



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

# REASONS TO BELIEVE - SEATTLE AREA CHAPTER

NEWS AND VIEWS

SEPTEMBER 2005

## What's Happening?

### New RTB Book

RTB's new book, "Who Was Adam?", is being released this month. This breakthrough work demonstrates how the latest scientific data parallels with Genesis. You can help draw national attention to the book by ordering it from Amazon.com on September 22nd.

### Hugh Ross Visit

Hugh Ross and Fuz Rana will be visiting the Seattle area in November. We still have a few timeslots available for speaking engagements. If your church or group would like to host an outreach event, contact the Seattle Chapter immediately at [seattle@reasons.org](mailto:seattle@reasons.org).

### Attention Homeschoolers

RTB is enrolling for a brand new course for 11th and 12th graders. This on-line 12-week course is based on the research of Hugh Ross and RTB scholars. The cost is \$110 per semester plus materials. Contact [learning@reasons.org](mailto:learning@reasons.org) for more information.

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## Should Intelligent Design Be Taught in Public Schools?

HUGH ROSS & FUZ RANA

*Editorial note: Following President's Bush statement supporting the teaching of alternatives to evolutionary theory, RTB issued a press release stating intelligent design has no place in public school science curriculum (see <http://www.earnedmedia.org/cpro805.htm>). In this article, Fuz Rana and Hugh Ross explain their perspective on this issue.*

George W. Bush ignited a fire storm of controversy last month when he responded to a reporter's question. Even though he never mentioned intelligent design, many in the media presumed that he endorsed teaching both evolution and intelligent design (ID) in public schools. We're often asked a similar question at outreach events and during radio interviews: Should ID be taught in public school?



As it currently stands, we believe ID should *not* be taught in biology class. This is not to say we think there's a lack of evidence in the record of nature for the work of an Intelligent Designer. Far from it! The scientific support for a Creator's direct involvement in bringing the universe and life into existence is overwhelming. So too are the problems for biological evolution. We agree with the ID community: the strengths and weaknesses of evolutionary theory should be discussed in public school.

However, at this juncture, ID isn't formulated as a scientific theory. Technically, the design inference isn't a scientific construct. Leaders in the "ID movement" (Michael Behe, Bill Dembski, Jay Richards, Guillermo Gonzalez, and Steve Meyer, to name a few) have done excellent work developing methods and approaches to detect intelligent causation in nature. Phil Johnson, Paul Nelson, and Jonathan Wells have identified and critiqued the materialistic underpinnings of modern-day science, highlighting serious problems facing biological evolution. We applaud and support these efforts. But ID hasn't yet matured to the point of being a scientific theory.

See INTELLIGENT DESIGN, page 2

To date, ID has not developed an origins model with scientifically testable assertions and falsifiable predictions. No ID theory accounts for the history of the universe and of life. There are no ID predictions about what scientists should discover when they examine the record of nature. Without a testable model, ID cannot guide future scientific investigation. Model-building and model-refining activities are the hallmark features of science.

This need for a scientific theory is one reason RTB has been working to develop a testable creation model—a scientific theory of creation—derived from the biblical text and recast in the form of scientific propositions. Pieces of the RTB creation model appear in *The Creator and the Cosmos*, *A Matter of Days*, *Origins of Life*, and *Who Was Adam?* This creation model makes specific predictions of what scientists working in cosmology, origin-of-life research, and anthropology should discover—predictions already fulfilled by the latest data. We continue to work on expanding the model to include specific predictions about life's history and to add more detail to those parts of the model currently in place.

We have publicly presented the RTB model to faculty and students at major universities. After our presentation, we invite a panel of scientists, typically those with expertise in cosmology, physics, and biology, to critique and discuss our model. We have yet to encounter any substantive scientific objections, only philosophical and theological protests. Respondents claim that ID isn't science, but their comments lose credibility once we've presented a list of detailed scientific predictions all with potential to falsify or verify our model.

We are encouraged at how these and other peer-review sessions have gone and are planning more such forums. The RTB creation model can only benefit from exposure to the scientific community. Our approach prompts skeptics to consider the truth claims of the Christian faith. We hope it will continue to transform the scientific enterprise. Our approach may someday serve as the framework to allow theistic considerations to influence the cutting-edge of scientific research. It may even provide the entrée for consideration of biblical creation in science education.

