

September/October 2010  
Volume 37 Number 5

# DOES GOD EXIST?

A nonprofit effort  
to convince mankind  
that God is real and  
the Bible is His Word.

# Sensory Design

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## Articles in this Issue:

- |                         |    |
|-------------------------|----|
| Sensory Design          | 3  |
| Is Religion Hopeless?   | 7  |
| Building a Secure Faith | 12 |

### Guest Article:

- |                            |    |
|----------------------------|----|
| Meeting God at the Rainbow | 17 |
|----------------------------|----|

### Special Features:

- |                                 |    |
|---------------------------------|----|
| <b>Nobel Scientists and God</b> | 20 |
|---------------------------------|----|

- |                         |    |
|-------------------------|----|
| <b>Cynthia's Corner</b> | 21 |
|-------------------------|----|

### Book Reviews:

- |                  |    |
|------------------|----|
| God's Undertaker | 22 |
| unChristian      | 23 |

### Dandy Designs:

- |                                       |    |
|---------------------------------------|----|
| Making Color a New Way                | 24 |
| The Design of Great<br>Bat Gatherings | 25 |

- |                       |    |
|-----------------------|----|
| <b>News and Notes</b> | 26 |
|-----------------------|----|

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Correspondence should be addressed to John Clayton  
1555 Echo Valley Dr., Niles, MI 49120-8738  
e-mail: [jncdgc@aol.com](mailto:jncdgc@aol.com)

Home phone: 269-687-9426 FAX: 269-687-9431

Home Page: <http://www.doesgodexist.org>

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# Sensory Design

Our cover picture for this month reminds us of the beautiful season we are currently enjoying, especially those of us who live in a place where the change is as extreme as it is here in Michigan. Before long we will be experiencing snow and temperatures well below freezing, and this period before the cold is one of great beauty and change.

The colors of the leaves are not the only indicator that we enjoy. I have a blind friend who talks about loving fall. His sense of fall is that there is a whole new variety of sounds—leaves crunching, wind blowing through the trees, birds of all kinds sending out unusual sounds as they head to their winter quarters. He talks about the smells of fall, uniquely different from those of spring and summer which he also finds to be appealing. Another comment he has made is that he can feel a difference in the touch of things—even of the air itself. The humidity is lower and leaves and grass have a different, brittle feel to them. He made a comment about what he called “the ultimate fall sense.” When I asked what it was, he looked up from his pumpkin pie and held up a piece on the end of his fork and just smiled.

We frequently talk about man’s senses—sight, hearing, touch, smell, taste—and take for granted our capacity to experience these senses. We all recognize that most of these sensations play a role in our survival. Taste can often tell us when something is good to eat and when it is not. Seeing a dangerous object can aid our survival. But senses go far beyond survival;



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they also bring us pleasure and an understanding of our environment. Our capacity to taste does not just tell us whether or not something is rotten. It also gives us a variety of sensations that are not survival oriented, but bring us flavor. A fish eats without concern as to what spice has been used or what the texture of the food is. We humans find flavor enjoyable, and we have whole industries based on flavor. Salt can bring us critical minerals like iodine or potassium, but Jesus talked about salt losing its savor (Matthew 5:13) and He was not talking about its mineral content.

We all know that sound can be a warning device, but we also know that sound in the form of music has a very different function. When you hear a cardinal singing in a tree near your house, you may be tempted to think that he is welcoming the day or trying to impress humans with his beautiful song. The fact is, the cardinal is warning another male to stay out of the area and away from his mate—or else. My mother used to have a canary that sang like crazy every time he heard a recording of Bing Crosby singing a particular song. She would talk to the bird like it was a fellow human asking it if it wanted “to hear Bing.” One day I brought an audio oscillator home to work on a science project. I found that every time I hit middle C with two harmonics added, the bird began singing like he did with Bing. I later found that the sound was at the frequency of a particular insect that was the bird’s main food in its natural environment.

Even our capacity to smell goes far beyond the survival issues of animals. Animals use scent for a variety of purposes. Our understandings of pheromones has expanded greatly in the past 50 years. We have learned that animals convey messages about territory, food, and mates by laying down chemicals with distinct smells that can be interpreted by other members of the species. The use of smell to find food is used by many animals. In humans, smell combines with taste to give us

flavor. The nose being placed just above the mouth is no accident. It is what gives us the capacity to enjoy flavor. We enjoy perfume, cologne, flowers, and even have sexual pleasure all because of smell. In a similar way, touch goes far



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beyond survival and brings us all kinds of security and pleasures of many kinds.

What is required for all of this to be true? How is man unique in his capacity to enjoy those things that are not just survival issues? The equipment that enables us and our animals to hear, smell, taste, touch, and see is very similar. In all of us, that equipment is incredibly complex. All animals have the capacity to sense light. Not all of us see the same kind of light. Rattlesnakes see infrared which our eyes cannot detect. That ability enables them to see warm-blooded prey in the dark. The equipment to detect the infrared is similar to what enables us to see visible light. All living things have the capacity to sense sound. Most of us know that our sound-sensing equipment detects (hears) frequencies of 20 to 20,000 Hertz. We also know that dogs can hear frequencies above 20,000 Hertz, called ultrasonic sounds, that we cannot hear. Whales can hear frequencies below 20 Hertz. They can communicate over long distances in the ocean by using these low frequencies, called infrasonic sound, which we cannot hear. Fish and snakes hear through lateral slits instead of ears like we have, but in all cases there are devices that convert the longitudinal waves of sound into transverse waves of electricity so that they can be interpreted by some kind of a brain.

What is unique in humans is not the mechanism that detects the sense, or even how it is converted to an electric wave. What is unique is how we apply and use the information the sense brings us. My mentally challenged son with an IQ of less than 50 can identify virtually any perfume that comes within 20 feet of him. One of our favorite stories

about Tim, involves an airplane trip. After we were seated Tim commented that someone was wearing a certain perfume I had never heard of, which was very rare and expensive. A woman five rows up heard this and turned and told Tim that she was in fact wearing that perfume. She



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told us she was a cosmetic dealer and had never met an American who knew what it was. Tim could identify ten perfumes on that plane, but knew that this particular one was different and exotic and expensive.

How is it that music can be a major influence on us? In 1 Samuel 16:23 we read that Saul was relieved of his distress by the playing

of music. This goes beyond survival or warning others. Sexual pleasure has very little to do with reproduction. In the Bible we find repeated references to the need of humans to enjoy the sensual experiences that God has built into the marriage relationship (see 1 Corinthians 7:1–5 and Proverbs 5:18–20 in reference to women’s breasts). Hugs in the animal kingdom may offer warmth or protection, but in mankind hugs convey a fulfillment of a psychological need.



