

**Review: *March of the Penguins*, National Geographic Society, 2005**

Minutes: 80

**Incredible Creatures of the Ice**

A surprisingly emotional documentary on the incredible reproductive cycle of the Antarctic Emperor penguins.

The lengths which these creatures go to to ensure the survival of an egg is extraordinary, which is equally matched by the sorrow felt when one dies (whether by chance, weather, starvation, or predation).

Narrated and produced from a secular viewpoint, there is a great loss to the audience by not giving credit to the creative power and intelligence which has been programmed into these animals by their creator; Jesus Christ.

The ability of these penguins to remember their far-away breeding ground using some internal compass to navigate is as far from random chance and mutation as possible. Neither could these have program the skill and timing instincts of egg transfer, as the whole species would have died out in the cold long before even one live offspring was born.

The sad cruelty in nature is also appropriate to see, because it is a reminder to people there really is a reason for evil's existence, namely sin:

**“For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.”**

**Romans 8.22, Authorized Version**

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The penguins carry out a 70-mile migration from the sea inland to thicker ice over summer for egg safety. They simply walk and also stomach-slide when their legs need a rest.

Late departers and stragglers usually do not survive the heightened cold.

The females fight over males once they arrive as there is an unbalanced sex ratio (more males die young).

Some female-to-male egg transfers fail and the egg quickly freezes and dies.

After laying their egg and the egg transfer, females return to feed. They are at risk of sea lion predation, if killed their chick will certainly die.

If the mothers are straggling to return the father can provide a 1-2 day emergency meal.

The now-starving males transfer the chick and return to the sea to feed. This is the leg where many die (in the colder weather) over the four-month leg.

Any 'widowed' mothers attempt to steal other chicks but the group steps in to stop this.

Chick mortality is not insignificant during their first winter storm and mothers' grief is obvious as they peck and squawk at dead bodies.

Predator sea birds also attack chicks, pecking at their necks, and adults don't even defend them.

Young survivor chicks spend four years at sea before the cycle repeats itself.