
Why Are They Leaving?

By Shirley R. Heater

“No longer believe in God... I’ve decided I am an atheist.” It may not surprise you that young people today are taking this stand when you see the deteriorating conditions in the world around us. But what may surprise you is that these words are not only being spoken by young people with various Christian backgrounds, but also by children of the Restoration! Why? Why! Why...

It is not an easy answer—or rather, it is not an answer that is easy to listen to. But I’m going to give it a try. A recent survey of young people ages 20-29, specifically identified as from conservative Christian homes (having grown up attending church, Sunday school, camps, praying with their families, reading the Bible, etc.), revealed that 90% no longer attend. The majority said they didn’t get answers they needed and were more likely to accept abortion, gay rights, evolution, do your own thing, question authority, even the word of God and God Himself!

I can look back in my own lifetime and see many seemingly “small” or isolated changes that have accumulated until today we have a full-blown war against God and His Word. I remember when in 1954 “under God” was added to the pledge of allegiance. I also remember when prayer was removed from schools (1963) and Roe v. Wade legalized abortion in 1973. For decades, a concerted effort has been in play to undermine the word of God, culminating in the chaos and contention seen in the world today. It has spilled over into government (“separation of church and state”), education devoid of anything spiritual (only Santa is welcome at Christmas), removing “In God We Trust” from newly minted coins, and the fight to have “under God” removed from the pledge! (And, sadly, these are only a few examples.)

How has this happened? Part of the answer is being celebrated this year by spotlighting two significant events—the 200th birthday of Charles Darwin and the 150th anniversary of his landmark work *Origin of Species*. When Darwin left on his five-year sea journey in 1831, he left a Bible-believing creationist. But he carried with him another book, *Principles of Geology* published in 1830 by Charles Lyell, proposing the doctrine of uniformitarianism which states that the present is the key to the past. By 1859 Darwin was an atheist and full-blown evolutionist.

Did you catch the date of Lyell’s book? 1830! – the same year The Book of Mormon was published. Second Nephi 1:81 tells us there is opposition in all things—that is certainly true when it comes to God and the Scriptures today! And just prior to the coming forth of The Book of Mormon, the foundations for questioning the Bible were laid down by questioning the origin of Genesis and Moses as the writer.

Darwin’s and Lyell’s false doctrines spread insidiously throughout the last century-plus, its tentacles infiltrating not only world and government views, but also science, education and text books, meaning of life, marriage, standards, and yes, even Bible-believing (and Book of Mormon

Continued on Page 2

*For decades,
a concerted
effort has been
in play to
undermine the
word of God,
culminating in
the chaos and
contention seen
in the world
today.*



Why Are They Leaving? (cont. from page 1)

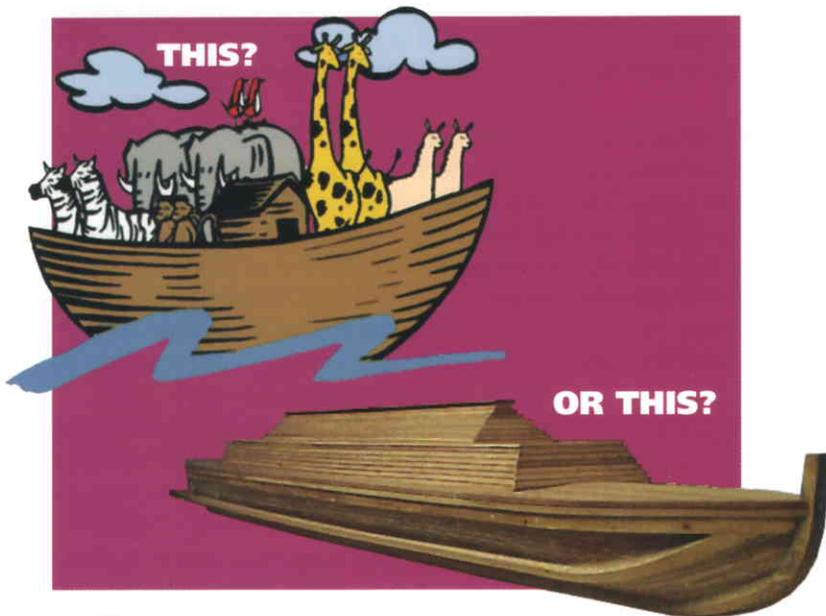
believing) churches. In attempts to mold Biblical creation to evolution, compromise interpretations such as theistic evolution or evolutionary creation were adopted. While these views seemed to satisfy some religionists, it has been a slippery slope toward the ultimate goal of evolution—a total rejection of the Bible and God Himself!

And the church has unwittingly contributed by not treating the foundational principles seriously. Take the flood of Noah, for instance. Was it worldwide or just local as many now believe? Evolution presents the geologic column as evidence of eons of gradual change, with man appearing near the top or most recent “age.” But the geologic column does not appear intact *anywhere* in the world, and in fact, some layers (“ages”) are missing, or are out of order with later millions of years appearing before earlier millions of years. The geologic column is actual evidence of a worldwide, catastrophic flood! And let’s not forget Noah’s ark—we see cute little boats with Noah and a few animal pairs with giraffes sticking their heads above the top, when the real ark was huge and perfectly proportioned to stay afloat—proportions still used today by the largest ships!

By embracing or molding these false doctrines, the result is a loss of confidence in the Word of God, then

a denial of His existence and His role in the history of mankind, and society rushing toward the moral collapse. When the foundation crumbles, we are left without a Creator; there was no Fall and thus no need for a Savior, no judgment (the Flood), no miraculous virgin birth, crucifixion or resurrection! When you let go of the rod of iron, you are without a sure foundation.

What we believe is foundational to how we interpret and understand everything. We must “be ready always to give an answer” (1 Peter 3:15). Understanding what has happened to the Bible will help us understand the role of The Book of Mormon. My position—as with archaeology and The Book of Mormon—is that the Scriptures are TRUE! They are either a true history—or they are not! The attack on the word of God—the Bible—has been blatant, and The Book of Mormon has not been spared. And while the Christian world as a whole is fighting against The Book of Mormon, it is the very answer they need! The Book of Mormon joined together as a second witness with the Bible strengthens the testimony of those foundations (e.g., Creation, Fall and need for a Savior, Flood, Crucifixion and Resurrection) and according to the words of Lehi, the two “shall grow together unto the confounding of false doctrines” (2 Nephi 1:19-24)!



The Deception

By Shirley R. Heater

satan believed he had won
when he thought he'd killed the Son
but he was momentarily deluded by his misconception
because he didn't anticipate the Resurrection!
so he devised his own deception
to undermine the Resurrection—

no creation > no Creator
no fall > no Savior

hold fast to the Rod of Iron
and to our Creator, Savior and Friend
reject the deception—embrace the Resurrection
and—endure to the end! 📖