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The death of my wife Phyllis brought many anxieties to me, but the realization I might never be hugged again as she hugged me was probably the most traumatic.

Sociobiologists attempt to give mechanical explanations to all of these things—usually in evolutionary theories. When you look at both the physics of our senses and the unique way that we as humans

use and interpret these sensations, there is evidence that it is carefully designed and orchestrated to give us ultimate joy and pleasure.

Enjoy the fall, savor the spring, and most of all enjoy the love and emotional needs that our beautifully designed senses help us experience. God designed them, told us how to best enjoy them, and tells us to appreciate them. As David wrote, “I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvelous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well” (Psalm 139:14, KJV).

—John N. Clayton



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# IS RELIGION HOPELESS?

It is easy to get discouraged when you are a Christian living in the pluralistic, materialistic, secular, post-modern world in the early twenty-first century. Society has decided that belief in God, absolute standards of morality and behavior, and family values are archaic and destructive. The Church as a whole has decided that the only method of growth is to provide competitive entertainment, and that the Christian system of living is of historical interest but has no practical application to daily life. While these statements are generalizations, and obviously do not apply to every person, we all run into these beliefs on a daily basis. The world we live in can literally grind us down to wanting to withdraw. How do we avoid this pessimistic mind-set? What can individuals do in the face of declining involvement in meeting the challenges of our age by church leaders and fellow Christians in general?

## DON'T GIVE UP ON THE BIBLE.

We sometimes get the idea that we face a situation that is new to Christians. The fact is that everything mentioned in the first paragraph has happened before. Throughout history famous leaders have predicted the end of Christianity and the demise of the Bible. Voltaire, Marx, Lenin, and Bertrand Russell are just a few of a host of famous people who were convinced that man



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had outgrown the Bible. When other standards of living and ethics were incorporated, they brought disaster and people turned back to the Bible and to the system God has given man — the system that has been proven to work. It may well be that our civilization will end, but the lesson of history is that Christianity will emerge out of the rubble. It will be given new life as it provides a proven rule of conduct for men and women.



Our culture is full of people poking fun at the Bible and making wild claims about contradictions and conflicts within the Bible's pages. For a marginally trained Christian these challenges are easy to answer, and this journal is dedicated to answering them. We need to be aware of the challenges—and the answers to them. We should be encouraged by the fact that the challenges themselves are desperate claims by people who want to live uninhibited by the wisdom of the teachings of Jesus Christ. (We urge the reader to look at the article titled “Why

Biblical Christianity?” in the March/April 2010 issue of this journal for more on this subject.) The evidence is that the biblical system works, and even the rankest skeptic has trouble criticizing the teachings of Jesus in Matthew chapters 5 through 7. Do not let the flood of hostility cause you to reject the only teaching that can bring peace, love, and security that means something.

### **DEMAND EVIDENCE, NOT JUST WILD CLAIMS.**

I had an e-mail not long ago from a guy who claimed he could prove that Bugs Bunny hit Elmer Fudd on the head with a shovel, and that the pieces that flew off became the creation. I replied by saying, “Very funny,” thinking this was a man just playing games. I found that he was deadly serious. At a fair booth in 2009 we had a guy who claimed he could prove that his cat was his reincarnated father. The man became incensed when I suggested that the cat had no relationship to him or his father and offered genetic proof of that statement. The man became enraged with that suggestion and said I did not understand how reincarnation works. The point here is that people can propose anything! For the most part, we live in a society where there is freedom of speech, and if someone wants to propose a completely fictitious and bizarre explanation of something, he can do so.

Whatever someone believes about how the creation happened needs to be substantiated by evidence. Scientific theories that have no evidential support cannot be seriously entertained. Scientists use the word “falsify” to describe this process. If there is not a way to test a hypothesis, the suggestion cannot be considered to be science. Much of what appears in the media as science is in fact wild speculation that cannot be tested (falsified) in any way. Like the Bugs Bunny nonsense mentioned above, it is just a wild suggestion thrown out as science, but which is really just human opinion. Many scientists

have pointed out in recent months that “string theory” and “virtual universe” theories fall into this category.

Religious theories which conflict with known fact need to be discarded also. In both science and religion there is a point where faith enters into what we believe. The process by which time, energy, and space were created cannot be answered scientifically and probably never will be. Atheism or wild religious ideas should not decide what we will believe about how the world came to be. What we must do is to accumulate evidence and see what understanding fits that evidence. Cyclic and reverse models of time do not fit scientific evidence. Atheistic or religious proposals that assume cyclic time or reverse time need to be discarded. This is just one example of how modern people can evaluate the evidence for the existence of God and the credibility of the Christian system. We have more evidence than at any time in the history of mankind, and that evidence strongly supports the concept of an Intelligence outside of space/time as the Creator.

**REALIZE THAT NEW UNDERSTANDINGS WILL  
COME ABOUT AS BETTER INFORMATION  
BECOMES AVAILABLE.**

In both science and religion we may have to give up some previously held beliefs or traditions as new factual material becomes available. Our belief system becomes more balanced and less vulnerable when we have looked at all the supporting evidence. There was a time when both people in religion and people who were studying nature believed that the earth was flat. There was scientific evidence to support that belief, and religious arguments to support it. The instruments of the day were crude, and measurements did not show any curvature in the

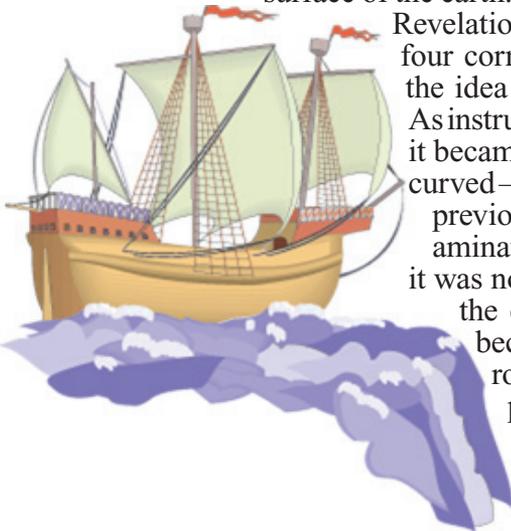
surface of the earth. People quoted passages like

Revelation 7:1 which talks about the four corners of the earth to back up the idea that we live on a flat earth.

