

DOES GOD EXIST?

July/August 2007

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*What is Reliable
History and What is Not?*



Does God Exist? Lectureships

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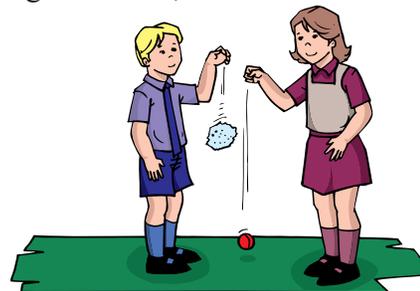
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What is Reliable History and What is Not?

As a person trained in the sciences, I have always had a problem with my friends who are trained in history. It is not that I do not believe history is important, because I know there are valuable lessons to be learned from history. I fully understand that we need to profit from the mistakes of the past and not make the same mistakes again. The problem is the human bias inherently involved in history. By its very nature, history is at the mercy of human passion, ego, and vested interest. In physics we can drop a rock off a bridge and measure the way in which it falls, and whether I as a physicist like the result of what happens or not, it still happens. There is nothing I can do short of lying or refusing to gather data that will alter the outcome and behavior of the falling rock.

I am now old enough to have observed some history that is fairly ancient by modern standards. I graduated from high school in 1955 and spent four years attending Indiana University—the “party school” of the Midwest. We had the flower children, the marches, the civil rights battles, and all of the social convulsions seen in everything from *Grease* to the glorification of Elvis Presley. When I read what historians have written about what went on during those years, I have found myself wondering where in the world they got their information, because for the most part what they report is not even remotely close to what the real



situation was.

In recent years the atheist community has mounted a major offensive against the Bible. One of the mantras of modern atheism is

The **Does God Exist?** program is continually adding web sites. Right now, we have the following sites, either operational or under construction: doesgodexist.org; dandydesigns.org; whypain.org; and doesgodexist.tv. Roland Earnst, who has done all of our video work in the past, is now working with us to produce new DVD and web site material on a full-time basis. We hope to greatly expand our efforts—especially to young people with a children's interactive web site in the near future.

Correspondence should be addressed to John Clayton
1555 Echo Valley Dr., Niles, MI 49120-8738
e-mail: jncdge@aol.com
Home phone: 269-687-9426
FAX: 269-687-9431

Home Page: <http://www.doesgodexist.org>
Send subscription requests, orders, or address changes to
Does God Exist?, PO Box 2704, South Bend, IN 46680-2704
Phone: 574-299-0145

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that the Bible is full of errors and that no intelligent person can believe that it is anything but pure fiction. Major biblical accounts are said to have no historical support and are claimed to have been the product of fertile imaginations of people who had no idea what they were talking about. On the other side of the ledger we see creationists making claims suggesting that reliable historical sources document dinosaurs living with humans in a virtual paradise, and that people like Job and Jonah left historical trails that can be used to prove that the biblical account of their activities are historically unquestionable. How does the person who is not an expert historian sort all of this out? We hope to address some of these issues and concepts in this article.

The cover of our journal for this month makes a point that is most important in this discussion. What we have portrayed is a dragon which is shown in ancient Chinese art. The fact is that most ancient cultures have stories and art work showing dragons and monsters of all sorts. Almost all of us have had classes where we have learned about creatures like Medusa or knights fighting dragons. Think about our own culture. When I was a kid there was a song about a “Purple People Eater.” Folk singers sang about “Puff the Magic Dragon” and there were wonderful paintings of what the creature was about. Today thanks to electronic imaging we have *Finding Nemo*, *The Lion King*, *Cars*—the list is endless. Suppose some alien came to a destroyed Earth 25,000 years from now and dug up some of our art work, heard some of our music, and watched some of our video games and movies. What would they conclude if they accepted on face value what they see in the artifacts?



Finding an ancient picture of a dragon, minotaur, or alien-looking creature and assuming it is in reality what people of the day saw is an incredibly ignorant thing to do. This applies to cre-



ationists who try to maintain people of 4,000 years ago cavorted with dinosaurs, but also to atheists who attempt to explain the origin of life by claiming aliens seeded the planet with DNA packets. There is no evidence for either of these proposals, and neither of them has any historical support.

Another error made by both atheists and creationists is to assume that silence on a historical issue means the event did not happen. A favorite atheist argument against the Bible is to point out that little if any historical documentation exists for the Israelites ever having been in Egypt, much less pilfering the Egyptians and causing their elite military cavalry to be drowned in the Red Sea. The question is, “What would you expect an Egyptian historian to record?” Many experts on Egypt point out that the Egyptians did not record their failures. In reality no country dwells on their historical failures, and in places where the press is not free very little is reported at all. Before



“The Wall” was built as a continual reminder of the Viet Nam war, Viet Nam vets felt the war had been forgotten. The Wall has helped to remind people of that terrible war, but very little was in the history books, and until recently very little was in the media. That does not mean the war did not happen.

Religious people have frequently made similar assumptions. The fact that the Bible does not tell us about children born in the Garden of Eden does not mean it did not happen—and in fact in all probability it probably did. Many of the conflicts people see with science and faith are rooted in people forcing things into the Bible which are simply not there. The Bible uses an economy of language, and forcing assumptions on the Bible which creates a conflict is a negative contribution to resolving issues between science and faith no matter what side of the issue you might be on.

A third point that needs to be understood when reading history is that the recorder of the history is nearly 100 percent sure to be biased culturally and ethnically. This is not a slur upon historians, but a statement of fact. Cultures tend to report things in different ways, with no attempt to bias the report. In addition to that, one’s viewpoint may alter how one reports a historical event. A member of the Ku Klux Klan and the NAACP would be unlikely to record a historical event in the civil rights movement in the same way. I pick an absurd example, but one that is unmistakable.

One of the favorite conflict points for atheists is variations in numbers that occur between different authors in the Bible about the same event. How can two census reports give different numbers? The answer is very simple: by recording different cultural approaches to the event being described. If a war is being waged, one might give an estimate of numbers that would involve only combat troops. Another culture might include logistical support for the combat troops. A third approach might be to record the troops and their dependents,

especially if the dependents are going to have to be fed from the troops' rations. We have had massive differences in reporting the number of fatalities in Iraq during the last four years, with the United Nations estimates being far different than the U.S. military or the Iraqi press. This is an old trick with all kinds of political overtones. You do not want to let the enemy think he is being too successful so you tend to minimize the damage.

In addition to this problem you have the problems with census reports. If I do a count of an army and I report 125,266 and later I refer to the count as 125,000 am I in error? Many times counts are done by estimates or by counting a unit and multiplying by the number of units present. If there are 125 in a unit and I have 1000 units, I might report the count at 125,000 without actually doing a head count. This is hard enough for us living in the twenty-first century. Imagine what it must have been in ancient cultures.

