveals a name that sets Him apart from every other god or object of worship. Verses 1 to 15 tell how God calls to Moses and commissions him to lead the Hebrew people out of captivity. When Moses asks God's name, God gives him a phrase derived from the verb expressing existence, "I AM." He is the One who exists outside of time, beyond all concepts of past, present and future. "I AM" is the unique name of the eternal Creator God. It denotes the essence of transcendent being. The great Tetragrammaton JHVH, revealed in Ex. 3:15, likewise is a form of the verb of existence. It is usually rendered LORD, spelled with capitals in our English Bibles; but Moffatt uses "the Eternal" and French translations use "L'Eternelle."

See THE GOD WHO EXISTS, page 6

America Can Be 'One Nation Under God'

SETH COOPER

With my work at SU's law school all finished, I ventured over to the other law school in town last week. The occasion was a debate over recent decisions by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, resulting in the words "one nation, under God" being held an unconstitutional "establishment of religion" under the First Amendment when included in voluntary recitations of the Pledge of Allegiance in public schools. There was a large audience for the debate, largely because of the presence of Michael Newdow, the now-famous atheist who brought the case to court.

The crowd was a typical law school audience and thus clearly on Newdow's side. The language that permeated much of the discussion included terms such as "I feel," or "I was offended," and even "I'd be pissed off!" Such displays of raw feelings are characteristic of many in law school and the legal field who instinctively pour their subjective, personal feelings into their interpretations of objective constitutional provisions. With a view the worst thing anyone can do in this day and age is to offend a person or a group, the First Amendment and all of our constitution jurisprudence becomes directed toward protecting a fundamental right to be not offended.



One might think a generation that listens to Eminem and watches South Park would be numbed to offensive material and be the last persons to be offended by anything. This is not the case. Many legal academics, lawyers and law students are highly offended by incursions into their uncompromising, absolute right to a secular environment that is free of any sort of traditional beliefs in God or transcendent understandings of morality.

Even those in the legal field who do not find themselves directly offended by any mention of the word "God" in a public setting maintain a serious concern for persons who are, or are perceived to be, offended by references to a Supreme Being. In the eyes of Newdow and his supporters, such hyper-sensitive individuals are victims. And, in modern understandings of constitutional law, victims occupy a position of moral superiority over everyone else. Members and aspiring members of the legal profession today see themselves as heroes and champions of oppressed victims everywhere. Empowered by an exaggerated sense of self-righteousness and self-importance, they see it as duty—and theirs alone—to protect the rights of minority members who have been victimized by the oppressive majority.

The near-universal disapproval of the Ninth Circuit's Pledge decisions that has been enunciated by elected officials and the public does not deter the anti-Pledge crowd, but instead emboldens them. Such persons do not view overwhelming public disapproval as evidence that their own legal position may be clearly erroneous, lacking precedent, out-of-touch or nonsensical. Instead, discontent by the general public is cited as proving the existence of a small minority who are oppressed and offended by the differing views of the majority.

See ONE NATION UNDER GOD, page 5

APOLOGETICS TOOL KIT

Webcast

Join Hugh Ross each Tuesday for the Creation update webcast. Hear about the latest scientific discoveries and ask your questions live, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (PT) at www.reasons.org or www.oneplace.com/ministries/creation_update.

Newsletter

Subscribe to RTB's free newsletter, *Connections*, packed full of great science information. Phone 626-335-1480 or sign up electronically at www.reasons.org/forms/maillist.html?main. View past issues at <http://www.reasons.org/resources/connections/index.shtml?main>

Free Training

RTB offers an Apologetics Training Course that provides a well-rounded grounding in science apologetics. The program is available free through the chapter on CDROM. Contact the chapter at seattle@reasons.org for more information.