As instruments became more accurate it became obvious that the earth was curved—just larger than had been previously thought. A closer examination of Revelation 7 showed

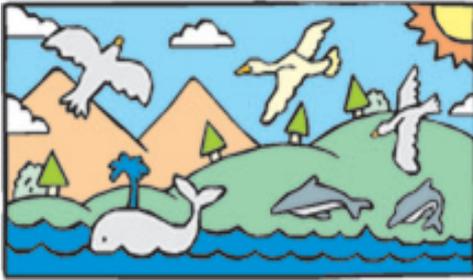
it was not talking about the shape of the earth and people eventually became convinced the earth was round—but not for a very long

period of time. In Columbus’ day there were still people



who thought that if you sailed out far enough in the ocean you would fall off the earth.

We frequently get mail from atheists suggesting that new evidence will invalidate our position of faith in God. I am sure that as new discoveries are made I will find things I believed that were wrong either scientifically or biblically—or both. However, the lesson of history is that as new discoveries are made they validate the Bible and show how remarkable the Bible is in stating things that have only become known in recent years. One remarkable new example is the



classification system of living things. The biblical word “kind” in the Old Testament is the Hebrew word *miyn*. People assumed for many years that “kind” and “species” were the same thing. A species has been defined as a group of plants or animals that can interbreed and produce fertile

offspring. Much debate has gone on in the scientific community about whether that definition needs to be revised, especially with recent understandings of the genomes of living things. How different must the genomes be in order to be considered different species? That debate will be going on for a long time.



Since God created kinds, some believers assumed that species could not change, and that belief has continued into the twenty-first century. The fact is that “kind” is a very general term. In 1 Corinthians 15:39 the Bible says there are four different kinds of flesh—birds, fish, beasts, and man. In Genesis 1 the same groupings are used—flesh of fish, flesh of birds, flesh of beasts, flesh of man (Genesis 1:20–27). It is also seen in the flood account in Genesis 6, that use of “kind” is not the same as species. There are many species of birds but birds are a kind. Now biologists are talking about cladistic classification which is based on structure, not evolutionary theory as the Linnaeus system was. The biblical system and the scientific evidence are getting closer and closer as better evidence becomes available. There are many examples that can be given, but this one should make the point that we need to be open to new data and new ideas. As we learn more, we find that the scientific evidence and the biblical concept get closer and closer together.

## LET ORGANIZED RELIGION DIE.

Religion can be defined as “man’s attempts to find God or meaning in life.” On an individual level religion is a good thing. We each need to search out what we believe and know why we believe it. There is a terrible tendency for mankind to take the easy way out. The easy way is to let someone else tell us what to believe. Most atheists have not thought out why they are atheists. Most religious people are religious because they inherited that belief. I was an atheist because my parents were atheists and I knew nothing else as a child. I have friends who are atheists because they want to justify their lifestyle. I have other friends who are atheists because they have had bad experiences with people who believe in God. All of these predispositions are understandable, but ultimately none of them make sense.

Recently in a period of one week I received over 20 e-mails from atheists containing the same set of “bible contradictions.” That material was posted on the Web by a well-known atheist, and these folks cut and pasted it into an e-mail and sent it to me. I asked each of them if they would discuss the claimed contradictions one at a time with me. All of them either declined or never answered my offer. This is a religious response at its worst. It is like religious people who take something posted by a preacher or religious spokesman and blindly parrot it to other people.



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We need to know why we believe what we believe—whether we are atheists or believers. If the only evidence we have is what someone else says, we are blindly following a religion—be it Atheism, Catholicism, Buddhism, or whatever. The purpose of this journal is not to tell people what to believe or coerce them to become a member of some denomination. Our purpose is to say you can intelligently believe in God, and that science and faith are complementary disciplines supporting each other in building successful lives. Let religion die—be it Atheism, Spiritualism, or some denominational creed. Follow the biblical injunction to “work out your own salvation with fear and trembling” (Philippians 2:12) and know there is a God through the things He has made (Romans 1:19–22). “Choose you this day whom [you] will serve; ... but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD” (Joshua 24:15). In the twenty-first century that choice is still there—make it personally and intelligently.

—JNC

# BUILDING A SECURE FAITH

One of the most common challenges posed to me on the e-mails we get is the question of how to build a dynamic faith that makes a difference and equips one to deal with the challenges of life. There are so many things in life that can cast doubt on a person's belief system—hypocrisy in church leaders, claimed errors or illogical stories in the Bible, new discoveries that seem to contradict the Bible, stupid explanations by people who represent the Bible, human suffering and personal tragedy, sexual temptation, the seeming success of people who have no belief in God at all, boredom and lack of doing anything at church, bad attitudes and judgmental spirits among Christians, etc., etc., etc. It is no wonder that church attendance is at low levels and that doubt and apathy towards the Church are high in our country.

It is ironic that with all of those things going on, there is more reason to believe and there are more tools to build a dynamic working faith than ever before on this planet. We CAN be convicted Christians whose faith can sustain us through the hard times in life. We do not have to be wavering, insecure, wishy-washy people whose lives and work are awash in doubt and inactivity. What we would like to do in this discussion is to make some practical suggestions about how to build a secure faith.

## STEP 1. GET YOUR HEAD STRAIGHT ABOUT THE EVIDENCE.



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Lord Kelvin, the great British thermodynamicist once said, “If you study science deeply enough and long enough it will eventually

convince you there is a God.” That statement is even more true today than it was in Kelvin’s time. We now have tools that enable us to see further out into space with great visual acuity. We have microscopes that can see smaller things than could even be imagined in Kelvin’s day. We have come to understand that there is a whole new set of physical laws which govern the world of the very small—quarks, mesons, neutrinos, and dark energy. We now understand the incredible complexity of the genetic material that comprises living things, and we have been able to map our own genome and in doing so to get a picture of how complex life really is. I had a fellow science teacher who used to tell his biology classes, “Science is about trying to understand how God has done what He has done.” Our theories are frequently off base, and sometimes in the early stages of a theory it may appear that the theory is at odds with what God has told us. The lesson of history is that when the research finally bears fruit and we come to an understanding of what really happened, we find that the facts are 100 percent in agreement with what the Bible actually says (not what a theologian may say it says).



Real scientists understand the limitations of what they do. For us Christians there should be an insatiable thirst to learn more about the creation and to see what the handiwork of God is all about. Chemist Dr. Henry “Fritz” Schaefer III said it well, “The significance and joy in my science comes in those occasional moments of discovering something new and saying to myself, ‘So that is how God did it.’” Albert Einstein said, “A spirit is manifest in the laws of the universe—a spirit vastly superior to that of man, and one in the face of which we with our modest powers must feel humble.” He also wrote, “In this way the pursuit of science leads to a religious feeling of a special sort.” (See more on page 20.)