The other obvious problem with historical reports comes with translation problems. Many times words in one language are slightly different in understanding than in a different language. Whether you are reading the Bible, the Koran, the writings of Pliny the Younger, or Josephus, you have to be aware of these difficulties. You also have to be careful to look at whether there have been later alterations of the original document. Many Christians are fond of blindly quoting Flavius Josephus in his comments about Jesus Christ. Josephus was a great Jewish historian, and was actually saved by the Romans from being killed in their assaults on the Jews because of his academic prowess. It seems highly likely that in some of the translations of the work of Josephus a person favorable to Christianity altered and embellished his writings. It is not hard to spot these, and Josephus is a quality source for historical data—but it is a problem that atheists and believers alike have to be aware of when reading historical data.

In addition to the altering problems, there are honest misunderstandings of words as they are brought from one language into another. A wonderful example of this is the word *nephilim* in Genesis 6. That Hebrew word was translated *gigantus* in the Vulgate translation of the Bible, and when the English translations were produced, the King James translated the word as a "giant." We have seen atheists and believers alike make up all kinds of imaginary stories about what these giants were, but the fact is that they were not giants at all. This is a translation problem that could be answered easily by looking at the context of the passage, or by a careful word study of what *nephilim*



means. The word would have been understood by the ancient Hebrews to refer to one who is opposed to or not in accord with God. Since Genesis 6 is the Flood chapter, that translation is pretty easy. Our purpose here is just to call attention to the fact that many claimed conflicts by both atheists and creationists are rooted in a failure to carefully look at the correct translation of key words.

History has many friends who can help it correct its errors. Perhaps the best friend is archaeology. As new discoveries are made, claimed historical errors tend to be corrected, but it is a long and arduous process sometimes taking decades. Just as the Bible and science are friends, the Bible and history are friends too. It just takes time, honesty, and openness to work through the apparent conflicts. New books and data are appearing every day to help us do that, and we hope to continue to bring these wonderful tools to your attention as we become aware of them.

—John N. Clayton

Atheists Declare War on Faith

“The world needs to wake up from its long nightmare of religious belief...” “Anything we scientists can do to weaken the hold of religion should be done and may in the end be our greatest contribution to civilization.”—Stephen Weinberg in “A Free-for-All on Science and Religion,” by George Johnson, *Science Times*, November 21, 2006.

“[Dawkins] wants to make respect for belief in God socially unacceptable...” “I’m quite keen on the politics of persuading people of the virtues of atheism...” “Highly intelligent people are mostly atheists.”—Richard Dawkins

“Harris argues that unless belief in God is eradicated, civilization is likely to end in a murderous sea of religious warfare...” “At some point, there’s going to be enough pressure that it is just going to be too embarrassing to believe in God.”—Sam Harris



Reference for last two quotes on page 7: “The New Atheism?” The ChristianPost, http://www.christianpost.com/article/20061125/23675_The_New_Atheism%3F.htm by Albert Mohler, Jr.

These quotes are not from obscure, uneducated, unpublished authors. Stephen Weinberg is a Nobel laureate in physics. Sam Harris is the author of two books on the best seller list—*The End of Faith: Religion and Terror and the Future of Reason*, and *Letter to a Christian Nation*. Richard Dawkins is a professor of biology at Oxford University and author of *The Selfish Gene* and *The God Delusion*, both best selling books. Dawkins claims “the number of nonreligious people in the United States is something near to 30 million.... That’s more than all the Jews in the world put together. I think we’re in the same position the gay movement was in a few decades ago. There was a need for people to come out. The more people who came out, the more people who had the courage to come out. I think that’s the case with atheists. They’re more numerous than anyone realizes.” Some atheists are now proposing that parents who indoctrinate their children with belief in God need to be prosecuted for child abuse.

Gary Wolf in the November 2006 issue of *WIRED* magazine writes “Religion is not only wrong; it is evil. Now that the battle has been joined, there’s no excuse for shirking.” Wolf goes on to say that “Bad ideas foisted on children are moral wrongs.” Wolf maintains that evangelism by atheists “is a moral imperative.”

The **Does God Exist?** program began in 1968, and we began this journal in 1972. In 1968 we were saying to the Church that there was a need to wake up to what was happening as religious error and inconsistency was producing atheists at an accelerated rate. It has now gotten to the point where we would hope that even the most isolated of religious writers and teachers would realize we have to start responding openly to the challenges of atheism. Sitting in church buildings and entertaining ourselves with social activities and entertaining musical performances is not going to meet the challenges being forced upon us by atheism. Education is the only answer to what is happening, and people like Dawkins, Harris, Wolf, and Weinberg are the darlings of the mass media, so the battle to get people to hear the messages to counteract overt atheism is going to be increasingly difficult.

Much of what is being said by atheists is simply a misrepresentation of the facts. Much of what they say attempts to avoid evidence. Some of what they say is absolutely true, but applies to atheists as well as to religionists. We would like to try and address a few of these ideas here with the hope that our readers will do their own study and make their own responses to the growing atheist attacks in their own communities, schools, and periodicals.

Atheists Misrepresent History



In his book *End of Faith*, Sam Harris maintains that “religion represents the most potent source of human conflict, past and present.” Robert Kuttner says “The crusades slaughtered millions in the name of Jesus. The inquisition brought the torture of millions more. After Martin Luther, Christians did bloody battle with other Christians for another three centuries.” Dawkins repeatedly contends that all of the world’s conflicts in recent times are caused by religion, and he lists the Middle East, the Balkans, Northern Ireland, Kashmir, and Sri Lanka which he says all “show the vitality of religion’s murderous impulse.”

The first problem with these kinds of statements is that they are profound exaggerations of the real situation. We frequently hear the Salem Witch Trials held up as an example of the horrors of religion, but how many people died in those trails—thousands? In reality, fewer than 25. How many died during the Spanish Inquisition? The answer is around 5,000. The number killed during the Crusades is debated to be anywhere from 100,000 to 500,000, depending upon who one listens to. The fact is that none of these terrible things that happened in the religious conflicts of history numbered in the millions. We do not want to minimize the terrible things that have happened or are happening. Any kind of war is terrible, and it is tragic that people will not place a premium on human life and stop the killing.

How many have been killed in the name of atheism, or by political figures that justified their killing of enemies in atheistic beliefs? Diniesh D’Souza, the Rishwain Research Scholar at Stanford University says that over 100 million people were murdered in the name of a religion-free utopia by Mao Tse Tung, Joseph Stalin, Vladimir Lenin, and



Adolf Hitler. Harris and Dawkins attempt to blame medieval Christianity for Hitler, and try to dismiss Stalin and Mao as “little more than a political religion.” This does not work well at all since no one like Hitler arose in the 2,000 years before Nazi Germany and all of these leaders espoused the destruction of religion as a part of their belief system.



Atheists Make Religion a Scapegoat

Trying to blame religion for most of the wars that are called religious wars is another uninformed act. One of my atheist friends that I worked with for many years when I was in the atheistic movement was traveling in Ireland some years ago. He got into a dangerous situation one night when a group of men stopped his car and threatened him with guns, knives, and clubs. The leader of the group dragged my friend from the car, and with a gun pointed at his head screamed, “Are you a protestant or a catholic?” My friend, being an atheist, thought he had a chance in this situation so he cried out as loud as he could, “I’m an atheist; I don’t believe in God!!” Without missing a beat, the man with the gun grabbed my friend by the throat and yelled at him, “A Protestant atheist or a Catholic atheist?”

