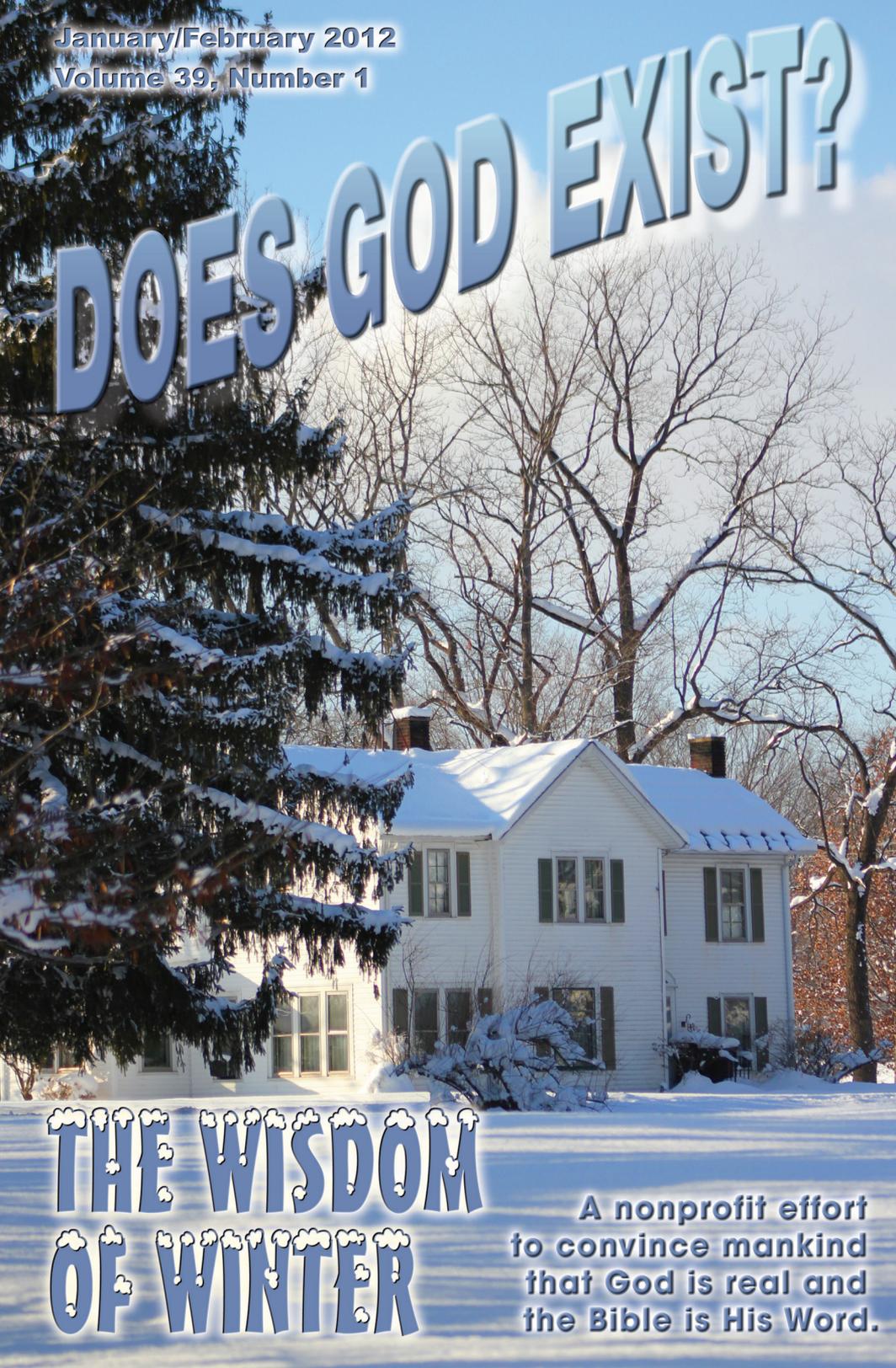


January/February 2012

Volume 39, Number 1

DOES GOD EXIST?