All this will take time. When it does happen, we hope that the President of the United States will advocate teaching all scientific theories supported by facts. Only those researchers—including advocates of biblical creation models—who produce working, successfully-predictive models should be granted public support and encouraged to further develop and promulgate their theories.

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## *In the* NEWS...

### [Why Do We Invoke Darwin?](#)

This article in *The Scientist* takes a critical look at the theory of evolution. The author contends that, while many many biologists accept evolution, it contributes little to the field of experimental biology. Go to: [www.the-scientist.com/2005/8/29/10/1](http://www.the-scientist.com/2005/8/29/10/1).

### [Why President Bush Got it Right](#)

This article by William Dembski addresses President Bush's support for the teaching of alternatives to naturalistic evolution. Dembski commends Bush for his courage, wisdom and foresight on this issue. Go to: [www.beliefnet.com/story/172/story\\_17219.html](http://www.beliefnet.com/story/172/story_17219.html).

### [Why We Can't Have A Rational Debate](#)

This article by Tony Snow discusses how there can't be rational debate about the origins issue until evolutionists have the humility to admit that evolution is a hypothesis and not verifiable or testable. Go to: [www.townhall.com/columnists/tonysnow/TS20050812.shtml](http://www.townhall.com/columnists/tonysnow/TS20050812.shtml).

### [Study Challenges Evolution](#)

For decades, molecular evolutionists have thought mutations that become fixed in a species are determined primarily by natural selection. This university study found natural selection is not a factor. Go to: <http://chronicle.uchicago.edu/050818/lahn.shtm>.

### [The Evolution Wars](#)

This article in the August 15 issue of *Time* magazine discusses the controversy that is sweeping the nation about the teaching of ID. To purchase the article (\$2.50) go to: <http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/buylink/A/0,11397,1090909,00.html>.

### [Evolution: Debate it](#)

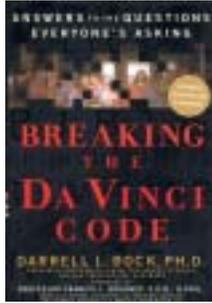
This USA Today article by John Angus Campbell and Stephen C. Meyer makes the case for teaching the evolution controversy. Go to: <http://www.discovery.org/scripts/viewDB/index.php?command=view&program=CSC%20-%20Views%20and%20News&id=2786>.

## Book Reviews

### Breaking the Da Vinci Code

Darrell L. Bock, Ph. D.  
Thomas Nelson, 2004

Reviewer: Mike Brown



Dr. Bock is a research professor of New Testament studies at the Dallas Theological Seminary and a corresponding editor for *Christianity Today*.

Dan Brown, the author of the runaway bestseller *The Da Vinci Code*, must be credited for his ingenious way of reaching millions of unsuspecting people with his Christian-bashing message. Had he simply written a “non-fiction” book promoting his heretical ideas, a *much* smaller number of people would have read the book. Brown cloaks his message in a spine-tingling mystery and then ends the book with the statement: “All descriptions of artwork, architecture, documents, and secret rituals in this novel are accurate.” This tells the reader the story is set in a non-fictitious, historically accurate world. Of course, nothing could be further from the truth—as Dr. Bock lays out in his easy to read critique.

The book can be read in one or two evenings and is addressed to a general audience. While Bock doesn’t address every point in *The Da Vinci Code*, he does address the important ones such as: Who was Mary Magdalene? Was Jesus married? What are the Gnostic Gospels, and can they help us understand Jesus? How were the New Testament Gospels assembled? Bock provides enough documentation and logical arguments to convince the reader that Dan Brown’s claims are bogus, while providing an introductory apologetic to the validity of the New Testament and Jesus’ claims to divinity.

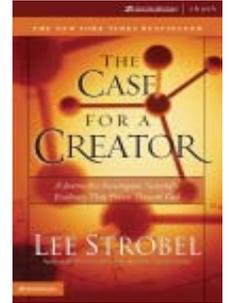
If you haven’t read a critique of Dan Brown’s book yet, now is the time. Soon the movie version will be out. With Ron Howard directing it and Tom Hanks starring in it, you can guarantee it will be a blockbuster. People everywhere will be talking about the film, and this will provide a golden opportunity for Christian apologists to share the true Gospel and educate people about the pernicious nature of present-day attacks on Christianity.

For an excellent quick reference, I also highly recommend Rose Publishing’s foldout brochure titled *Answers To The Da Vinci Code*. You can order it directly from them at: [www.rose-publishing.com](http://www.rose-publishing.com).