The point here is that the war in Ireland and in fact most of these kinds of wars are not predominantly about religion. My friends who live in Ireland tell me that in reality a large percentage of people on both sides are atheists. Religion is not popular among most of the youth in this area—a fact I can support from the programs we have presented in the United Kingdom. Rival claims to territory, power, self-determination, and ethnic rivalry are the sources of the conflicts. This is even true of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. If you could remove the “God gave us this land” mentality of the Hamas and orthodox parties in Israel, the battle would still go on. I have had a number of students who are atheists but who are of Jewish heritage go back to Israel to fight the battle over Palestine, and certainly in their minds the battle is not a religious one.



Palestine



Ireland



Israel

Atheists Ignore the Fundamental Issues

There is no question that some horrible things have been done in the name of God. The fact that atheism has done even worse things does not negate the problems of religion. Drawing attention to the horror of religious warfare or talking about the errors of historical religious figures does not address the fundamental issue of “Is there a God, what is that God like, which God are we talking about, and what does belief in God offer in a positive sense?”

The fact of the matter is that there is a wealth of scientific evidence for the existence of God. The **Does God Exist?** ministry attempts to organize and offer a small part of that evidence. None of the statements by the atheists we have been quoting deals with the issue of evidence. Denigrating someone or some system is not a response to what that system offers as evidence. We would agree that indoctrinating a child with a religious viewpoint is unwise and frankly in today’s world will usually be unsuccessful. That is true of atheistic belief systems just as it is of religious systems. What needs to be done is to offer the evidence in such a way that the child can make his own choice about what the evidence supports. The atheists we have quoted are just like the religious fundamentalists in that they want only their view presented and no other options given. Doing a distorted history lesson is not an exercise in offering evidence to aid in making decisions.

What is the cosmological evidence for the existence of God? What are the moral arguments for God’s existence? What has to be the nature of God, and what evidence do we have that this nature in reality does exist? What is the result of following a system that is based on belief in God? These are the fundamental issues—not the question of whether the war in the Middle East is bad or not.

Only Christianity Makes a Positive Response to Atheist Challenges

The only positive response to atheistic challenges is the teachings of Jesus Christ. Notice that we did not say “Christianity.” Much of what is called Christianity is not that at all. Many man-made systems call themselves Christian and contradict the teachings of Christ. The Crusades were in diametric opposition to the teachings of Christ. No one following the teachings of Jesus would bomb an abortion clinic, support the Ku Klux Klan, or support woman or child abuse.

What the teachings of Christ do is to move us to serve others. When Jesus washed the feet of his disciples he told them to do likewise, and the good done by Christians following the commands of Jesus is massive. We have reviewed several books in this journal in recent years that explore all the positive things that have been done in the name of Christianity: *Under the Influence* (March/April 2003) and *What Has Christianity Ever Done for Us?* (November/December 2006).

Jesus also commanded Christians not to be the aggressors in personal conflict. Even the skeptics of Christianity know about such teachings as turning the other cheek, going the second mile, and loving your enemies (see Matthew 5-7). Statements of violence may be found in the writings of other religious figures, but not in the teachings of Jesus Christ.

Where does atheism and atheistic theories lead? Dawkins states outright that in his view evolutionary theory must logically lead to atheism. Francis Collins strongly refutes this in his book *The Language of God* (see March/April 2007 issue, page 21). If survival of the fittest is your mantra, why would you do anything to support and ensure the survival of the less fit? Neil deGrasse Tyson recently presented a slide show to an atheist group with heartbreaking photographs of newborns misshapen by birth defects. He suggested that these terrible pictures were testimony to the belief that nature was blind and that there is no intelligent overseer in control. The question of what causes both these defects was never broached, and the big question of who is caring for these babies and their families was never discussed. Some atheists have viewed abortion as the only answer to this question, a position we have discussed in our series of books on pain and suffering (see our catalog) The fact is that atheism offers no solution and no help to these kinds of problems other than killing them. Christianity offers those of us who have suffered a child born with birth defects (as your author has) not only help in dealing with the problem, but with a world-view that helps us accept it.

The new atheism and its war on religious belief may be a good thing. In the nearly forty years we have been involved in this ministry we have been phenomenally unsuccessful in awakening the Church to the challenges of disbelief. This has been true even though most churches and families have experienced the loss of children due to the challenges of faith. Perhaps the abusive and vitriolic nature of the attacks by Harris, Dawkins, Wolf, Weinberg, and others will finally wake us up. The big question is how many of our children will we have to lose to atheism and the consequences of rejecting faith in the meantime.

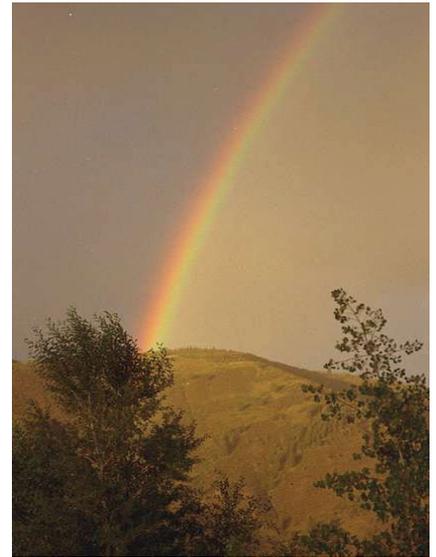
—JNC



The Message of the Rainbow

by Al Cornell

A small portion of the electromagnetic spectrum passes through an amazing receptor and produces impulses that travel along nerves to a processing center where they are translated into images that we perceive as being the reality of the objects around us. We see. This sense, more than any other for most of us, opens our hearts to an influx of beauty. Hence we cry, “I have a God.” By this means, creation contributes to our spiritual conception and, perhaps, reaches its highest order of value to humanity.



“And God saw all that he had made, and it was very good.” At that time “the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy.” Later, others wrote, “He makes the clouds his chariot and rides on the wings of the wind.... [T]hose who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles.... He who forms the mountains, creates the wind, and reveals his thoughts to man, he who turns the dawn to darkness, and treads the high places of the earth—the Lord God Almighty is his name.... See... the lilies...I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these.”

The great descriptive language of the *Song of Songs* draws repeatedly on the beauty of nature to reveal glimpses into the enigma of romantic love. Visualize these: “...a cluster of henna blossoms... doves... a rose of Sharon... a lily of the valley... an apple tree... the little foxes... vineyards that are in bloom... a young stag on the rugged hills... a flock of goats descending from Mount Gilead... a flock of sheep just shorn... twin fawns of a gazelle that browse among the



lilies...the mountain haunts of the leopards... like the dawn, fair as the moon, bright as the sun, majestic as the stars...pomegranates in bloom...a mound of wheat encircled by lilies.” As these words emanate from the *Song* they move us to respect and cherish romantic love. But as we reflect on what has here been drawn from nature, we can perceive the touch of God on the creation and sense how its splendor infuses the heart.