Approaching science with religious fear and trepidation is destructive to scientific learning and to faith. We should not fear facts or evidence, and should grow in our awe and appreciation of the creation around us. This is one of the main objectives of the **Does God Exist?** ministry. There are also excellent materials available from other Christian apologists who do the same thing. We review their books from time to time in this journal, and it is important for people to build a library of positive Christian apologetic works. We have mentioned people like William Lane Craig, Douglas Jacoby, John Oakes, Alister McGrath, Ravi Zacharias, Hugh Ross, to name just a few.

## **STEP 2. AVOID THE CRACKPOTS ON BOTH SIDES.**

It is a fact that if you tell somebody something often enough, he will usually believe it. Children who have been told they are worthless or unable to learn all through their childhood, will come into a classroom convinced that they cannot learn the material. This is an issue every public school classroom teacher faces on a daily basis. Young people who attend churches or have elementary school teachers who denigrate science will enter adulthood very jaded about any scientific claim. Young people who have grown up in an environment that denigrated the Bible and ridiculed and villainized preachers and church leaders will very likely be jaded about religion. A large percentage of atheists, especially those operating on the Web, fall into this last classification. Many creationists fall into the former one. It is important not to immerse yourself in either group's materials. Even people like Richard Dawkins, who is a very good biologist, can have a most unfortunate and inaccurate view of God, religion, and the Bible.



It is important to our physical health to have a balanced diet. I had a friend who had cancer and went on a diet that involved eating nothing but carrots and drinking nothing but carrot juice. Her skin actually turned the color of a carrot due to the massive amount of carotene she was ingesting. Reading nothing but wild, uninformed atheist propaganda about God and about the Bible can turn a person into a nonbeliever. Reading extremist religious material and nothing else can badly distort our ability to understand the issues and the evidence that is available. It is vital that we look at the credentials of the people we are reading. We must distinguish between people who have an ax to grind and people who are dealing with evidence, and have the background to understand the evidence they are presenting.

## **STEP 3. RESOLVE IN YOUR OWN MIND AND AT A REASONABLE LEVEL THE MAJOR ISSUES THAT CONCERN YOU.**

There are lots of issues that concern us all when it comes to faith in God. If we do not find a reasonable answer on these issues, they can be agents that weaken our faith and our resolve to serve God. Things like the problem of human suffering and tragedy need to be studied and

resolved. That study needs to involve not only looking at the biblical answers, but also at what solutions atheists offer and how satisfying their explanations are. We have a whole Web site ([whypain.org](http://whypain.org)) dedicated to this question, and have written several books and have a video (available on [doesgodexist.tv](http://doesgodexist.tv)) dealing with this subject. Many other people have addressed the question from philosophical and theological positions. There are other issues that we need to be satisfied about, such as: how God answers prayers, how we approach morality and moral



choices, how we know the Bible is the word of God, how we know we have the “right” Bible, how we are to

deal with violence and human and animal rights, and how Christians handle politics and legal issues.

This does not mean we do not grow or consider new data, nor does it mean that we cannot change our understanding of the issues. In our day and time we have seen issues like cloning, stem cell research, in vitro fertilization, organ transplants, and evolution bring new questions and challenges to us as Christians. Questions like these should never weaken or disturb our faith. We may not know everything involved in cloning, for example, but the basic principles of the Christian system allow us to consider the possibilities. No matter what we decide, it will be an application of our belief system, not a challenge to our faith. It is good to hear how mature Christians deal with issues like these. All of the subjects I have listed in this article are subjects we have dealt with in the past several years in this journal. You might not agree with my understanding or beliefs about these things, but you should at least realize that mature Christians know about the issues and have studied the issues and their implications. At the same time they have not allowed those issues to challenge their basic belief in God, the Bible, or the Christian system. As you form your own belief system about these issues, the final product should strengthen your faith.

#### **STEP 4. GET INVOLVED IN MINISTRY.**

Perhaps the most important step in this whole process of becoming a stable, productive Christian with a belief system that sustains you is to do something! Being a Christian does not mean going to church three times a week. Having a stable faith is not sustained just by our worship, our giving, or even our prayer life—although all of these things are important. Christianity is a way of life. It involves



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doing, not just hearing or reading. James talks about this exhaustively in James chapter 2 as he deals with faith and works. The point of the passage is that we do not just have faith and we do not earn our way into heaven by our works. Faith and works are symbiotic in nature. James says, “faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead” (James 2:17, NIV). Our faith without activity will die. We have to be involved.

The involvement we are talking about is so broad that all of us are included. There is no ministry that is any more important than any other ministry. In Romans 12:3–8 Paul lists a sampling of ministries. It includes some of the common things like teaching and preaching, but it also lists such ministries as giving, encouraging, leading, showing mercy, and serving. Paul made the point in verse three that no one of these is any more important or more valuable than any other. One of the beautiful things about the Christian system is that we do not have to ask permission to do ministry. Our service to others, our encouraging of others, our giving to others, and even our teaching of others



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can be done without having to submit to a bureaucratic system of supervisors. The more Christians get involved in using whatever their talents are, the more they will grow. God promises that His Spirit will be active in supporting us so that our ministry will be productive. Active, growing churches are made up of Christians doing things where every member’s talents and abilities are used to reach out to a lost and dying world.

—JNC



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by Al Cornell

The second and third verses of the Bible bring together these words, "... the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. And God said, 'Let there be light.'" I do not think it is a coincidence that God introduced two of the most fascinating enigmas of the physical world—water and light—within the first three verses of Genesis.

Lists have been compiled of the unique characteristics of water and the water molecule. All life, as we know it on earth, depends significantly on this amazing liquid.

Ian Stewart, in *Why Beauty Is Truth*, gives this brief insight into light, "Light is so familiar to us that we seldom think about how weird it is. It seems to weigh nothing, it penetrates everywhere, and it enables us to see. What is light? Electromagnetic waves. Waves in what? The space/time continuum, which is a fancy way of saying, 'we don't know.'"

Something special can happen when these two enigmas of physics come together. Light, traversing space at 186,282.4 miles per second, slows down to about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of that speed when it travels through the denser

water. However, the light is composed of a range of electromagnetic wave lengths and along that spectrum of wave lengths there is variation in the amount of slowdown. I could never have imagined that white light is composed of red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo and violet, but this spectrum emerges from raindrops and prisms.

Anytime you stand facing a rainstorm with your back to bright, low-angle sunlight, that spectrum of colored light appears in the clouds. White light entering a raindrop divides into a spectrum of colors. That light, reflected from the backside of raindrops travels to your eye. The red comes to you from the drops that create the top of the bright colored arc and the other colors are progressively lower — orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and finally violet.