### The Case for a Creator

Lee Strobel  
Zondervan, 2004

Reviewer: Wayne Sheldon



*The Case for a Creator* is the third in a series of “case for” books by Lee Strobel. This book surveys the evidence that points to the existence of a Creator.

Strobel begins by examining the icons of Darwinism—the so-called evidences for evolution that are taught as gospel. Then, in the chapters that follow, he presents a series of interviews with respected experts from a variety of scientific disciplines to build the case for a Creator. At the end of each chapter, he also provides a list of works in that field for those who wish to delve deeper into the subject.

The interviews begin with a discussion with Jonathan Wells that debunks the myth of evolution. This is followed by a discussion of ‘where science meets faith’ in an interview with Stephen Meyer. Successive chapters discuss the evidence from cosmology with William Lane Craig, the evidence from physics with Robin Collins, the evidence from astronomy with Guillermo Gonzalez and Jay Richards, the evidence from biochemistry with Michael Behe, the evidence from biology with Stephen Meyer and the evidence from the study of the mind and consciousness with J.P. Moreland.

Many of the concepts presented in the book will be familiar to those who have read books authored by RTB’s scholars. Some of the information presented, however, might yield some new insights in areas that are not our normal focus. I personally found value in the presentation of, and response to, standard evolutionist objections to the evidence presented.

I found this book to be an easy and enjoyable to read. It is not a book that drills down to the ultimate details in any one field. Rather, as a broad survey, it gives the reader an introduction to the evidence for our Creator from a wide breadth of scientific disciplines. As such, the book supplies the reader with a basic awareness of the framing of the debate in each discipline, and it provides a starting point for further exploration in each of the fields of science.

# If God is a God of Love, Why Do Innocent Children Suffer?

HILL ROBERTS

This is the most challenging question a seeker must deal with. I would suggest the question is broader than just the atrocities endured by little children. It addresses our anger when we face the pain and suffering of life that comes to everyone regardless of their religious beliefs. It rains on both the just and unjust. Some see this as a mutual evil, other see it as a mutual blessing, and therein lies some of our confusion regarding this question. We seek answers for our confusion. In our doubt we ask, "Where is God when it hurts?"

God demonstrated that He is concerned for our welfare and understands our suffering. "*God so loved the world that He gave His own Son, that whosoever believes upon Him might have eternal life*" (John 3:16). This speaks directly to our fear that in such times God doesn't understand our pain or care about the suffering. He does. He truly suffers with us. I would turn the question around and ask us to consider the alternative required by the atheist—that there is *no answer* for the suffering of little children, there is *no answer* for the pain of life, there is only despair and escapism in seeking life's end by death. Faced with such despair we ask, "Where is *atheism* when it hurts?"

To answer our doubts requires that we set aside the attendant emotions and consider them from a philosophical perspective. First, we must realize that pain itself is a feature of life that serves a good purpose. Pain serves to warn us of danger, to cause us to take corrective action. It motivates us to learn from the pain so to avoid situations which would lead to greater pain. As with all aspects of life, the positive benefits of pain also allow for the existence of negatives. Pain hurts. But then if it didn't hurt, it wouldn't serve its intended purpose.

Physical pain, even to the point of death, is simply the consequence of living in a physical world wherein nature is ruled by law. If a rock is released, gravity will necessarily cause the rock to fall and thereby possibly land upon one's toe. This is not the work of a malevolent god, but rather the work of a God who established the laws of nature so that we may live in a world governed by His regular and predictable laws. God is not capricious. So if we live in a region prone to earthquakes, or at the base of a volcano, or on the shores of a river, we must expect that we will be subject to the laws of nature when these forces exceed their boundaries.

Our bodies are made of cells, but cells are subject to attack by other bacterial cells and viruses. The immune system is designed to defend against such attacks in accord with biological laws which keep us healthy. But sometimes disease is like a raging river and we are overwhelmed to the point of death. This is nature as it operates according to God's established laws—a design that operates for our benefit. In the larger perspective, the fact that this is a world of pain encourages us to seek the better world offered by God in His grace to His faithful people. He promises that if we seek Him, we will find Him!