Websites

For science and the Bible questions, see RTB's website www.reasons.org/resources/apologetics/index.shtml?main. Here's some other good websites:

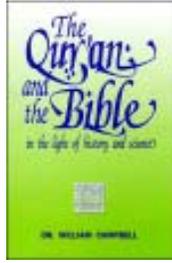
- www.accuracyingenesis.com
- www.answers.org/newlook/NEWLOOK.HTM#top
- www.asa3.org/ASA/resources/Wiens.html
- www.bibleandscience.com
- www.evidence.info
- www.genesisfoundation.org/ie4.html
- www.geocities.com/darrickdean/relsci.html
- www.geocities.com/vr_junkie/thebibleandscience.htm
- www.gps.caltech.edu/~tisco/yeclaimsbeta.html
- www.ibri.org
- www.kiva.net/~kls/index.html
- www.origins.org/index.html
- www.ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/rossuk/creation.htm
- www.swordandspirit.com
- www.windowview.org

Book Reviews

The Quran and the Bible

Dr. William Campbell
Middle East Resources, 2002

Reviewer: David Ouellette



Dr. William Campbell, a medical doctor, wrote *The Quran and the Bible*, second edition, to challenge the claims made by Dr. Maurice Bucaille in his book *The Bible the Qur'an and Science*. Bucaille's book can be found in most bookstores and is one of the primary materials Muslims use to claim the Bible is full of contradictions and improbabilities.

In the first three sections, Campbell provides a detailed comparison of the Quran and the Bible in terms of their origin and historical validity. Campbell points out the methods Bucaille used for disproving the validity of the Bible would falsify the Quran as well. Based on this analysis Campbell concludes, "Neither the present Quran, nor the present Gospel accounts, have suffered any important change, they are essentially as they were written."

This lays the foundation for the rest of the book which focuses on the scientific problems in the Quran. Campbell describes several fundamental errors and contradictions in the Quran in such sections as "The Earth, the Heavens, and the 6 or 8 Days of Creation" and "Anatomy, Embryology, and Genetics." The question Campbell poses is, if scientific errors prove these sections of the Quran are wrong, how can we be confident about the validity of the other sections?

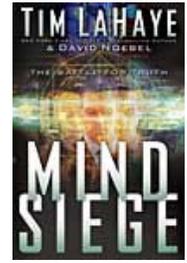
In later sections, Campbell compares Jesus and Muhammed. Using his knowledge of the Arabic language, he challenges Muslim scholars' claims the Bible prophesied the coming of Muhammed in the Gospel of John. He also addresses some misconceptions Muslims have concerning Islamic doctrine. For example, he challenges the Muslim belief Muhammed will intercede from them on the day of judgment and no Muslim will remain in hell.

The Quran and the Bible is a detailed and revealing study of two of the world's major holy books. It also provides an effective response to the claims made in Bucaille's book, which many Muslims and others use to criticize the Bible and Christianity. In addition to obtaining a thorough understanding of the Quran, the reader will also gain a more in-depth knowledge of the Bible.

Mind Siege

Tim LaHaye and David Noebel,
Word Publishing, 2000

Reviewer: Jon Greene



In *Mind Siege*, the authors provide a compelling overview of the clash between the Christian worldview and Secular Humanism, highlighting the battle for truth in the new millennium. We are impacted daily by what we see on TV, read in newspapers and magazines, view on the "silver screen" and are taught in schools. This book describes the breadth and depth of secular humanistic thought in our society, media and governmental institutions.

Quoting from the *Humanist Manifesto*, LaHaye and Noebel explain there are five basic tenets of Secular Humanism: atheism (there is no God), evolution (humanity emerged from natural forces), amorality (moral values derive from human experience, not God), human autonomy (human life has meaning because we create and develop our futures) and globalism (socialistic one-world government). The authors describe the historical foundation of many of these beliefs. They also identify many of the leading thought-leaders and organizations that sponsor and sustain secular humanistic thought in our culture such as the ACLU, NOW, NEA and the National Center for Science Education.

According to LeHaye and Noebel, evolution is the foundation upon which Secular Humanist education rests. In the chapter "Secularizing America," the authors describe the secular takeover of American education. For example, they explain how John Dewey, the most influential educator of the 20th century, played a major role in driving God out of public education, claiming truth is relative, absolutes are not admissible, evolutionary theory is valid, and "There is no God and there is no soul."