THE WISDOM OF WINTER

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

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(see page 26)

*Check our website for an
updated list of lectures.
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In the beginning God created
the heavens and the earth.
Genesis 1:1

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The WISDOM OF WINTER

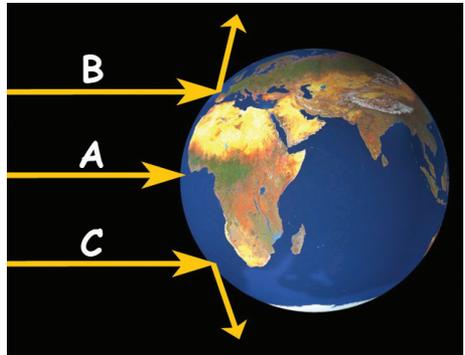
What does our cover picture bring to your mind? Do you see it as a winter wonderland, full of beauty and wonder; or do you see it



as a pain in the neck with bad driving, back-breaking snow shoveling, and a general nuisance? Our situation in life from minute-to-minute can affect how we answer that question, but the fact is that when you look at winter and what it brings to earth and all things that live on the earth what you see is incredible wisdom and planning.

Many of us do not understand that winter is a natural product of the existence of the earth or any other planet orbiting a star. The angle

at which the rays of the star strike the surface of the planet depends upon the latitude of the point in question. A latitude perpendicular to the ray will have a very high absorption of the energy of that ray (see A in the drawing to the right). At a higher or lower latitude (see B or C) the angle will be lower and more of the ray's energy will be deflected away from the surface. That means that the energy absorbed by the planet will be less — and that means winter.



For a planet to sustain life, there has to be an adaptation or accommodation of that life for the conditions that are present. In the case of the earth, that is done primarily by the presence of large amounts of water, and the system works because of the design of water.

Water is a polar molecule, meaning that it has a geometry about its molecules that allows water to form a solid that has a lower density than its liquid state. That is the reason ice floats. This polar molecular

structure also causes water to freeze into beautiful crystal structures, like snow flakes.

Water has a relatively high freezing point so that it forms a solid at a temperature close to its vaporization temperature. Only 100 degrees Celsius separate water as a solid from water as a vapor at normal atmospheric pressure, so snow forms quite easily. All at the same time, water can exist in equilibrium as a gas, a liquid, and a solid, a condition we call slush. Scientists refer to this as the “triple point” of water. For most of us such information is taken for granted, but it is critical for life to exist on this planet.



In addition to the thermodynamic properties related to its state as a solid, water is a very poor conductor of heat. The Psalmist stated it well when he said “He giveth snow like wool ...” (Psalm 147:16). In the liquid state this property allows lakes to have different temperatures at different levels. Most of us have had the experience of diving into a lake and hitting a layer of cold water, called the “thermocline,” some depth below the surface. Fishermen know about this layer but it can exist only because heat is not conducted well through the water. Ice on the lake and snow on the ground also serve as wonderful insulators because of this property. That means lakes do not freeze to the bottom in winter, protecting fish from being killed. It also means that the surface of the earth is insulated by snow in winter. This protects plants and their roots as well as storing water for the coming summer.



In many places on the planet the main source of water during the summer months is the melting snow that stored water during the winter and releases it gradually as the snow melts. One is reminded of this in Psalm 147:17–18 “He casteth forth his ice like morsels: who can stand before his cold? He sendeth out his word and melteth them:

he causeth his wind to blow, and the waters flow.”

For the small creatures of the earth, this insulation not only keeps their survival rate high in winter by keeping them warm, but they form tunnels and have a secure environment throughout the winter season. Predators have to find them by sound, because they are not visible

as they move freely beneath the layer of snow. (See Dandy Designs “Foxes and Magnetic Range-finders” on page 25.)