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The resulting rainbow is mentioned in only six Bible verses. Three are in Genesis chapter nine, culminating with verse 16, “Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it . . . .” Other translations render this, “. . . I will look upon it . . . .” So whenever you are looking at a rainbow, know for sure you are not alone. There is a greater being and higher consciousness observing that rainbow.

It might be a little awkward to imagine that you are just doing something fun with God. However, take a leisurely look at a rainbow and sense the presence of God there doing what He promised.

Like the tree of life, the rainbow occurs in Genesis, Revelation, and only one Bible book in between. In 1:28 Ezekiel describes his vision of a radiance like a rainbow around the one on the heavenly throne.

In Revelation 4, John is invited to enter a door to that throne room scene. He sees the one on the throne, but encircling that throne he sees, “A rainbow, resembling an emerald.” I always struggled at the thought of a green rainbow. It seemed like a contradiction of terms. Rainbows require a variety of colors, but emerald is green. There is no one-colored rainbow on earth, nor perhaps in this heavenly vision.

The etymology of the word “emerald” that occurs in Wikipedia includes references to it likely deriving from Semitic words meaning “lightning” or “shine.” Examples given include a Hebrew word. So while in English we think of color when we hear the word emerald, I think John, being Semitic, probably spoke of brilliance or illumina-

tion. The word rainbow should already have addressed the matter of color.

So, the rainbow around the throne shone with the luster of an emerald. *Today's New International Version* captures this essence of that rainbow vision with the words, "A rainbow that shone like an emerald encircled the throne." The *Easy-to-Read Version* reads, "... a rainbow with clear colors like an emerald."

With the rainbow being so scripturally tied to the presence of God, its radiance helps us perceive attributes of God. God cannot be fully comprehended from earth, but the bow in the clouds can help narrow the gap. Paul informed us in Romans 1:20 that we can perceive attributes of God from the creation. This special relation of rainbows on earth and in heaven to the presence of God puts them in position to help us understand the magnificence and glory of God. We come closer to realizing why God splashed beauty throughout His creation and designed a creature in His image that can appreciate that beauty. God created the potential for color in the electromagnetic field, created many animals equipped to perceive the color, and created us with the capacity to appreciate its beauty. And He placed the rainbow in the cloud. The pathway to atheism would be a little easier in a cosmos without rainbows.

A human fable imagines a treasure at the end of the rainbow. With Ezekiel's and John's visions of heaven, it is revealed that what we need to be seeking resides at the center of the endless rainbow. So when you reach that point in life where there is no longer an opportunity to look at an earthly rainbow, by the grace of God, you can step through the door to see a brilliant one encircling the throne. And there too is God.



2007 © Lev Dolgachov. Image from BigStockPhoto.com

The **Does God Exist?** bulletin is available as a PDF file, which can be read on your computer or on an e-reader. For this issue, try it out at [www.doesgodexist.org/PDF-Files/Bulletins/2010/SepOct10.pdf](http://www.doesgodexist.org/PDF-Files/Bulletins/2010/SepOct10.pdf).

# Nobel Scientists and God

Editor's Note: One of the things that has come out of the battle between extremists in the evolution/creation controversy has been a flow of literature from atheists claiming that good scientists and intelligent, educated people do not believe in God. This simply is not true. Tihomir Dimitrov has compiled an e-book on <http://nobelists.net> of quotations of Nobel Prize winning scientists. In each issue of this journal we hope to quote statements from some of these.

## Albert Einstein Nobel Laureate in Physics

“Then there are fanatical atheists whose intolerance is of the same kind as the intolerance of the religious fanatics and comes from the same source. They are like slaves who are still feeling the weight of their chains which they have thrown off after hard struggle. They are creatures who—in their grudge against the traditional ‘opium for the people’—cannot bear the music of the spheres. The Wonder of nature does not become smaller because one cannot measure it by the standards of human and moral aims.”

“The more I study science the more I believe in God.” “True religion is real living—living with all one’s soul, with all one’s goodness and righteousness.” I accept the historical Jesus “unquestionably! No one can read the Gospels without feeling the actual presence of Jesus. His personality pulsates in every word. No myth is filled with such life.”

“I want to know how God created this world. I am not interested in this or that phenomenon, in the spectrum of this or that element. I want to know his thoughts, the rest are details.” “We are in the position of a little child entering a huge library filled with books in many different languages. The child knows someone must have written those books. It does not know how. It does not understand the languages in which they are written. The child dimly suspects a mysterious order in the arrangement of the books, but doesn’t know what it is.” “We see a Universe marvelously arranged and obeying certain laws, but

only dimly understand these laws. Our limited minds cannot grasp the mysterious force that moves the constellations.” “Everyone who is seriously involved in the pursuit of science becomes convinced that a spirit is manifest in the laws of the universe—a spirit vastly superior to that of man, and one in the face of which we with our modest powers must feel humble. In this way the pursuit of science leads to a religious feeling of a special sort, which is indeed quite different from the religiosity of someone more naive.”

## *Cynthia's Corner*

### THE PAIN OF JESUS

I recently experienced a very painful surgical postoperative period. As I lay in bed with tears in my eyes from the pain, I thought of Jesus—of what He went through on the cross. I am not sure we can imagine accurately the agony of a slow, cruel death by crucifixion. Jesus was fully human (1 John 4:2; John 1:14) and felt every searing tear of His flesh. That He did it willingly for us is beyond what most humans would or could do. It might be that a human would do it for a loved one in which the love is reciprocated (Romans 5:6–8), but Jesus did it for us when we were His enemies (Romans 5:10). He loved us when we hated Him (Isaiah 53:3).



What other faith can boast of a God who becomes human and dies a brutal, unjust, painful death in order for us to have a relationship with Him here on earth and for eternity? What other religion can conceive of a God who loves us so much that He became like us to show us the way to Him (1 John 1:1–3)? We can know that Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life (John 14:6) by the sinless life He led (Hebrews 4:15; 1 Peter 2:22) and the sacrificial death He endured for us. He paid for OUR sins on the cross (Isaiah 53:4–6) and His resurrection assures us of eternal life with Him, IF we respond to Him as He has instructed us in His Word (1 Corinthians 15).

Even in our own times of great pain, we can learn from life and from God's Word. While some view suffering as a reason to deny God, I see it as a great reminder that God has been where we are and knows all of the anguish we go through (Hebrews 4:15).

