The Way Forward through the Amazing Dance

My relationship with math textbooks has been no love affair. Whether mathematicians can't write or clarity is anathema to the profits of their publishers, the words in my books were as clear as mud. That mud trained me to skip right to the examples in the solutions manual (often written by someone else and purchased separately.) Whoever wrote the solutions manual couldn't play games; they had to list the steps of the derivations. Whatever concepts I managed to grasp were incidental to the derivation steps in the solution manuals.

My "learning process" was devoid of historical context and practical application. Some of the science—made possible by the math—seeped into physics class. However, the only thing beautiful in the whole experience was a GPA that made it possible to get a job.

In contrast, Nickel teaches math thoroughly and takes pains to reveal the logic behind the concepts. Math is presented alongside the science, history, theology, and practical applications related to the lesson; and the integration is seamless.

None of the leading contenders for the precalculus stages of mathematics even attempt to do what Nickel has done.

I want our boys to have that keen sense of number you sometimes see in carpenters and engineers. The best way to do that is to provide context, application, and meaning to each building

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block. James Nickel has done this in beautiful sequence. I'm as excited to teach my sons as to relearn mathematics, myself! …

Nickel's "Dance" does what no other on the market does; and the classical integration (or interpenetration as James might say) is seamless. …

Do western students know how to use an Abacus? Why not? And what's the harm in teaching Stoddard's "Speed Mathematics" (which Nickel further streamlines with Vedic methods) as long as the student has a firm grasp of the fundamentals? These and a seemingly endless stream of surprises are in store for the student. Nickel draws from his 40-year teaching experience and 1400-volume library to show the student the context of the mathematical insights that shape our lives and unify our impression of the Divine Creator.

Nickel's approach to teaching mathematics can impart that intuitive sense of number you sometimes see in carpenters and engineers. That's not to say that mathematics is any less abstract than it always has been. But Nickel explicitly reveals its poetry and the stunning natural beauty upholding "The Dance."

Those with a gift for math will be lit up at the beginning of their study like never before possible. Those less gifted can learn at rest, knowing that a logical and inspiring presentation is in store.

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This is not an assign-and-forget curriculum; it's a "hands-on" journey for Teacher and Student to embark on, jointly. …

Nickel recommends the student read through each lesson with the teacher joining in when the student begins the exercises. The lessons are quite accessible but also what one might expect from a curriculum integrating mathematics with history, theology, science, and the beauty of practical applications: Deep with a capital 'D'. …

… his curriculum delivers … What do you do with something like this and whose first paragraph defines the word "Elohim"?

You're reading my answer: adopt it as the centerpiece of the mathematics curriculum for your school and tell everyone you know about it!

James Nickel has given us the way forward in Mathematics! For imparting the subject in the classical tradition, there's not even a close second out there to this monumental achievement.

Terence Gillespie
Writer, father, believer, consultant,
musician, pilot, and former computer guy
Outliers' Academy