I like to study head stuff: The complexity of the information code of life, the mathematical genius seen in the universe, the mystery of the mind/consciousness, the irreducible complexity of life, and fine tuning of the cosmos. But the spiritual value of all of that pales when compared to the impact of the heart stuff. The beauty of creation speaks to my heart about its maker.

Before any physicist discovered that all objects of the universe are in fact connected, the English poet, Francis Thompson, wrote, “One could not pluck a flower without troubling a star.” John Muir wrote of flowers, “Now my eyes were opened to their inner beauty, all alike revealing glorious traces of the thoughts of God, and leading on and on into the infinite cosmos.” Peer into a flower, looking for those glorious traces, and see if you, too, can experience that cosmic voyage.

Rainbows and sunrise, flowers and butterflies, October woodlands and April showers, warblers and wood ducks, DNA and supernova all reveal some of those traces. A chamber in my heart is filled with pictures of moonlight dancing off ripples of a river, hoar frost on a spruce tree, a lone wood lily in a wilderness, a brood of new born ruffed grouse, caribou in a tundra sunrise, a hummingbird feeding on columbine, and a western tanager pecking on our window.

And so I want to sing the words of poets and song writers: A.W. Dicus, “There is, beyond the azure blue, A God, concealed from human sight, He tinted skies with heavenly hue...”; Stuart K. Hine, “O Lord my God! When I in awesome wonder Consider all the worlds Thy hands have made, I see the stars...”; Gary L. Mabry, “Tall mountains, green valleys the beauty that surrounds me all make me aware of the One who fashioned it all.”

God made white light that is composed of the spectrum of colored light that produces rainbows. We would have a harder time comprehending that white light contains that range of colored light if it were not for one more amazing little detail. When light traveling at over 186,000 miles per second strikes water or glass it slows respectively to about 3/4 or 2/3 of that speed, but now the colors all travel at different speeds in this denser medium. As a consequence, light can be spread into the spectrum of color visible from window sun-catchers and in rainbows.

God assured Noah, “Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it...” The color we see in other objects of the universe stems from light they emit or reflect by their pigmentation or structure. Perhaps the genius expressed in creating color had a significant role in God seeing the creation and knowing it was very good. The memory of a few fabulous rainbows drives the message of the splendor of God’s creation deep into my heart.



Gerald Schroeder wrote, “The mystery that remains in the sunset is the riddle of why and how a mixture of seemingly inert, unthinking atoms of carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, and several other varieties can produce humans capable of having the subjective experience we refer to as beauty...”

While science has the answers to the physics of rainbows and sunsets, it will never answer that riddle, but each one of us has the potential to trouble a star and to observe a minute expression of the wisdom of God.

Patting Birds on the Head

In a cartoon strip some years ago a little guy was taking heat from his sister and friends for a newly found “calling”—patting birds on the head. The distressed birds would approach, lower their little feathered pates to be patted, sigh deeply, and walk away satisfied.

It brought him no end of fulfillment—in spite of the teasing he took from others. “What’s wrong with patting birds on the head?” he wanted to know. “What’s wrong with it?” His embarrassed friends replied, “No one else does it!”

If your niche is encouraging, please don’t stop. If it is embracing, demonstrating warmth, compassion, and mercy to feathers that have been ruffled by offense and bruised by adversity, keep stroking. Don’t quit, whatever you do (Galatians 6:9).

I think many Christians are dying on the vine for lack of encouragement from other believers. Proverbs 15:23 says, “A man hath joy by the answer of his mouth: and a word spoken in due season, how good is it?” Isn’t that true? It’s a delightful thing to receive a good word just at your time of need. Encourage someone today. If God made you a “patter,” then keep on patting to the glory of God.

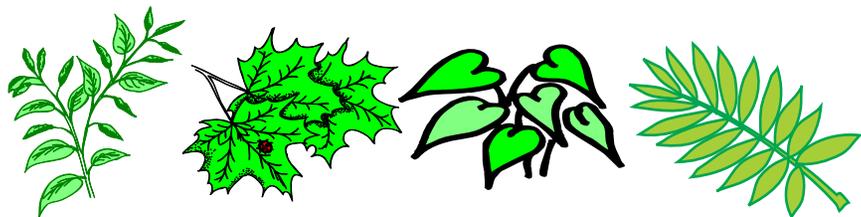
—via Tabernacle Church of Christ bulletin

Photosynthesis God's Miracle in Plants

by David Hobby

(David is a biology teacher in Arlington, Texas).

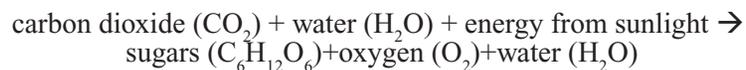
What makes the food that almost all animals eat? Where does the oxygen come from that we need to survive? The answer is plants. In every plant in your house, yard, or in the world, a chemical reaction is taking place that is so amazing that it is almost like a miracle. The name of this chemical reaction is *photosynthesis*, which takes place mostly in the leaves of plants. Through photosynthesis, energy is produced that is used to either directly or indirectly make every food that we eat. There are no exceptions! (Salt is not a food because it has no calories in it. It is classified as a mineral.)



What about pizza? How could that come from plants? Look at the ingredients used in pizza. The crust is made from ground up wheat seed. Wheat is a plant. The sauce is made from tomatoes, a plant. Onions, peppers, olives, etc., are all plants. Mushrooms feed on decaying plants. The meat on the pizza comes from animals that eat grass or foods from plants (e.g. corn). Even the spices used to season the pizza come from plants. The cheese comes from the milk of animals that eat grass or other plant materials. Yes, pizza comes from plants! We just take what has been made and mix it, cook it, and shape it, but it all started with photosynthesis. The same is true of every food we eat.



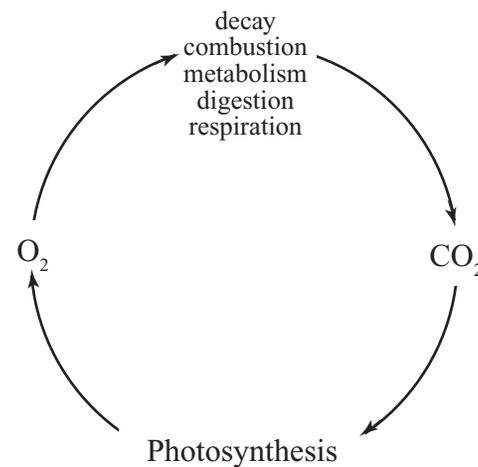
The more we study photosynthesis the more awed we are by what we find. Here is a simplified chemical equation for photosynthesis which occurs in the chloroplasts, plant cells that contain chlorophyll.



From two relatively simple compounds (carbon dioxide and water), and using chlorophyll, which reacts to the energy from sunlight. God created a complex process that produces sugars and oxygen. The energy from the sugars is used to feed the plant and to directly or indirectly produce all of the food that we and almost all animals eat. Nearly all life depends on this process to survive.