Winter is also a time of freedom from insects and disease which are less able to bring about their afflictions in cold weather. While mankind may find winter a difficult time primarily because our machines do not work as well in the snow and ice, most animals are blessed with a positive time during the winter months.

In this publication over the years we have discussed a variety of ways in which animals have been equipped to deal with



winter. Hibernation, storage of food, migration, symbiotic relationships, environmental modification, and physiological adaptation are just a few of the many ways animals handle the cold and

dark. (You can find these articles on our doesgodexist.org website by using the bimonthly search engine or go to dandydesigns.org and



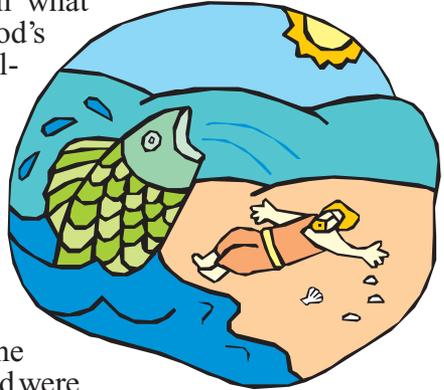
select examples from the listing on that site). You can explain all of these adaptations as a product of biologically driven chance, or you can look at it as a beautiful example of the wisdom and planning of God. We would suggest the latter better

fits the variety, complexity, and level of design we see around us. The more we know of the creation, the closer we get to the Creator.

—John N. Clayton

SEPARATING THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS

Recently after a frustrating morning of responding to atheist attacks on God and on the Bible, I decided to go through the first 100 e-mails I had and see how many of the objections that the atheists raised were from the Old Testament. These ranged from name-calling directed at God for some atrocity detailed in the Old Testament to attacks on what is perceived as unfairness on God's part. Included was the impossibility of events in the Old Testament like Jonah and the "whale," the plagues in Egypt, a talking serpent, a talking donkey, and water coming from a rock just by hitting it or speaking to it. I found that 96 of the 100 objections came from the Old Testament. Of the four from the New Testament, one wanted to know what Jesus and God were doing between Malachi and Matthew and had an obscene proposal. The other three were the usual challenges to the virgin birth, the resurrection, and the miracles of Jesus.



The sad thing about this situation is that it is not just atheists who do not seem to be able to separate the two testaments of God. Many Christians and even some Bible scholars seem to struggle with the separation, and as we all know there are Protestant denominations that accept some Old Testament practices including the Sabbath, the Passover, and even some attempts at restoring the throne of David in Jerusalem. A failure to separate the testaments results in a plethora of misconceptions about God and the Christian system, and gives room to many atheist challenges. Let us look at the two testaments and how and why God has given mankind two very different systems to live by.

THE OLD TESTAMENT WAS FOR A PRIMITIVE TIME.

If we take the Bible literally, we have to look at who wrote it, to whom it was written, why it was written, and how the people of the day in which it was written would have understood it. Many complaints that atheists and skeptics voice about the Bible are things that hap-

pened in the early history of man. Today in the United States there is an ordered society allowing law and order to be functional without each individual having to take care of it. In our modern society each person does not have to negotiate peace and make sure the agreement is carried out with some other country. In today's world in America a woman can choose not to marry and can support herself and live successfully. She even has the right to own and run a business.

In the world of the Old Testament, none of these things were possible. An additional complication in the Old Testament was that even though God told man and woman to become one flesh and that there would be a special relationship between them, man did not follow that admonition (see Genesis 2:24). Polygamy and the use of concubines was never commanded by God just as slavery was never commanded by God. It was Sarai who chose to have

Abram take Hagar as a concubine producing a tragic story of conflict and pain for all involved (Genesis 16). Humans chose to introduce these destructive practices as fixes to perceived needs. People resolved debt by selling themselves into slavery (Leviticus 25:39–41; Deuteronomy 15:12). When a woman was widowed and had no method of support, the responsibility fell on the brother of her husband (Deuteronomy 25:5–10). In



this barbaric and primitive world women became pawns that could be sold or traded. The Law of Moses addressed all of this, but man's selfishness produced some horrible results. This is precisely why Jesus came saying in essence, "This is what you have been taught in the past, but I am saying to you here is a better way" (Matthew 5–7).

