

PARENTS BEWARE!

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The subtlety of Satan is seen on Saturday mornings as the children gather around the television set to view the morning programming. It does not seem like so many years ago when an early riser could crawl out of bed at 6:30 to watch the old black and white Superman adventures. The Lone Ranger, Sky King, and an array of cartoons from Mighty Mouse and Bugs Bunny to the Road Runner attracted even the older, more sophisticated members of the family. It seems those days are becoming a fading memory. Parents need to beware of the programming presently available on commercial television.

A couple of sobering examples should suffice to make the point. NBC has a program called "Discovery Kids" that depicts the dinosaurs, but there is much more depicted than extinct lizards. Christian Slater, the narrator, carefully weaves into the plot of each program the concept of atheistic evolution with his claims of the universe exploding out of a "Big Bang" followed by millions and millions of years of evolution. On a recent program, instead of discussing the flood of Noah's day and the possible impact it may have had on the dinosaurs, the audience was taught that a giant meteor struck the earth producing the shift from a reptile dominated planet to a mammal dominated planet. The visual images of dinosaurs are certain to have a lasting impact on impressionable young minds especially with the current advances in computer generated imagery. The picture that persists in biology textbooks across all these years is the one of a series of mammals from a small furry animal to a monkey walking in typical bent fashion to a monkey walking upright to a very hairy homo sapiens to a normal looking man. Students wrongly draw the conclusion from the visual portrayal that there is some basis in fact for the gradual transition of mankind from the animals. The contrived and convoluted verbiage in the textbook attempting to describe the technical ins and outs of biological evolution may boggle the mind, but the picture of man emerging from the mud creates its damaging illusion. How much more the cutting edge technology of modern television has the power to mislead the minds of precious children.

The home is the place where the word of God is held in highest regard. Where children are concerned, there are two cradles in every home: the physical cradle and the cradle of learning that rocks the soul. Teaching God's word in the home is not an option; it is an obligation (Deut. 6:4-9; Eph. 6:1-4). As with any duty from

God whether the activity is drudgery or delight depends on the heart of the disciple (cf. Psa. 119:97). Programming such as the current series on “Discovery Kids” should be biblically refuted by Christian parents. It is simply not enough to say, “My children do not believe in evolution.” They are riding against the storm of atheism and need to cultivate a more noble mindset than approaching it like a mule bowing his back in a hailstorm; they need to take the lead in firmly standing for God and his word. Like the shepherd boy David, the lion and the bear and Goliath of Gath are out there confronting them, too (cf. I Sam. 17:32-36).

A second example is a program now being aired on Saturday morning called “Tony Brown’s Journal.” A recent program presented an author who wrote a book by the title *101 Myths of the Bible*. For thirty minutes foundational truths of the Bible were slandered from the creation in Genesis 1, David’s defeat of Goliath because another Goliath is mentioned elsewhere, and the descending of the Israelites from Jacob. (A work that establishes the parameters for the discussion of the Goliath issue and offers a very plausible explanation is “Appendix 5, The Elhanan Problem (2 Sam. 21:19) by D. F. Payne in *The New Bible Commentary Revised* edited by Donald Guthrie and J. A. Motyer, Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1970, pp. 318-319.) But, on “Tony Brown’s Journal” the discussion about Goliath was so superficial that they made it seem the Bible was wrong because no one has ever heard of two people with the same name, and if someone has the same name as another person, then one of them must be a fraud. In the nineteenth century Colonel Robert G. Ingersoll traveled around the country lecturing on “The Mistakes of Moses,” but it was not long before his blasphemy was being answered by those who lectured on “The Mistakes of Ingersoll.” Such battles for truth are now being played out on the floor of living rooms and dens across America, and parents must take the lead in the fray. Changing channels does not help much anymore. The two examples given were on different channels. Hundreds of channels from which to choose serves to broaden the problem.

All who see television are aware of the language, nudity, violence, greed, and corruption it presents, and all should be reminded of the destructive power it possesses not only in those ways but also of the more frontal attack on the Bible and its teaching now becoming more and more widespread. While there is no denying the destructive impact a college biology professor who is sold on atheistic evolution has on young people right out of high school in damaging their faith, the weekly onslaught of such slick presentations of skepticism as discussed here may keep the Christian family from ever really winning the young person to Christ. As has been true from the beginning of time, preparation for the greatest spiritual challenges and blessings of life takes place in the living rooms and great rooms of

the home. What a compliment Paul paid to the godly family of young Timothy when he said, “But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; and that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus” (II Tim. 3:14-15). May Christian homes today strive to be deserving of such a compliment.