This is not the end of the story. Not only do plants make food, but they also make oxygen that we must have to survive. In photosynthesis, God set up a recycling program to replace the oxygen that is used when things decay, where there is combustion, or when we use energy to fuel our body's processes. All of these produce carbon dioxide. Plants take this carbon dioxide and use it to make food and oxygen which helps to keep carbon dioxide at the right levels.

A diagram of this recycling program would look something like the one below.



Could photosynthesis or the recycling program have happened by chance or accident? It is far too complex for this to be an accident. Only an all-wise Creator could have designed something so amazing. There are many more awe-inspiring examples of how God has made it possible for life to exist on this earth.

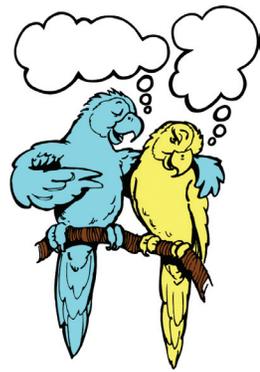
Editor's Note: We have many of these examples in our series of materials titled *Dandy Designs*.

ADDRESS CHANGE? To remain on our mailing list, please give us both your old and new addresses with both zip codes at least six to eight weeks before the move, if at all possible. Thanks!



The Darwinization of America

One of the joys of being a grandfather is to be able to take your grand kids on excursions that you enjoyed doing with your children. We recently had the joy of taking our three grandsons to Disney World in Florida. The whole experience was a joyous one, but also a learning experience. We had taken our children to Disney World in the 1970s. At that time we had no money, so we had driven down in a pop-up camper, set up camp outside the park in a KOA campground, and spent one whole day seeing everything Disney had to offer—starting at 9:00 in the morning and going until 11:00 that night. I still remember vividly carrying my two daughters as the five of us staggered to our car around midnight, but it had been a wonderful day that none of us would forget.



Now I was back some 30 years later with a little more money and three little boys plus a son-in-law, none of whom had ever been to Disney. We stayed in the least expensive facility on the Disney complex and got a special pass which enabled us to spend four days going to the theme parks. One of the places that I especially wanted to take my grandsons was the Tiki Room. My girls had been enthralled with the talking birds who bantered with each other. The Tiki Room also offered singing flowers and a thunderstorm which was followed by friendly support to the audience from everything in the room to remove fear and hostility. I was reluctant to take my young grandsons to the Haunted Mansion or Space Mountain because I was afraid it might scare them but the Tiki Room and Small World were two places I did not want them to miss.

We entered the pre-show area and were in the front row of the standing area when a waterfall facing us opened up and two animated parrots began talking with each other. The tone of the voices and the volume indicated they were unhappy with each other and they turned out to be bickering over who “owned” the show. It was brassy and loud, but I did not give much thought to it. When we entered the show, the room was as I remembered it—benches for us to sit on and birds and flowers suspended from the ceiling. The show started

as I remembered it with the parrots talking to each other and birds and flowers singing.

Suddenly the show was stopped by a screaming brassy parrot who came down in the center and announced that he had taken over the show and now owned it, and it would no longer be a show of “silly singing birds and flowers.” He was opposed by another parrot who also claimed ownership. They battled with the brassy parrot being beat up and excluded from the process. Both parrots denigrated the “gods” of the Tiki Room, and the show ended with a scary Polynesian god rising in the center with glowing eyes and expressions of anger and hostility toward those who had violated his domain. My two-year-old grandson buried his head, my four year old wanted to leave, and my six year old was somewhat bewildered by all that he had seen and did not want to see that show again. The Tiki Room had become a battle for survival and a war over ownership and fitness. It was no longer a happy, colorful, fun, positive fantasy about talking flowers and the beauty of the world in which we live.



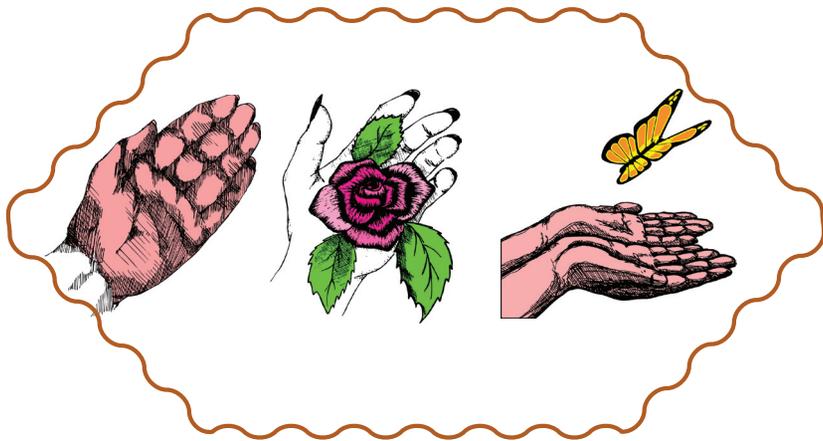
Theme parks, television, movies, novels, and video games are a reflection of the values and beliefs of the culture in which they function. I assume that the planners at Disney found that not enough people were visiting the Tiki Room as it was, so they changed it to attract more visitors. To do that they had to present what the public finds attractive. Survival of the fittest rules the entertainment industry. In the old days amateur talent wanting to raise itself to professional levels participated in shows that helped them accomplish that. Shows like *The Ted Mack Amateur Hour* were opportunities for people to show their talent, and they were helped and supported by the sponsors of the show and the public at large. Now we have brutal reality competitions in which the fit survive and move up based upon their own superiority, and the less fit are brutalized and denigrated. The public seems to take joy in the less fit being shown as humiliated and destroyed, with tears and sobbing being the objective.



Not only do we see survival of the fittest as the rule of law in the entertainment business, but also in the business world. Donald Trump is the classic example of

what our culture holds up as the ideal in the way in which monetary success is achieved. If you are fit, you climb to the top of the corporate world, and if you are unfit you are doomed to be a failure and to function as a slave to those at the top.

All of this is in stark contrast to the teachings of Jesus Christ, and also to the success of America in the early days of this country. The Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5-7 gives us a very different picture than what our culture portrays as the ideal. Jesus begins by describing joyfulness and happiness in terms of meekness, a desire to do what is right, mercy, a pure heart, being a peacemaker. He then talks about changing one's thinking so that hate, sexual impurity, and violence do not occur. Jesus encourages people to love their enemies, to give to those less fortunate, to not judge others, and to build one's life on love and service. The contrast to the attitude of the reality show is stark and amazing.



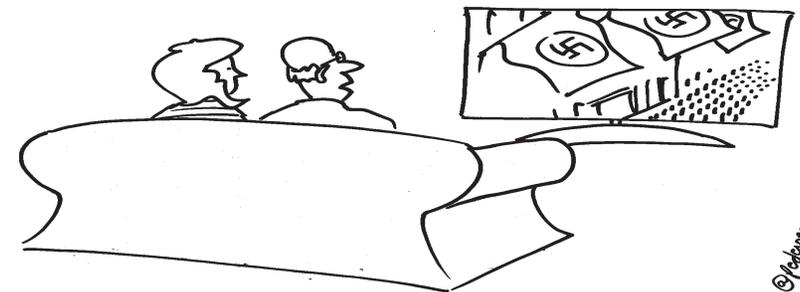
In the early years of America when so much was accomplished, the teachings of Christ were held up as positives. Everyone was part of a local community that looked after one another. People had security, and abuse and neglect were things to be stopped and avoided. This brought our culture to the highest standard of living the world has ever seen, and while there were imperfections and things that still needed to be changed and improved, the conditions were far superior to every other system in the world. As we drift back into a Darwinian mind-set in which dominance and control and survival of the fittest are the basis of how people live and what they do, we find our culture unraveling—politically, socially, economically, and educationally.