—Cynthia Clayton

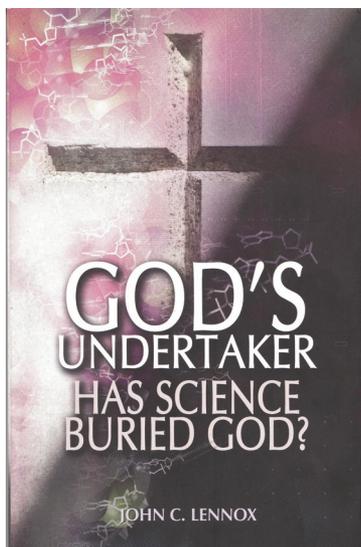


## BOOK REVIEWS

The books that are reviewed in the Book Review section are not available through us, but can be obtained from a local bookstore or through many online bookstores.

### **God's Undertaker: Has Science Buried God?**

by John Lennox, Lion Publishers, 2007, 192 pages, \$14.95  
(paperback) ISBN-13: 978-0-7459-5303-8



The purpose of this book is well stated by the author in the epilogue at the very end of the book. He says “In conclusion, I submit that, far from science having buried God, not only do the results of science point toward his existence, but the scientific enterprise itself is validated by his existence.” John Lennox is a professor of mathematics at Oxford University.

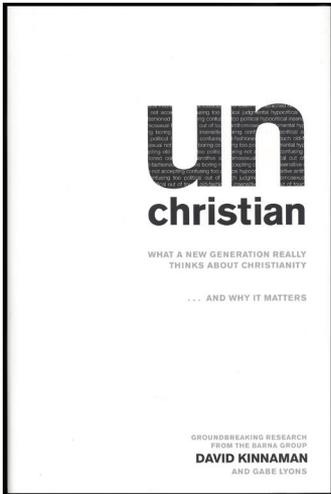
In the 190 pages that make up this book, Lennox deals with the notion that science has made belief in God obsolete. His approach is to take the writings of leading atheists and agnostics and the claims they have made about religion and science, and show that these claims do not stand up. People like Richard

Dawkins are heavily quoted in the book, and Lennox responds in great detail to their claims. Evolution, cosmology, design evidence, and questions of origins are all covered.

The book has eleven chapters which deal with world views, the scope and limits of science, design in cosmology and biology, evolution, the origin of life, the genome and its information, the role of chance, and the role of faith in science. The book is well written with extensive documentation and is challenging reading. It will be of interest to college students and people with strong backgrounds in philosophy and science.

## **unChristian: What a New Generation Really Thinks About Christianity ... and Why It Matters**

by David Kinnaman & Gabe Lyons, Baker Books, 2007, 255 pages, \$17.99  
(hardcover) ISBN-13: 978-0-8010-1300-3



Over the years we have frequently given data in this journal that was collected by the Barna Group. This is a research organization that does projects for churches, nonprofits, and corporations that involve population studies. The president of the Barna Group is David Kinnaman who has teamed up with Gabe Lyons, founder of the Fermi Project to research this book. The Fermi Project is a group dedicated to making positive contributions to culture.

What Kinnaman and Lyons have done is to study the perception of Christianity in 16 to 29 year olds. The data has been gathered by questionnaires. As an example, 440 outsiders and 305 churchgoers were asked, “Here are some words or phrases that people could use to describe a religious faith. Please indicate if you think each of the phrases describes present day Christianity.”

	<b>Outsiders</b>	<b>Churchgoers</b>
Judgmental	87	52
Hypocritical	85	47
Old Fashioned	78	38
Too Involved in Politics	75	50
Out of Touch with Reality	72	32
Insensitive to Others	70	29
Boring	67	27

Data like this can be confusing, and the book discusses why these perceptions exist and what the Church needs to do about them. The approach is cultural and denominational in nature, and the conclusions of the authors are jaded by their own denominational connections. In spite of that, the research is useful and has some valid points about how Christians are sending the wrong message to the world. Church leaders will find lots to disagree with, but lots to think about as well.

# DANDY DESIGNS

## MAKING COLOR A NEW WAY

Most living things have the colors that we see because of pigments that are in their skin or shells. The chemicals in these pigments absorb certain wavelengths of light and reflect other wavelengths. The reflected wavelengths are what we see and identify as color. Researchers have discovered that there is another way that color can be produced, and the jewel (scarab) beetle, *Chrysina gloriosa*, gives its incredibly beautiful color by this method.

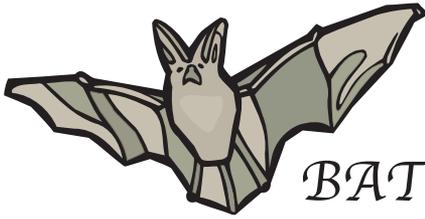


<http://www.texasento.net/gloriosa.htm>

Examining the beetle's exoskeleton under a high-powered microscope researchers have discovered the surface is a "richly decorated mosaic of cusps and color." The surface has cells with five, six, and seven sides which gradually twist as layers get deeper. These cells look like snail shells turned on their sides. These regions are called focal conic domains, and they twist reflected light forming a clockwise helix which makes it circularly polarized. Since different colors have different energies, the amount of twisting will be proportional to the wavelength, so in the case of the jewel beetle the highest energy twisted is green, and the beetle is a glorious green color even though it has no pigment.

The beetle's green color matches the plants in which it lives, and allows it to be camouflaged. Dr. Mohan Srinivasarao of the Georgia Institute of Technology is hopeful that copying this design system will allow scientists to develop devices that will use circular polarization as a means of manipulating light for new uses in technology. The sophistication of God's design in the natural world is amazing, and the more we learn of the various methods God has employed the more sure we can be of His role in the creation.

Reference: *Science News*, August 15, 2009, page 12.



# THE DESIGN OF GREAT BAT GATHERINGS

There are many animals and plants that benefit humans in profound ways of which we are largely unaware. In our ignorance, we may even disdain an animal that brings great advantages to us. One of the best examples is the bat. We generally associate bats with Halloween and vampires. I can still remember watching 1,600 students at Riley High School go crazy when a bat got into the school and flew back and forth up and down the hallways while students ran screaming as if their lives were in danger.

We are now learning that bats are great friends of mankind. A large bat colony will remove as much as 200 tons of insects from the environment every evening in summer months. Bat guano is used in the production of a number of products — including some perfumes.

How bats survive in the world is an amazing story. Recent studies of places like Bracken Cave northeast of San Antonio, Texas, have shown the incredible design that allows such magnificent insect control to occur.

The best hunting of insects is done at night, and in a hot climate like Texas in the summer that is also the best time for generating energy to fly without getting overheated. Bats spend their days in caves, under bridges, or in other dark, cool places. In Bracken Cave there are 40 million Mexican free-tailed bats that spend their days in the cave and venture out at night, with each bat eating its own body weight in insects. People visiting the cave say it sounds like a waterfall when the bats emerge. The bats have babies called pups which they leave attached to the cave walls. The youngsters are packed together with some 20 million babies compacted into 250 per square foot. This clumping conserves heat and allows the babies to be healthy. When the mothers return they somehow are able to find their pup among the 20 million babies that carpet the walls of the cave.

