

Satan, and bound him a thousand years" (Rev. 20:2; cf. Ps. 2:3). At the end of the thousand years this power will have its constraints removed: "And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, and shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea" (vv. 7,8). So Gog and Magog are not completely destroyed at the return of Christ. At the end of the thousand years they will be still in existence, the beasts who had

"their dominion taken away" but their lives prolonged. In this regard we see, then, a distinction between Magog and the Germanic European beast, something which is consistent with what has been shown in the rest of this article.

So should we identify Germany with Gomer? There is no doubt that Gomer relates to France. Is it really correct to say that this name relates to both France and Germany in Bible prophecy? Are the French and Germans all really Gomerites? Maybe joint citizenship is not such a far-fetched idea after all.



Reviews

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"Hast thou considered My servant Job . . . ?"*

Geoff Henstock

JOB HOLDS a fascination for many Bible readers. The drama of the story, the literary form used and the lofty themes can combine to intimidate, enthrall and intrigue at the same time. There seems to be a myriad of views on a great many questions relating to the book; the identity of Satan, the character of Job's friends, the role of Elihu in the record have all provided fertile territory for expositors and students.

In our community a number of writers have ventured to expound all or part of the book. Brother C. C. Walker's pamphlet *Job* was followed in the 1950s by Brother Ralph Lovelock's more detailed study, also entitled simply *Job*. In more recent times Brother Cyril Tennant's *The Book of Job* has complemented these works. Brother L. G. Sargent also wrote several chapters on Job which are published in his *Ecclesiastes and Other Studies*. In addition there have been study notes prepared by a number of brethren, including Brother Don Styles, Brother Ted Russell and Brother Klaus Papowski, and articles in several of our magazines. It is not surprising that each of these works differs in its approach to and interpretation of certain key elements of the record. A book like Job is not susceptible to simple answers.

Brother David Baird's new book *The Education of Job* acknowledges the work of those who have gone before, and builds on it. Clearly the product of many years of study, this book of 312 pages provides a comprehensive analysis of all parts of the book. It does not shy away from difficult questions, nor does it pretend to have all the answers. Even though it is a detailed exposition, it is remarkably readable, the readability enhanced by the limited use of quite appropriate humour. It gives equal attention to all forty-two chapters of the book. Valuable exhortational points are incorporated throughout the book. It is particularly strong in drawing out how the principles discussed in the book relate to the Lord Jesus Christ and his atoning work. Brother Baird's discussion of leviathan is particularly good in this regard.

* *The Education of Job*, David Baird, published by the Christadelphian Scripture Study Service and available from CSSS agents. In the UK available from Brother Peter Talbot, 6 Ridge Lane, Radcliffe-on-Trent, NG12 1BD, tel./fax 0115-933-3683, email talbotpj@aol.com, price £9.25 per copy plus postage (£2.71 for a single copy).

Although a strong supporter of the AV, the author acknowledges that its translation of Job is not as good as some other more modern versions (for example, the RSV, the NIV and even the Jerusalem Bible). When appropriate he refers to these and many other translations, as well as the Hebrew text, to draw out the meaning. He identifies a number of places where the original text is unclear, and usually suggests ways in which these passages might be interpreted while recognising the ambiguity in these cases. In a very few places—for example, Job 34:29,30—he does not even attempt exposition because of uncertainty about the text. Many readers will welcome this level of honesty.

There seem to be almost as many views about Elihu as there are expositors of the book. Brother

Baird quotes extracts from most Christadelphian writers on the subject to demonstrate the wide diversity of views, but he himself regards Elihu in broadly positive terms.

He acknowledges that Elihu is brash at times, but regards his views as sound and vital to Job's education. Some readers might be unreceptive to a view about Elihu that differs from their own, but the author's reasoning on this matter is very cogent.

The Education of Job seems likely to become one of our standard works on the book of Job. It is a handsomely produced book that promises much and delivers on the promise. It is recommended for students and readers alike, and would be a valuable addition to the library of any Christadelphian.



Science

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The feathered dinosaur hoax¹

Malcolm Edwards

IN THE OCTOBER 2000 edition of the *National Geographic* magazine there appeared a somewhat low-key "Report to Members" in the form of an apology for an article in the November 1999 issue entitled "Feathers for T. Rex", announcing the discovery by a Chinese farmer, two years earlier, of a fossil which was said to be the 'missing link' between the so-called toothed bird *Archaeopteryx* and reptiles. It was given the similar name of *Archaeoraptor* and declared to be a feathered dinosaur. It turned out to be an embarrassing hoax for all those involved in the story.

The apology covered five full pages, and the selected writer, Lewis Simons, does not pull his punches. This is how he summarises the whole debacle: "It's a tale of misguided secrecy and misplaced confidence, of rampant egos clashing, self-aggrandizement, wishful thinking, naive assumption, human error, stubbornness, manipulation, backbiting, lying, corruption and, most of all, abysmal communication. It is a story in which none of the characters looks good". The November 1999 article was written by Assistant Art Editor Christopher Sloan, and in honour of his

involvement the fossil was given the full name of *Archaeoraptor liaoningensis* Sloan.

The artful perpetrator

The Chinese farmer who found the fossil was not the innocent perpetrator of the hoax, as is suggested. He was a part-time fossil collector who had previously sold his finds to dealers. He had used different fossil parts and had joined them together with home-made glue. The result was a birdlike body connected to the tail of a small dinosaur, to which he added legs from other collected scraps.

The unnamed dealer to whom the farmer sold his fossil defended him by saying that he genuinely believed he had found a 'missing link' and was putting together what time itself had separated. Whatever the farmer thought, it does not excuse the gullibility of the 'experts'.

1. See also reference to the same story in "Science Update: Another fake fossil exposed", *The Testimony*, Jun. 2002, p. 227.