It is sad that Americans cannot learn from the history of the past, and from looking at what other cultures have had to endure because of their belief systems. The idea that one human or group of humans is more fit than another group is what led to the justification of slavery.

If it had been understood that every human is created in the image of God and is special and unique regardless of their “fitness,” slavery would have never happened. Hitler’s belief in the superiority of the Aryan race was based on this same belief, and was expressed in the Nazi death camps. Ethnic cleansing is always rooted in the belief that one group of people is more fit than another, and in modern times has been practiced by atheist states such as Stalin’s Russia, Mao’s China, and Pol Pot’s Cambodia. When religious groups have instigated such processes, it has always been when a religious leader usurped the Bible and adopted a policy in diametric opposition to what Jesus taught. The greatest problem with Islam has been the embracing of violence that Mohammed clearly taught in the Koran and which is expressed in Jihad.

Jesus clearly taught the separation of Church and State. Rendering unto Caesar the things that are Caesar’s and unto God the things that are God’s (Matthew 22:21) clearly tells us that Jesus did not want his teachings put into a political context. By the same token, the religion and belief system of neo-Darwinism should not be the state religion. Survival of the fittest is not the way to build a nation, and history has shown us how unworkable it is. With all of the attacks being made on Christianity, it is wonderful that the Christian community continues to serve and to elevate the less fit of our culture. Let us not become “weary in well doing” (Galatians 6:9), because Christianity is the only hope that America has—not in becoming the state religion, but in shining so brightly in the darkness “that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven” (Matthew 5:16).

—JNC



—by April Pedersen



When Critics Ask

by Norman Geisler and Thomas Howe, Baker Books, Grand Rapids, Mich., 2004, 615 pages, \$29.99 (hard cover) ISBN 0-8010-1142-6.

One of the challenges that atheists keep promoting on the web and in articles in the media is that the Bible is full of errors and contradictions. When I came out of atheism, one of the things that led me to become a Christian instead of some other religious choice was the incredible accuracy, wisdom, and freedom from errors that I found in the Bible. Those of us who have worked in apologetics for a long time (39 years for your reviewer) have learned that atheist challenges in this area are almost totally false. There are however, some cases where there is a need for some study and examination of what the passage is saying and what the words actually mean.

Dr. Norman Geisler has written many apologetic books and is a well known scholar. He has a Ph.D. from Loyola University and is Dean of the Southern Evangelical Seminary in Charlotte, North Carolina. Thomas Howe is an expert in Biblical Languages at the same institution.

This is not a book that one sits down and casually reads. This is a reference book in which when someone raises a question about a particular passage, one can look it up. The book is arranged from Genesis to Revelation in the order of the Bible. It also has an index of unorthodox religious doctrines (such as astrology, Jehovah's Witness, New Agers), a topical index, and a scripture index. There are also several appendices on the Hebrew language.

There are some cases in this book where the authors' denominational beliefs associated with the Baptist denomination interfere with their answer. The Baptist belief about baptism for example causes the authors to categorize those who believe baptism is essential to salvation as "an unorthodox religious doctrine" and puts that in the same category as Jehovah's Witness. There are other cases in which the answer given is far too theological and philosophical in nature.

In general these cases are stated as speculations when they occur, and they are rare.

Like any book written by humans there are problems like these in this book, but it is a very useful and well-done resource that is very helpful in answering questions about alleged errors and contradictions in the Bible. We recommend it for that use.

The God That Did Not Fail

by Robert Royal, Encounter Books, New York, 2006, 311 pages, \$25.95 (hard cover), ISBN 1-59403-145-2

It has become popular in today's press to portray all of religion and Christianity in particular as a great evil that has caused nothing but pain and abuse to the world and its inhabitants. Books promoting these themes are now making the best seller list, and news magazines are regularly trumpeting these themes. Robert Royal is president of the Faith and Reason Institute in Washington D.C., and this book is a response to these attacks.

The subtitle of this book is "How Religion Built and Sustains the West." What Royal does is to explore the history of the western civilization, and what has gotten us to where we are. He begins with what the Greeks and Romans gave us as a foundation and then shows how the concepts and precepts of Christianity have led to the positive things we enjoy.

This is a history book that puts humanism, secularism, communism, and pluralism into a meaningful context. It is positive and ecumenical in its approach and quite interesting to read. It also has a very useful index which allows individuals and movements to be found easily and researched for their contributions to the history of western civilization. This is not a science book, but it is a useful tool in the ongoing battle over whether Christianity has been a positive or negative influence in the emergence of modern society. To do this from a historical standpoint is quite helpful, and we recommend it for that purpose.

Important Stuff You Probably Won't Find Anywhere Else:

Cows burp a lot, but until recently no one paid much attention. Now researchers at the Texas Department of Highways in Ft. Worth are sitting up and taking notice. Each year the cow population of the United States burps some fifty million tons of valuable hydrocarbons into the atmosphere. If they could only be captured and efficiently channeled, say the researchers, the accumulated burps of ten average cows could keep a small house adequately, if indirectly, heated and its stove operating for a year.

—From *The Dick E. Bird News*, September/October 2005

Clay Balls



—via H.O.P.E. Ministries publication

A man was exploring caves by the seashore. In one of the caves, he found a canvas bag with a bunch of hardened clay balls. It was like someone had rolled clay balls and left them out in the sun to bake. They didn't look like much, but they intrigued the man, so he took the bag out of the cave with him.

As he strolled along the beach, he would throw the clay balls one at a time out into the ocean as far as he could. He thought little about it until he dropped one of the clay balls and it cracked open on a rock. Inside was a beautiful precious stone! Excited, the man started breaking open the remaining clay balls. Each contained a similar treasure. He found thousands of dollars worth of jewels in the 20 or so clay balls he had left. Then it struck him. He had been on the beach a long time. He had thrown maybe 50 or 60 of the clay balls with their hidden treasure into the ocean waves. Instead of thousands of dollars in treasure, he could have take home tens of thousands, but he had just thrown it away!

It's like that with people. We look at someone, maybe even ourselves, and we see the external clay vessel. It doesn't look like much from the outside. It isn't always beautiful and sparkling, so we discount it.

We see that person as less important than someone more beautiful or stylish or well-known or wealthy, but we have not taken the time to find the treasure hidden inside that person and if we ask God to show us that person the way He sees him, then the clay begins to peel away and the brilliant gem begins to shine forth.