A classic example of all of this is found in 2 Samuel where David is told that just as he has taken Uriah's wife in adultery so shall his wives be taken from him (2 Samuel 12:11–12). Biblical skeptics maintain that these wives were to be raped to punish David as a command of God. The passages do not say they were raped, rather that "I will take your wives before your eyes, and give them to your neighbor, and he shall lie with your wives in the sight of the sun." Just as Bathsheba was a willing partner in David's sin, so would David's wives be willing partners in Absalom's tent (2 Samuel 16:20–22). It is interesting that David took care of these women when he returned to Jerusalem, but never again took them as wives (2 Samuel 20:3). In the twenty-first century having a tent put on top of the house as a bedroom chamber to send a message to the nation is hard to comprehend.

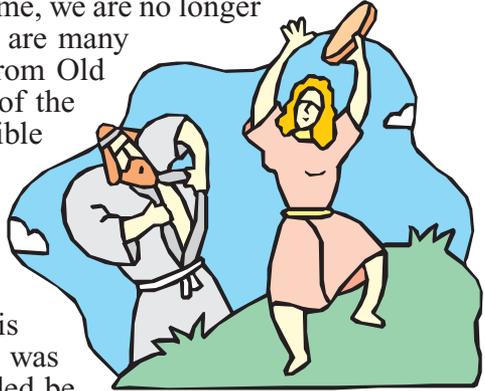
When Christ came to earth he called man to a different way of living. In Matthew 19:4–6 Jesus talks about marriage being restored

to one man/one wife—for life. Jesus called mankind to separate church and state (Mark 12:17) and Paul argued that civil authority was to be obeyed and government looked upon in a new way (Romans 13:1–7). Women were elevated to being of equal value to men and slaves were identified as equal in the church (Galatians 3:28). The old law was “nailed to his cross” (Colossians 2:14) and man was called to “good news”—the gospel of Christ. Refusing to understand this and trying to make the Old Testament a part of the church today is a major error—one made by atheists and believers alike.

MUCH OF THE BIBLICAL RECORD IS HISTORY—NOT THEOLOGY.

In Galatians 3:24 the Old Testament is referred to as a “schoolmaster to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after faith has come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster.” There are many lessons that can be learned from Old Testament stories, but much of the violence and war that the Bible records are not violence or wars that God commanded. They are the actions of humans functioning on their own, without God’s instructions.

Jephthah’s vow to sacrifice his daughter in Judges 11:30–40 was not something God commanded be done. The lesson of not making careless vows is there, but what happened was history, not a theological example of what we should do. The horrible story in Judges 19 of a woman who was unfaithful to her husband and later was gang raped to death by the men of Gibeah causing her husband to cut her body up and send pieces all over Israel is history—not a command of God. The attitude of many biblical skeptics would make the local newspaper responsible for causing all of the bad news they report.



MIRACLES ARE FAITH ISSUES—NOT SCIENCE ISSUES.

We frequently get skeptics writing and asking how we can believe the Bible is true when there are scientifically impossible stories in the Bible. How can a bush burn and not be consumed? How can a virgin give birth? How can a man be raised from the dead? How can a donkey or a serpent talk? When we say the Bible is scientifically accurate, these issues are valid questions.