Secondly, we must consider the aspect of being designed with freewill, with the

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## Apologetic TOOLS

### [Creation Update Webcast](#)

Join Hugh Ross and Fuz Rana each Tuesday, 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM (PT), for webcast about how science agrees with the Bible. Listen live and/or download past broadcasts. Go to the RTB website and click on "Get Tuned In."



### [Daily Discoveries](#)

RTB posts a new scientific discovery on their website each day that supports the RTB creation model. You can also view past discoveries since 2003. For an archive of discoveries, go to the website and click on "Today's New Reason."



### [Ministry Newsletters](#)

RTB's free newsletters feature great articles on science and the Bible. They also keep you informed about what's happening at the ministry. Go to the RTB website and click on "Free Magazine." You can also view and print past issues.



### [Message of the Month](#)

Receive a monthly CD featuring special discussions by the RTB scholars while supporting RTB financially. This year's series is titled, "Adam: Miracle, Myth or Monkey?" Go to the RTB website, and click on "Donate."



### [Outreach Brochures](#)

Get RTB's brochures for initiating science and the Bible discussions. Topics include the big bang, the origin of life, the anthropic principle and the "days" of Genesis. Go to the RTB webstore and click on "ministry items."



### [Apologetics Training Course](#)

Take RTB's training course and become an official RTB apologist. Available through the chapter for \$200. Course materials include audiotapes or CDs, two videos (VHS or DVD) and seven books. Financial scholarships are available.



ability to make choices. We do make choices. Much innocent suffering occurs because we make poor choices and sometimes because man makes evil choices. If God is to create us with free will, we must be free to exercise it, else it is not free. God loved us enough to allow us to choose to love Him in return. He does not force our love. Forced love is no love at all. But if God is to allow us the freedom to choose to love Him, He must also allow us the freedom to choose not to love Him, and not love fellow man. It is the risk God chose for us to endure in order to grant us the blessing of being able to love at all.

The fact that a man can love a woman, also means that same man may cause great pain to the woman by acts of infidelity. This is the nature of love. It is a divine gift, but it is a gift that allows the possibility of evil. This possibility does not negate the genuine blessing of knowing love. This is the second great principle concerning the existing of evil: the existence of that which is good and righteous requires that possibility of the existence of evil. It is a spiritual or philosophical law of parity.

Thirdly, we must accept the possibility that God may allow evil to operate upon the earth for a limited time, in a limited extent, in order to achieve some greater purpose which we may not be fully capable of appreciating. The Bible indicates that God does not operate upon the lives of men to tempt them to do evil. This is the one called Satan, or the Accuser (as in the book of Job). The Bible does not fully explain the origin of Satan, but it does explain his role in enticing us to break the laws of God and nature (one and the same). When we do, we must expect to suffer the consequences of such evil. The consequences of evil affect all of mankind, not just the one guilty of the evil. Again, this is the result of living in a world regulated by laws of nature as well as civil laws. If a Hitler, Stalin or Pol Pot decides to commit mass murder, millions die.

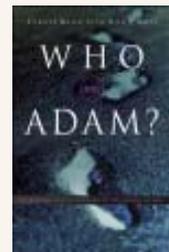
No one doubts the existence of absolute evil, why then must we doubt the reality of absolute good? Absolute good is just. The Bible assures us there is final just end to both Satan and those that choose to live a life serving his rebellion against God. There is some comfort for the ones suffering from atrocities in knowing that ultimately good triumphs over evil. It is such faith that one leans upon in times of great adversity. Without fail we recognize that good is a more potent force than evil in the long term. Thus righteous judgment upon evil may bring its own suffering which is rightly deserved.

For more thorough treatments of this subject see: John Clayton, *The Problem of Suffering*, www.doesgodexist.org; Ravi Zacharius, *Can Man Live Without God?*, Word Publishers 1994; C. S. Lewis, *The Problem of Pain*, Harper Collins 2001 and *A Grief Observed*, Bantam Books 1983.