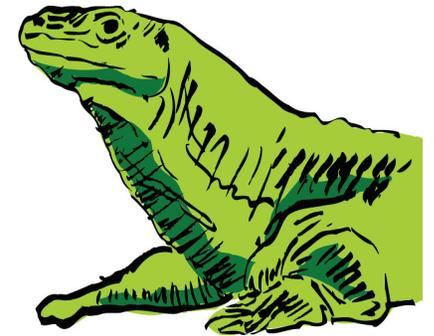
May we not come to the end of our lives and find out that we have thrown away a fortune in friendships because the gems were hidden in bits of clay. May we see the people in our world as God sees them.

But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things a man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart" (1 Samuel 16:7).

DANDY DESIGNS

virgin Birth Among the Dragons

It is always amazing to see how God has designed reproductive systems so that living things can continue to reproduce under all kinds of environmental conditions. How do you produce offspring when there are no males around? In the case of the Komodo dragon, the answer is that the females have the capacity to experience virgin birth.



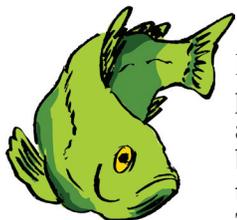
Science News (December 23 & 30, 2006, page 403) reports on Komodos that have been able to reproduce even though there are no males available to fertilize the females. What happened was female Komodos that had never been with a male laid eggs at the Chester Zoo in London, and to everyone's surprise the eggs hatched producing healthy baby Komodos. Many reptiles can store sperm for long periods of time, but laboratory tests show that the mother was indeed the sole parent.

The ability of some higher forms of life to switch to asexual reproduction when no males are around is a huge surprise to most scientists. There are some fish that can do this that we have discussed in this column in the past, and this has also been observed in turkeys. The problem is that the doubling of sex chromosomes in this method of reproduction produces only males—which shows great wisdom in the natural world. It allows a population of females with no males present to repopulate the number of males. In turkeys it was not useful for poultry growers because male turkeys are less desirable economically than females.

Scientists have concerns about genetic diversity in this method of reproduction, but it is another example of the incredible wisdom and design built into living things which favors life developing and flourishing in all kinds of environments all over the planet.

Missouri Mussel and Bass Nannies

Editor's Note: Owen Olbricht is a friend of ours who has lived and worked in New Jersey for many years before becoming a professor in Memphis. Owen tells about working with a clam farmer in New Jersey and how one clam called the Missouri mussel reproduces. Here is Owen's story.



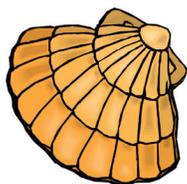
The Missouri mussel shell presents a minnow-like appendage just outside its shell to attract bass. This part of the mussel wiggles and mimics the action and appearance of a minnow. The bass attacks it, but cannot remove it. When the bass pulls on it, the clam releases eggs into the mouth of the bass.

These stay inside the bass where they are protected until they develop enough to survive outside the bass. They then leave the inside of the bass and enter the bottom of the river where they mature to repeat the process.

Owen raises a lot of interesting questions about this situation. The minnow-like appendage apparently has no other purpose than to attract this one species of fish. There are fish in the ocean called angler fish that also do this, except their appendage looks like a worm and attracts all species of fish. In this case, the appendage is designed to attract one species—the bass, which can harbor and take care of the clam's offspring. How do the eggs avoid being digested by the bass? Fish hooks left in a fish dissolve in a remarkably short time, and yet these eggs survive with no damage from the digestive system of the large fish. There is no evidence that the bass is affected by this load of eggs it carries.

The advantages of this system are many. It is an efficient way to allow the clam to reproduce. Since bass cover large distances in their hunts for prey, the eggs get scattered all over the region in which they live. Bass typically hunt in areas where the clams, when they are discharged from the mouth of the bass, have a high probability of survival. Clams do a wonderful job of cleaning water and improving the ecology of the streams, oceans, and lakes in which they live. This benefits the bass and all other forms of life in the area.

Bass nannies are just one more example of the complexity and design that is seen everywhere we look in nature. The creation is not a chance driven accident, but a designed and intelligently planned system that sustains life in ways we are only beginning to understand.



Paul Harvey's On-Air Prayer

Heavenly Father, we come before you today to ask your forgiveness and to seek your direction and guidance.

We know Your Word says, "Woe to those who call evil good," but that is exactly what we have done. We have lost our spiritual equilibrium and reversed our values!

We have exploited the poor and called it the lottery.

We have rewarded laziness and called it welfare.

We have killed our unborn and called it choice.

We have shot abortionists and called it justifiable.

We have neglected to discipline our children and called it building self esteem.

We have abused power and called it politics.

We have coveted our neighbor's possessions and called it ambition.

We have polluted the air with profanity and pornography and called it freedom of expression.

We have ridiculed the time-honored values of our fore-fathers and called it enlightenment.

**Search us, Oh God, and know our hearts today; cleanse us from every sin and set us free.
Amen!**

(Commentator Paul Harvey aired this prayer on his radio program, "The Rest of the Story," and received a larger response to this program than any other he has ever aired. With the Lord's help, may this prayer sweep over our nation and wholeheartedly become our desire so that we again can be called "One Nation Under God.")

News and Notes

Quebec Government Orders Private Schools to Teach Evolution. The Educational Ministry of Quebec has served notice it will close private schools that do not include Darwin's Theory of Evolution and sex education in their teachings. The problem here is that there is a Provincial Curriculum, and religious schools that do not teach 100 percent of the curriculum are being threatened with forced closure. Many of the schools being threatened teach evolution but also teach alternative views. "We offer a curriculum based on a Christian worldview rather than a humanistic world view," the schools say and explain to their students "what's wrong with Darwin's Theory." Should a Christian school have the right to teach their own sex education program, or do all schools have to teach what the government says about such subjects? This reminds your author of a battle the Amish have had here in northern Indiana to have their own schools, a battle they ultimately won. It will be interesting to see what happens in Quebec.

Made-to-Order Babies Are Here. The Abraham Center of Life in San Antonio has become the first business to allow a buyer to look at photos and select what characteristics they want their baby to have. Jennalee Ryan, the director of the firm says that donor traits should be selected, and for a fee of \$2,500 she will create the embryo couples want with the characteristics they desire. For an additional fee a surrogate can be hired to carry the fetus to full term. So far all of her customers have selected white babies and 75 percent have been blond and blue eyed. Promoters of this process maintain that life does not begin at conception, so anything done at this level is ethically acceptable. It will be interesting to see what happens when one of these so called "perfect embryos" has a birth defect, and no studies have been done to see how healthy these embryos are. More to the point is the fact that this is rooted in a belief that humans are just animals and have no special value. Whatever you can do to a mouse you can do to a human. We suggest that considering man special, as a being created in the image of God with an eternal soul is the only way to avoid the massive pitfalls of such things as made-to-order babies. References: *The Christian Science Monitor*, January 18, 2007, page 3 and *The Week*, January 26, 2007, page 16.