The main point that needs to be made here is that if something is stated as a miracle, then it is not going to be scientifically explainable. The thing that makes it a miracle is that it is not possible by normal processes on the earth. If it were explainable then it would not be a miracle. There are relatively few miracles in the Bible. People tend to focus on the miracles, but of the thousands of events described in the Bible very few are stated to be miracles. Those that are can be seen to be scientifically impossible. A good example

of this is the story of “Jonah and the Whale.” I put that as a title and in quotes because the Bible does not say it was a whale. The Hebrew word used in the book of Jonah is *dag*, which means fish. Skeptics will be quick to point out that no human could live for three days inside any fish or sea mammal known and probably not any animal of the past. The Bible



states clearly however, that the creature that swallowed Jonah was a special creation of God (Jonah 1:17). It was not a natural occurrence and would not have a scientific explanation.

You have three choices about how to approach something like this. (1) You can accept on faith that it happened just exactly as the Bible says it did. (2) You can accept on faith that it did not happen as the Bible says it did. (This has to be on faith because you cannot prove it did not happen and that a miracle did not take place.) (3) You can accept on faith that this is a story designed to teach a message and while the message is true the story may be just a tool to convey the message, not a historical fact. All three of these choices are faith choices. The same thing is true of any situation in the Bible that is portrayed as a miracle of God.

In the Old Testament there are different Hebrew words used for things that are miraculous and things that are not. The Hebrew word *bara* (create) is used to denote things that are unique to God. This word is never used in reference to something that man can do. The Hebrew words *asah* (make) and *yatsar* (form, fashion, mold, or shape) are used in reference to things both God and man can do.

If the Bible stated something as a miracle that was clearly a natural process, there would be a valid criticism of the biblical record. If something is declared to be natural which would clearly have to be a miracle to occur, again there would be a valid objection to be made about the Bible coming from the inspiration of God. Neither of these two situations exists.

CHRISTIANITY IS THE NEW TESTAMENT OF GOD—NOT THE OLD.

When my wife Phyllis and I wrote our wills, we had a certain set of circumstances in our family that required certain provisions to be made. Our son with multiple handicaps had certain needs that had to be taken into account if we were not going to be there to do it. Our daughters needed provision to be able to secure their college education if their parents were no longer on the scene. By May of 2008 there had been a lot of changes in our lives. Both of our girls had graduated from college and had successful careers and families. Our son was in an assisted-living facility and under the direction of a corporation that takes care of disabled adults. My wife died. It was time to write another will because the situations the old will was designed to serve were no longer relevant. When I re-did my will my new will abrogated my old will.

In the same way, the New Testament redid God’s will for man, because circumstances were different. The old will was done away with because man’s needs were different and his capacity to function had changed. Consider the following contrasts between the old and the new wills.

MATTHEW	OLD TESTAMENT	NEW TESTAMENT
5:21-22	Do not murder	Do not hate
5:27-28	No adultery	Do not look to do it
5:32-37	No vain oaths	Do not make oaths
5:38-42	Eye for eye, etc.	Do not retaliate
5:43-48	Hate your enemy	Love your enemy
6:1-4	Give with publicity	Give privately
6:5-8	Pray publicly	Pray privately
6:16-18	Fast publicly	Fast privately

Jesus and the New Testament writers clearly indicated the elimination of the old will of God and the establishment of the new. In Colossians 2:9-18 and 3:10-11 Paul makes it clear. In 2:14 we are told that Jesus blotted “out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross.” In Galatians 3:24-29 the Old Testament is portrayed as a

schoolmaster, but it says “we are no longer under a schoolmaster.” In Ephesians 2:10–22 this message is repeated. All of these passages talk about the universal equality of all human beings who are one in Christ. In Hebrews 10:12–20 the covenants are discussed and the new covenant is called “a new and living

way, which he hath consecrated for us” (verse 20).

In Matthew 27:51 when the veil of the temple is ripped from top to bottom at the death of Christ, the new will of God was enacted and the separation of men based on racial, cultural, or ethnic differences was done away with.



Paul wrote to Timothy (2 Timothy 2:15), “Study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that does not need to be ashamed rightly dividing the word of truth.” Atheists attempt to denigrate the Bible by taking Old Testament stories and events and apply them to twenty-first century circumstances and standards. This is not “rightly dividing the word of truth.” It is like trying to enact a will that has been superseded by a more modern will. The new abrogates the old and the old is no longer in effect.