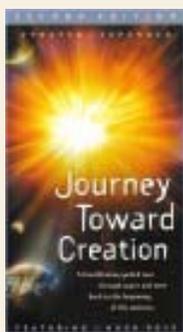
Mind Siege is a good resource for those who want to understand Secular Humanism and learn how to combat it. A concluding chapter, "What You Can Do," provides a list of things Christians can do to save America from secular humanism. One of the things the authors implore Christians to do is "reach the campus" to overcome the dogma of atheism and half-truths of Darwinism. This, of course, is one of the primary goals of Reasons to Believe.

TASTY TIDBITS



Read about Hugh Ross in the June issue of Charisma magazine. Available now in bookstores or online at www.charismamag.com. According to the writer, "Evolutionists despise him, and some Christians don't agree with his views

on Earth's beginnings. But Hugh Ross, like no other man of faith, is taking the gospel to the scientific community."



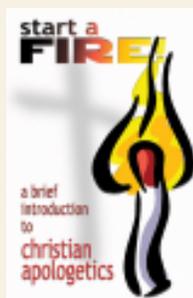
Is life in the universe common or rare? What are the odds of finding other Earth-like planets? Embark on an amazing journey, out in space and back in time. In this new and completely redesigned second edition, Hugh Ross whisks viewers back to the moment when light first sprang from

darkness using advanced 3D animation. Available from the RTB webstore for only \$15.95.



Want to hear what a highly respected pastor has to say about Hugh Ross whom some refer to as "apostate"? Listen to Pastor Jack Hayford's comments. An audio file is available on RTB's website. Listen to it, download it, then share it

with your friends and pastors.



Looking for a good introduction to Christian apologetics that is geared towards high school and college but doesn't cost an arm and a leg? Check out Sword and Spirit's new booklet. You can download a .pdf version or order printed copies at http://swordandspirit.com/_STUDY/booklet.html.

ONE NATION UNDER GOD, *Continued from page 3*

Thus, a long and arduous democratic process that is characterized by checks and balances is short-circuited by a tribunal of life-tenured jurists. Should the U.S. Supreme Court fail to overrule the Ninth Circuit, Newdow's case would further serve to establish a heckler's veto for the hyper-sensitive who claim to be offended by long-standing and generally accepted public practices.

Under the separation of powers doctrine, the judicial branch is properly understood as undemocratic by nature, and lawyers are entrusted with a special duty to see that the rights of individuals are properly respected under the law. However, law-making is entrusted to members of the legislative branch, who swear oaths to uphold and defend the very same Constitution. Despite all of that, the Newdow debate and the question and answer session that followed made it clear that he and his supporters took for granted that courts exist not primarily for seeking just resolutions to disputes between parties in individual cases, but instead for the purpose of changing and implementing social policy for everyone. Indeed, Newdow refused to speak about the particulars of the case he brought, saying he would not speak about the daughter on whose behalf he brought suit. It is understandable that he would not want to bring his child into the dispute, but his refusal underscored that Newdow is seeking to create a nation-wide, constitutionally-protected standard for everyone else's children.

Although the specifics of Newdow's legal arguments would require another article, some serious social concerns are worth mention. The danger here is not that such a decision, if it stands, would itself cause atheism to flourish in America. Rather, the danger is that it will serve as an important step for those who would seek to expunge any and all references to a Higher Power from the public square through appeals to judicial tribunals. Although Newdow's target in this case was the pledge, he candidly admitted that he would like to remove "In God We Trust" from U.S. currency and likewise to eliminate other references to God.

When people pledge their allegiance to the flag, they are pledging themselves to a symbol that pre-existed our Constitution and stands for the principles of liberty and justice. As indicated in the Declaration of Independence, the Founders believed these principles are transcendent, deriving from a Higher Law. President Abraham Lincoln was also inspired by these transcendent principles and eloquently spoke of them in The Gettysburg Address, from which the words "under God" were taken and included in the Pledge. Many "liberals" and "conservatives" today still believe liberty and justice are transcendent and pre-exist government. Such beliefs may offend certain people, but such beliefs have also helped to ensure the freedom of the offended to hold otherwise.