Can Animals Think and Use Logic? One mistake that many people make is to assume that thinking, logic, problem solving, and reasoning are unique to man. When the Bible describes man's uniqueness, it always is centered around spiritual characteristics and creativity—not around intelligence, thinking, tool use, and logic. It is important to understand that seeing an animal do something that is intelligent or requires logic does not mean that the animal is a human or is equal to a human in any way. On February 23, 2007 a report was released about researchers in Senegal who have observed chimpanzees making weapons for hunting. In the April 2007 issue of *Scientific American* (page 64) there is a detailed article on ravens using logic to solve problems, and the article says that the raven's "abilities approach or even surpass those of the great apes." If you read the material and look at the evidence there is little doubt that animals think, solve problems, make tools, use logic, and have a social structure. These are not the things that make humans unique. Man's spiritual characteristics are what make man special, and these are a reflection of our unique creation in the image of God.

Faith Healers in Legal Trouble. We have tried to point out in this journal, that wild religious claims of miracles have serious flaws biblically and scientifically. It is not that God cannot perform miracles, but the purpose of miracles in today's world is not the same as in Jesus' time, and no individual today can duplicate the miracles that Jesus did. This discussion has been underlined by lawsuits being leveled against faith healers who claimed to do miracles and did not. A major example is televangelist Darlene Bishop. She has claimed that God cured her of breast cancer and healed her brother Darrell Perry of throat cancer. It turns out that Bishop never had breast cancer, and that her brother died of the throat cancer a year before she made those claims. Now Perry's four children have filed lawsuits against Bishop for wrongful death, because her claims of having healed Perry caused him to not get medical help until it was too late. In Jesus' day, his enemies stated that they could not deny that the cures were real, but no human today has that power, and perhaps lawsuits where a miracle has to be proven to avoid litigation will reduce the wild claims of religionists and force people to look at what the Bible actually teaches.—Source: *Skeptical Briefs*, March 2007, page 13.

Autism Causes. Those of us who have had children born with birth defects always have those times when we ask "why?" In Jesus' day he was asked why a baby was born blind (John 9:1-3) and, as the father of a blind child, I can understand why people have struggled with the pain and frustration of things like this. There has been a massive rise in autism throughout the years, and there is now evidence that links autism to man-made toxins in our environment. In the April 2007 issue of *Scientific American* (page 35), there is a series of maps

from Texas showing the possible correlation between autism rates since 1990 and the release of environmental toxins. As our understanding of the human genome gets better, and as we comprehend how chemicals can affect us, it becomes increasingly clear that many diseases and disorders are a function of man's injudicious use of the things that God has given us.

Kenya Origins-of-Man Debate. Kenya's Lake Victoria, Lake Turkana, and Olduvai Gorge have been the locations of many sites where fossils believed by many to be of early man have been excavated. The Leakey family worked here and the National Museum of Kenya in Nairobi plans to make an exhibit of what they call "The Origins of Man" to display the finds that have been made. A variety of religious groups are objecting to the display and demanding that it be removed. It is unfortunate that displays of this type are so loaded with propaganda for a local find and its application to various theories. It would seem that education would be a better answer to museum displays than demands to suppress information. The finds of Kenya are interesting, but there are many questions unanswered and many places that have not been explored to see whether the finds there are unique. We have mentioned in this journal in the past new finds in China, Israel, and the fertile crescent; and educating people about other interpretations of the finds in Kenya would be far more productive. The fact is that the picture is very incomplete of what man's history has been. We need to encourage people to learn what the difference is between the physical history of man's body and the evidence for man's spiritual properties. Christians have nothing to fear from scientific discovery, but attempting to suppress information is not a good response. —Reference: *Newsletter of the American Scientific Affiliation*, March/April 2007, page 4.

Nearby Solar Systems Do Not Show Water. One of the research areas of astronomy is the study of planets outside of our solar system. The question of how unique the Earth is in space compared to other planets has been an area of intense discussion and study. Recently a planet named HAT-p-1 was discovered that apparently is made up of just hydrogen and helium. NASA has recently published a report on attempts to find water on two planets located within 1509 light years of Earth and considered to be good places to look for extraterrestrial life. Detailed studies of these two planets have shown no water exists on them. This is a major surprise and a blow to those who maintain that life is common throughout the cosmos. The Bible does not say that this is the only place where God has created life, but it is becoming increasingly obvious that life is very rare elsewhere in the creation and apparently does not exist anywhere near planet earth.

Reference: *USA Today*, February 22, 2007, page 6D.

Left-Behind Material in Video Games. One of the great sources of confusion in understandings of the Bible is those who promote a political message and force it on the Bible. Attempting to make Jerusalem a capital of the world, and have Jesus be a political ruler who restores ancient Judaism complete with animal sacrifice is a major distortion of the message of apocalyptic books in the Bible like Revelation, Daniel, Ezekiel, and Joel. This is also the background of most denominational creationists and their attempts to force the earth's history into a 6,000 year time frame. Now a video game titled "Left behind: Eternal Forces" is being marketed and sold. The game gives an apocalyptic rendering of New York City and allows the player to command "Tribulation Forces" as they try to save people from the forces of the antichrist. Tim LaHaye and Jerry B. Jenkins are endorsing and promoting the new game, and it will continue to be a problem for educators and ministers trying to get young people to understand evidence and what the Bible is calling them to.

—Reference: *Pulpit Helps*, January 2007, page 27.

Reminder on New Materials. The **Does God Exist?** ministry has produced a number of new materials in the past six months that may be of interest to our readers. If you have missed our announcements of these items, here is a list of new materials. These can be ordered or borrowed from us (see address on page 2) or purchased by credit card on our credit card Web site at doesgodexist.tv.

Frequently Asked Questions—A book answering questions asked at our public presentations and on our Web site.

Evidences of God, Volume 10—A comb-bound book of articles that have appeared in this journal in the past three years. A whole set of these books dating back to 1972 is also available.

Dandy Designs, Volume 4—The fourth in our series of books on design features seen in the creation.

All He Needs for Heaven—by Jim McDaniel, a Christian family's story of successfully raising a child born without arms or thighs.

Living Successfully with Diabetes—by Phyllis Clayton, a insulin-dependent diabetic for over 58 years.

Grandpa John's Science Lab—a DVD series for home schoolers and Christian schools presenting physics demonstrations in a Christian context.

We have also updated and expanded two of our books:

Timothy, My Son and My Teacher—our story of raising a child born blind, mentally retarded with cerebral palsy and muscular dystrophy.

A Whiner's Guide to Chemotherapy—by Judy Hines Ragsdale, a three-time cancer survivor.

This journal is a part of a program of service titled **Does God Exist?** The purpose of the program is to provide thinking, seeking people with scientific evidence that God does exist and that the Bible is His Word. It is our conviction that all men can logically and rationally believe in God. In addition to this bimonthly journal, the Does God Exist? program offers DVDs and video tapes, CDs and audio tapes, courses, books, and other materials. These materials are offered on a loan basis or at our cost. We also are more than willing to correspond with you and answer any specific question(s) you might have. If you would like further information on borrowing or purchasing these materials, we would be glad to send it to you. Check the boxes below to describe what you would like and mail it to us. We will get it right out to you.

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