

On The Frontier

“For the glory of God and the furtherance of the Gospel”

One In A Billion

by Linus A. Mathis III

In 1976, the Mars probe Viking 1 took some aerial photographs of the red planet's surface. One of the areas photographed is what is called the Cydonia region. A photo taken of this region has an image on it touted by some to be a "face." Much time, effort and money has been spent in resolution enhancement and photo enlargement. An even greater amount of attention has been given this subject in the form of conversation, written text, meetings of organizations (formed explicitly to investigate the origin of said "face") striving to extract more details from NASA and the government, etc. The energy spent on detailed scrutiny and research borders on the absurd (or should I say, insane). Great pressure has been placed upon NASA to return and take more photos. Those in favor of pursuing this matter firmly believe this "face" to be a huge sculpture or carving. They are enchanted by the belief that it represents the work of an ancient alien race. A race they claim to be 3,500,000 years old. I can't help but think that an effort of this proportion given to ANY worthwhile and realistic endeavor would result in unprecedented profit. Oh well!

It also warrants mention that a good deal of money has been made by the opportunistic. They have capitalized on the merchandizing potential surrounding this topic. There have been many books, music tapes, CD's, movies, *apparel* and other assorted *fantasy* paraphernalia sold. A wide

variety of trimmings and trinkets in honor of this so called "face" and in acknowledgment of the dollar have been manufactured and sold. I can't imagine what a convention of "face-supporters" would be like! Can you?

Technology marches on and in 1998 we have new photos of the Mars Cydonia region and this so-called face. April 8, 1998 examinations of the NEW photos revealed not a face but a mesa. A mesa is an isolated flat-topped natural elevation a bit more extensive than a butte. Incidentally, we have a lovely butte near our home which I like to climb, I believe it's about 700-800 feet high. Anyway, it's a good climb and a great view. Back to the NEW photos which clearly show the "face" to be a mesa. Upon hearing the latest photographic evidence, the "face-folks" began to squawk. They firmly believe that NASA is withholding the truth (shades of Area 51 and Men in Black). Enter the scholarly types (the enterprising ones of course).

The photos get re-enhanced, computer technology (via reconstruction and yes, animation) is introduced and - *VOILA* - you have a face again (well, sort of a face, if you use your imagination). It reminds me of when I used to lay on my back in front of my parents home on Long Island and look up at the clouds. You wouldn't believe the images I saw! Entire battles were waged by fantastic armies, right there in the clouds above me. I know, you could say I'm being facetious (really, it's spelled this way) but, I heard a noted Ph.D say the following about these

photos, "the mind desperately wants to reconstruct this face . . ." I rest my case. If you ask me it's a lot like a Rorschach test. That's where you tell the nice man in the white lab coat what you see in the ink-blot and he tells you what he thinks is wrong with you.

What does this all have to do with God and His Word? For starters, if (and I do mean IF) there is alien life, He created it, period.

John 1:3

All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

That's the bottom line.

Verse 10

He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.

People still don't know Him. Why? Because they don't know Jesus Christ or the Bible. Imagine the results if the same effort furnished the study of the "face" was assigned to God's Word!

II Timothy 2:15

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

My problem with the science and science fiction communities (seems little difference between the two nowadays) is that they do their level best to discredit God's Word. It isn't enough to search out His creation,

but they have to find "evidence" which causes the weak and unlearned to doubt Him. In their temerity they often step over the line and depart from logic and reason. For instance, one of the individuals employed by the "face-folks" wrote a lengthy article on "Improbable Claims." This caught my attention because he makes his case for the "face" by giving probable odds on likely and unlikely statistical coincidences. One example given is that of flipping a coin. The odds of a flipped coin landing tails ten times in a row are 1,024 to 1. That's what would be called a statistical probability. Regarding the "face", this learned man claims that the probability of face-like features appearing randomly is about 1,000 to 1 per feature. The odds against the random appearance of an eye-socket are 1,000 to 1. The same would be so for a nostril, or the line of a mouth. Add these together, do a little multiplication and the odds against the random appearance of the "face" (according to his computations) would be 1,000,000,000 to 1. He concluded his article by saying that in his considered opinion there was no longer room for reasonable doubt of the artificial origin of the face mesa.

I was stunned! This learned man could look at the blurred photo of a rock formation and conclude that since it looks like a face (to him, not me) it has to be artificial. The odds, he claims, are too great for it not to be the handiwork of some intelligent being! Yet, the same community that supports this man can look at a human being and deny the Creator. Sorry, but that's just plain stupid. As a matter of fact, I look at the face-mesa and I KNOW that there's an intelligent being behind its

existence! All Mighty God!!!

Colossians 1:16

For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether *they be* thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

If the odds are 1,000,000,000 to 1 for the image of a face to appear randomly upon the Martian landscape, what are they for a human being to materialize on ours?

Did I mention that we have a mountain nearby named "Sleeping Lady?" Yup, complete with legend. Give my regards to the Man in the Moon when you see him. Okay?

Revelation 4:11

Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.