Science is still studying how all this is done, and how the bats use their sonar to locate food. How babies learn to fly is another area of great interest. You can see some of this research at [www.batcon.org](http://www.batcon.org).

The design of this amazing creature which controls insects and uses resources efficiently in austere environments speaks highly of the intelligence and wisdom built into all we see. Truly we can see the mind of God through the things He has made (Romans 1:19–22).

Reference: *National Wildlife*, June/July 2010, page 30.

# News and Notes

**THE HISTORY OF BIRDS.** Biblical minimalists and atheists have tried to convince the public that the Genesis account is inconsistent with the evidence. One of the points we have tried to make in this journal is that the SEQUENCE of life in the Genesis account is very accurate and consistent with modern data. The biblical sequence suggests that plants were the first form of life to exist on the earth and that they came in a sequence of their own—grasses, herbs, and flowering trees. The first animal life is portrayed as being marine creatures. The same verse that states this also lists birds as being the next item in the sequence, followed by mammals. You can argue about time issues, but the sequence of life is accurate, with man being last in the list of life forms. In *Scientific American* magazine, July 2010, page 71, there is an article titled “Winged Victory” in which evidence is given that modern birds are identified in Cretaceous rocks. This would put them on earth at the time of the dinosaurs. A good picture of the bones of the extinct, prehistoric bird *Vegavis* showing modern features is included. The Bible is not inaccurate in its listing and the sequence of animals given is correct, but incomplete. As more data is gained, the integrity of the biblical record is sure to grow, although human theories about the details of the history of life will continue to generate controversy.

**NEANDERTHALS CONFIRMED AS HUMAN.** Over the past ten years there have been scientists who have attempted to prove that Neanderthal man was a different species than are we. Recent studies of DNA from bones found in caves in Croatia have given mitochondrial DNA sequences previously not available for Neanderthal genomes. Using African and non-African gene sequences, researchers were able to show that 10 out of 12 variants in human populations have come from Neanderthals. They have also shown that Neanderthal sequences did not match Europeans well but did match present-day people from France, Papua New Guinea, and China. The Neanderthals were a race of human but not a species separate from ourselves. We are truly all of “one blood” with a common origin in one man and one woman—Adam and Eve. Sources: *Science News*, June 5, 2010, page 5, and *Scientific American*, July 2010, page 18.

**FORGERY TRIAL ENDS.** For the past five years a trial has been going on in a Jerusalem courtroom with the government of Israel spending millions of dollars and generating 11,000 pages of testimony from 130 witnesses and over 300 exhibits. The purpose of the trial has been to prove that Oded Golan and Robert Deutsch forged many archeological finds including the widely publicized bone box inscribed with the name of James. The consensus is that the government failed to prove its case, but experts believe that the number of forgeries that are in various museums is huge. The implications of all of this are that claims of historical documentation of the Bible or denial of what the Bible says will never be able to be used effectively. Between the greed and politics involved, artifacts will not be able to give any final answers to the big questions. Source: *Biblical Archaeology Review*, May/June 2010, page 16.

**DALE MANOR ARCHEOLOGY SITE.** Also in the *Biblical Archaeology Review* on the same page as the above note is an article about Dale Manor, who wrote several articles for our journal many years ago. Dale has constructed a 35-by-25-yard site near Harding University in Searcy, Arkansas, to train students in how to do archeological research. Dale now has his doctorate in Near Eastern archaeology and has received recognition for his work.

**YOUNG ADULTS—LESS RELIGIOUS, JUST AS SPIRITUAL.** A study of 35,000 people by the University of Chicago has shown that they are less religious but just as spiritual as previous generations. Twenty-six percent of ages 21 to 30 say they have no religious affiliation, as opposed to less than 10 percent of ages 55 and older. Forty percent of ages 21 to 30 say religion is important in their lives, and 41 percent pray daily. Those numbers are basically the same as the older group. Fifty-three percent say they are certain that God exists, which is again about the same as the older group. The bottom line is that organized religion and churches in general are not meeting the needs of the younger people in this country, but they are still searching and open to learning about God. We would suggest that the failure of churches to address major questions in apologetics, is catalyzing the lack of participation in church work and activities. Source: *USA Today*, February 17, 2010, page 10B

**DINOSAUR EXTINCTION BY ASTEROID ACCEPTED.** One of the main issues in Darwinian evolution is the assumptions made about earth history by naturalists. That assumption is that no process has ever operated in the past on this planet that is not operational today. In 1980 Luis and Walter Alvarez provided evidence that an asteroid struck the earth and the aftermath of that collision wiped

out the dinosaurs. Many naturalists have denied such an explanation, because it is not happening today and would be fatal to some theories. A team of 45 internationally known scientists was assembled to study the evidence and report to the scientific community on the results. Their conclusion reported in *Science* (March 5, 2010) confirms that an asteroid collision “shrouded the planet in darkness and caused a global winter, killing off many species . . . .” The evidence is too strong to deny, but those who wish to explain everything in earth’s history by natural processes will almost surely continue to deny it. Source: Fort Worth *Star-Telegram*, March 5, 2010, page 6A.

**CLOSING DOWN BIBLE STUDIES.** One of the things that has been going on for some time throughout the United States has been that some cities have tried to shut down Bible studies within the city limits. The problem is not the content of the studies, but concerns about the tax status of the buildings where Bible studies are held. If a building is used for Bible studies, it can be called a “church” and churches are tax exempt. To keep the buildings on the tax rolls some cities have tried to outlaw Bible studies. In the past few months Gilbert, Arizona, and Rancho Cucamonga, California, have gotten media attention in this issue. In past years Los Angeles and Chicago have had issues along these lines that we have reported in this column. It should be pretty obvious that it would be very easy for such a ruling to be misused, and there is some evidence this is happening in the two cases we have referred to. Source: *WorldNetDaily* ([www.wnd.com](http://www.wnd.com)), Wednesday, March 17, 2010.

**DOES GOD EXIST? AT APOLOGETICS CONFERENCE.** June 11–13, 2010, The **Does God Exist?** program worked with the Apologetics Research Society at a conference at Concordia University in Irving, California. The directors of this group, John Oakes and Foster Stanback, are men we have worked with in the past in a number of different places. Douglas Jacoby, who has had debates with Michael Shermer and has done many apologetic presentations, was also on the program. Classes were held by experts in a wide variety of fields covering everything from quantum mechanics to anthropology. We did two classes and a general session in the evening on “Why I Left Atheism.” On Saturday night there was a debate forum with four different views of evolution from a Christian perspective, and we participated in that presenting a design approach. The speakers in these sessions were PhDs (with the exception of your author), and the studies were in-depth and well presented. This is an organization with huge potential to help in the battles against atheism and naturalism. Their Web site is [evidenceforchristianity.org](http://evidenceforchristianity.org), and they have a wide range of publications and videos that can be used to help local work.