*Hill Roberts, Chief Scientist for SRS Technologies in Huntsville, Alabama, is a physicist and the lead apologist of the "Lord, I Believe" apologetics ministry (www.LordIBelieve.org). He has given over a hundred apologetics seminars since 1987 to both Christian and skeptical audiences in the United States and Russia. He is a trained RTB apologist, he has lectured for RTB and the "Does God Exist?" apologetics ministry.*

## RTB Resources

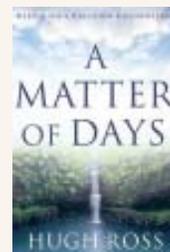
Was Adam an accident of nature? Are humans descending from primates? In this new breakthrough book, "Who Was Adam," Hugh Ross and Fuz Rana examine the evidence that challenges these notions and points to a special, supernatural origin of mankind. *Intermediate/Advanced, Hardback, US\$ 12.95.*



In *Origins of Life: Biblical and Evolutionary Models Face Off*, Hugh Ross and Fuz Rana reveal how life's beginnings can be tested. They examine origin-of-life research and compare it to the biblical model, exploding the myth of a naturalistic origin of life. *Intermediate/Advanced, Hardback, US\$ 12.95.*



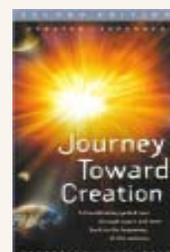
The length of time represented by the word "day" in the Genesis creation account is a source of controversy in the Christian church. In this new book, *A Matter of Days*, Hugh Ross explores how this controversy developed and addresses many of the key issues of the debate. *All Readers, Paperback, US\$ 9.95.*



Does the Bible teach the earth is 10,000 years old? How does science and the book of Genesis relate? In *The Genesis Question*, Hugh Ross examines these and other issues from an old-earth creationist perspective. A great book to share with Christians and skeptics alike. *All Readers, Paperback, \$US 9.95.*



Is life in the universe common or rare? What are the odds of finding other Earth-like planets? Take an amazing journey as Hugh Ross examines how the universe has been meticulously fine-tuned for human life using state-of-the-art computer animation. *All Viewers, VHS or DVD, \$US 19.95.*



RTB Webstore - <http://store.reasons.org>

## RTB Welcomes Dr. Jeff Zweerink

Reasons To Believe has added a new scientist to their scholar team. Dr. Zweerink did his graduate studies at Iowa State



University, where he earned his Ph.D. in astrophysics. His most recent post was at UCLA where he served on the physics and astronomy research faculty, a position he will maintain on a part-time basis while serving at RTB. Jeff has co-authored more than 30 refereed publications and numerous conference proceedings.

This is a direct result of RTB's "Roots for Reasons" program. The goal of this campaign is to build the financial foundation to fund the addition of new scholars and the support staff, equipment, and other things they need to be effective. This is critical to the future success of RTB. Scholars help further the Great Commission through personal outreach efforts touching thousands, even millions of lives each year.

Imagine the impact RTB could have with more scholars. Please give prayerful consideration to contributing to this vital effort. Through the generosity of an RTB supporter, a \$1 million matching fund has been established so every gift to "Roots for Reasons" is doubled. For more information, contact Esther Attebery at RTB: 800-482-7836 or [eattebery@reasons.org](mailto:eattebery@reasons.org).

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## Are You an Inventor?

Seattle Chapter member John Draper is a freelance writer who is doing articles for a number of university alumni magazines about alumni inventors. If you're inventor who attended any of the following universities, contact John at 253-845-6700:

- Agnes Scott College
- University of Alabama
- Arizona State
- Columbia
- University of Florida
- University of Memphis
- Michigan State
- North Carolina
- Oregon State
- Pitt
- PLU
- UBC
- UNLV
- University of Utah
- William and Mary



## Seattle Chapter Reasons To Believe

### Who Are We?

The Seattle 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 the ministry. We serve the Puget Sound area and are composed of Christians 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 word must agree with the facts of nature. We reject the notion that science and the Bible are at odds and seek to provide a scientifically-sound and Biblically-faithful alternative to Darwinism and young-Earth creationism.

### What Do We Do?

Our mission is 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 barriers to a belief in God, the Bible and the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We carry out this mission by:

- Helping people access RTB and other scientifically and biblically sound resources.
- Bringing nationally-known speakers into the area to promote the scientific reliability of the Bible.
- Assembling a team of local apologists to address questions about science, the Bible and related topics.
- Working with teachers and homeschoolers to achieve a balanced approach to the teaching of origins.
- Building alliances with local churches, ministries and groups to maximize the exposure of the RTB ministry.
- Reaching out to unbelievers with gentleness and respect, encouraging them to evaluate their worldviews.

We welcome your involvement and support. For more information, contact us at [seattle@reasons.org](mailto:seattle@reasons.org). Tax-deductible donations can be sent to: Seattle RTB, PO Box 99683, Seattle, WA 98139-0683.

## Questions? Get Answers.

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