Seth Cooper is a recent graduate of the SU Law School. He is a trained RTB apologist and active member of the local chapter. Original article printed in the Spectator Online, Seattle University's student newsletter at <http://www.spectator-online.com/vnews/display.v/ART/3edbebd2eod94>.

Our Lord Jesus similarly claimed self-existent Deity and identity with the Creator. Often in the Gospels He referred to Himself by the Greek expression of eternal being, “*ego eimi, I AM.*” Frequently this phrase is correctly translated as “I am he” or “here I am,” but in at least two instances it carries a much deeper meaning.

The first occurs in John 8:24,58,59 where Jesus is speaking to the hostile Pharisees and scribes. ²⁴“I told you that you would die in your sins; if you do not believe that I am the one (*ego eimi*) I claim to be, you will die in your sins.” ⁵⁸“I tell you the truth,” Jesus said, “before Abraham was born, I am!” (*ego eimi*). ⁵⁹At this, they picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus hid himself, slipping away from the temple grounds.

The second occurs in John 18:4-6, the scene of Jesus’ arrest. “Jesus, knowing all that was going to happen to him, went out and asked them, “Who is it you want?” ⁵⁴“Jesus of Nazareth,” they replied. ⁶⁴“I am he” (*ego eimi*), Jesus said...When Jesus said, “I am he,” they drew back and fell to the ground.

Why did Jesus’ use of this phrase incite the Pharisees to an attempt to murder Him? Why did the arresting party, which included Roman soldiers, draw back and fall to the ground when He uttered it? They recognized it as a Word of Power, paralleling God’s revelation of Himself to Moses and echoing His self-designation in the great passages of Isaiah chapters 40 to 55. Jesus was claiming transcendent Godhood and even the pagan Romans (who honored a pantheon of creature-like gods) understood this.

In like manner, if the Scripture is gently and persistently brought to them, our agnostic or atheistic friends may be impressed with the personality and majesty of the One they try to deny. Paul described the Word of God as a mighty spiritual weapon, the Sword of the Spirit. Let us learn to wield it, appreciating and drawing on its power.

Pat Lewis is retired and worked as a research technologist at the UW. She is an amateur astronomer and active member of the chapter.

REASONS TO BELIEVE SEATTLE-AREA CHAPTER



Who Are We?

The Seattle-Area Chapter of Reasons to Believe is a local extension of the worldwide, interdenominational Reasons to Believe ministry. We exist to support our parent organization and foster local involvement in Reasons to Believe. We serve the Puget Sound area and are composed of people of different ages and backgrounds.

It is our conviction the same God who created the universe inspired the Bible. Therefore, what God says through His written word must agree with the facts of nature. We reject the notion that science and the Bible are at odds and believe new scientific discoveries are adding to the already compelling case for the God of the Bible.

Reasons to Believe is at the forefront of these issues. We provide a scientifically-sound and Biblically-faithful alternative to naturalism and young-Earth creationism. We look forward to introducing you to the national organization and connecting with you at the local level.

What Do We Do?

The Seattle-Area Chapter exists to remove the doubts of skeptics and strengthen the faith of believers. We provide scientific, historical and philosophical evidence that supports the Christian worldview and helps remove the barriers to a belief in God, the Bible and the Gospel of Jesus Christ. To carry out this mission, we:

- Help people access RTB and other resources that are scientifically sound and faithful to Scripture.
- Provide a local team of trained apologists to address questions about science, the Bible and related topics.
- Administer a free apologetics training course to help Christians shed their fear of science and use it to spread the Gospel.
- Bring nationally-known speakers into the area to promote the scientific reliability of the Bible.
- Work with teachers and school administrators to achieve a balanced approach to the teaching of Darwinian evolution.
- Build alliances with local churches, ministries and groups to maximize the exposure of the RTB ministry.
- Reach out to skeptics and unbelievers with gentleness and respect, encouraging them to evaluate their worldviews.

Got Questions? Get Answers.

Whether you are looking for scientific support for your faith or answers to questions about God and science, contact us at seattle@reasons.org. You can also call the RTB hotline seven days a week, 5:00 to 7:00 PM at 626-335-5282.