**STEPHEN HAWKING AND ALIENS.** We have emphasized many times in our materials that the Bible does not say that this planet on which we live is necessarily the only place where God has seen fit to create life. If there is life in outer space, God created it—so if life is discovered, do not throw your Bible away. In a Discovery Channel program titled “Into the Universe” Stephen Hawking warns scientists to “think very carefully about whether we want to broadcast our existence to a potentially hostile universe.” His point is that if aliens exist, and if they function by the alien guiding principle of survival of the fittest, they would be “looking to conquer and colonize whatever planets they can reach.” That is a logical evolutionary conclusion. We would suggest they might also ask “Has Jesus been here yet?” and proceed to tell us why we should follow His teachings. Source: *USA Today*, April 27, 2010, page 7D.

**CHARTER SCHOOL IN A CATHOLIC CHURCH FORCE CHANGE.** Indianapolis, Indiana, has approved a plan to convert St. Anthony, St. Andrew, and St. Rita Catholic schools into charter schools. This will qualify the schools to get a million dollars in state money the first year, but the churches are having to make major changes. These include removing Bibles from display tables, removing saint statues from stairwells, and removing two large limestone crosses that are part of the buildings. Catholic teachers will remain and atheists groups are upset about that. Mayor Greg Ballard is pushing to keep the schools open, but churches are going to have to weigh the cost of having their buildings used for schools supported by tax dollars. Source: *Amarillo Globe-News*, April 17, 2010, page 1B

**NO PROTESTANT SUPREME COURT JUSTICES.** Justice John Paul Stevens, the only Protestant on the Supreme Court retired. This left the court with six remaining justices who are Catholic and two who are Jewish. At the time of this writing the proposed replacement for Justice Stevens is Jewish. One might argue about how important it is to have religious diversity on the court, but it is an interesting situation. Source: *Christianity Today*, June 2010, page 16.

**DIVORCE STATISTICS CHALLENGED.** Have you heard it said that 50 percent of all marriages end in divorce? Research shows that the numbers are nowhere near that bad. It appears that the media in its desire to denigrate anything that has biblical connections has exaggerated the numbers and misrepresented what is actually happening. Statistics that have been used to get the 50 percent figure were taken from high school graduates under age 26 when they were wed in the 1980s and who were still married when they hit their twentieth wedding anniversary. College graduates who got married at the

same time and were over 26 were still married in 81 percent of the cases. College graduates who got married under age 26, were still married after 20 years in 65 percent of the cases. When you factor in the people who had multiple divorces it becomes obvious that the 50 percent figure is very misleading, and in fact inaccurate. Several new books have delved into this subject, and there is a summary of the data in *Time*, May 14, 2010, page 47.

**ADHD AND PESTICIDES.** A new study reported in the journal *Pediatrics* and summarized in *Time* (May 17, 2010, page 8) says that children with high levels of certain pesticides in their urine are more likely to have attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) problems than children with none of the pesticides in their urine. We have made numerous references and articles in regard to the effects of pollution of all kinds (see our cover story in the May/June 2010 issue), and the data continues to support the fact that all kinds of learning and social issues may be rooted in what man has done to his environment. The more people blame God for their problems, the more obvious it becomes as Pogo said years ago, “We have met the enemy, and he is us.”

**THE OIL SPILL AND GOD.** People sending us e-mails frequently come up with some bizarre explanations for the problems mankind faces. The BP oil spill has been explained by some as a plot to destroy America, by others a miraculous act of Satan or an act of God to punish us, and by still others as an alien plot to destroy the world starting with the U.S.A. The fact is that greed, selfishness, premature drilling in a place where conditions did not allow adequate safety, and faulty equipment are what caused the oil spill. God never promised to clean up after us when we make a mess—be it oil or immorality. When we behave irresponsibly, there are consequences that we have to deal with, and innocent people sometimes get hurt. Our hearts go out to those impacted by this tragedy, and we hope some good will come from what has happened. If nothing else, it points out the fact that fossil fuels are not the most important thing on the planet.

**IS THE SUN AN ODDBALL STAR?** That is the title of the lead article in the June 2010, issue of *Astronomy* magazine. The conclusion is “yes” it is certainly unusual in almost every way that can be measured. God gave us something special in this unique star that makes life possible.

**“UNDER GOD” AND “IN GOD WE TRUST” REMAINS.** The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals has ruled that the use of the term “God” is ceremonial and patriotic, not religious and has thrown out

three lawsuits filed by atheist Michael Newdow in Sacramento. This means that for now “under God” will remain in the pledge and “In God we trust” will remain on currency. The ruling does not suggest that the courts are endorsing God, but rather that the word “God” is being relegated to history and ceremony — not faith. Whether this is a victory or not can be debated, but it will satisfy many people. Source: *Houston Chronicle*, May 8, 2010, page 8.

### **SAUDI CLERICS ADVOCATE ADULT BREAST-FEEDING.**

In Saudi Arabia women are subject to strict Islamic law forbidding them from being with men, even in public. If a woman is alone with a man, she can be severely punished. Women in public are required to wear a black garment which covers their entire body except their feet, hands, and face. Their faces are supposed to be partially covered. The only males that women are not required to cover themselves in front of are immediate family members. Under Islamic law mothers are encouraged to breast-feed their children, and if a woman breast-feeds a child that is not her own, that child becomes a “breast milk sibling” to the woman’s children. For this reason many Saudi sisters often breast-feed their nephews so that the cousins are considered “siblings” and the girls will not have to cover their faces in front of their cousins. A man is allowed to be alone with a woman who breastfed him because Islamic law prohibits sexual relations between them. In June 2010, an official adviser of the royal court of Saudi Arabia, said in a TV interview that women who come into regular contact with unrelated men should give them breast milk to drink. In this way they will be considered relatives and they can avoid punishment when they are together. He stated that the milk should be pumped and given to the man in a glass. However, another prominent sheik specified that the man should suckle the milk directly from the woman’s breast. This whole thing became major news headlines in Saudi Arabia and just goes to show the foolishness that results when women are treated as second-class persons. By contrast the Bible and the Christian faith tells us that “there is neither male nor female: for you are all one in Christ Jesus” (Galatians 3:28b). Reference: <http://aolnews.com/world>.

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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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