THE CHURCH ON EARTH IS A FACILITATOR—NOT AN END PRODUCT.

Another device used by atheists to discredit Christianity is to point to the church as illogical and inconsistent with common sense. Why does God need our money, our prayers, our praise, our requests, and our service? The answer to this question is that he does not! God is not a human who has human needs that must be met by human actions. We do not praise God because he has a self-image problem, or pray to him because he needs our information. Giving is not done because God needs our financial support. The church is the





people who are “called out.” The called out are given tools that help them do what God has called them to do, which in turn brings satisfaction, joy, peace, and stability in a confused world.

We gather together in worship to facilitate our looking to a higher power, and being encouraged and uplifted by our time with people of like faith. The church enables us to manage our benevolent work and increase our service to our fellow human beings. Atheists can complain about the church all they want, but the fact is that the church meets the

needs that are present all throughout the world. From homeless shelters, to food kitchens and pantries, to caring for the elderly and orphans it

is primarily churches that do the work — not atheist organizations. The church facilitates education and encourages morality, and while there are weak people in churches just as there are everywhere in life, it is still the church that teaches and provides means for people to live moral



and responsible lives. Church is not a political organization, nor is it nationalistic or racial. You cannot read passages like Galatians 3:28 and not see the radical teachings of equality of all humans in the New Testament.

Ultimately the cosmos will dissolve and the church — the called out, the beneficiaries of the New Testament of God — will be free of all of this. Let us understand the difference between the New and the Old and follow God’s final will for man that is “given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works” (2 Timothy 3:16–17).

— JNC



THE SECRET OF RELIGIOUS SANITY

The main thrust of the **Does God Exist?** ministry over the past five years has changed from the pattern of its beginning in 1968. In the early years of this work, our outreach was to college students and young professionals who came to public presentations in college auditoriums, motel meeting rooms, and rented public facilities. There were usually eight to ten presentations, each followed by an open-ended question/answer session that lasted for several hours. (One went over nine hours!) These sessions involved a limited number of people in one location, were labor intensive and costly, and always involved a local congregation. I never really knew when I set up one of these programs what kind of congregation I was going to be working with. In the 40-plus years I have been involved in this work, I have had involvement with every kind of congregation you can imagine, and some you could not possibly imagine.

When the Internet became available, we were led to realize that here was a better way to reach more people. I will always be indebted to Lyle Lindholm, a young telephone company engineer, whom God used to enable us to get established on the web about fifteen years ago.

We are now able to present our material all over the world and we have videos of our material available free on doesgodexist.tv (1); our free correspondence course and bimonthly on doesgodexist.org (2), along with a variety of our printed booklets; discussion of pain and suffering on whypain.org (3); and now a new children's interactive website at scienceterrific.org (4). We are also using QR (Quick Response) codes in our publications to make it easier for those using smart phones, tablet computers, and webcams to scan the codes and go directly to our sites without having to type in the URL. You see some of those codes here and we encourage you to try them out.

The most important part of all this to me personally is the fact that I have a constant open-ended question/answer session going all the time as people can e-mail me at jncdge@aol.com. Every day I have the honor of talking with people all over the world about faith,



to Lyle Lindholm, a young telephone company engineer, whom God used to enable us to get established on the web about fifteen years ago.



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evidence, and the validity of the Christian system. Once I get through the rants of atheists, the sales pitches, the scams, and the solicitations, I have anywhere from 10 to 200 daily questions from sincere, seeking people, most of whom have been through bad religious experiences and want a secure relationship with God. In our world of pluralism, religious hypocrisy, atheism, politics, economic uncertainty, theological diversity, immorality, church inconsistency, greed, and selfishness it is easy to understand why so many are struggling. Here are some suggestions based on personal experience that I hope will be helpful to you.

1. REALIZE THIS IS BETWEEN YOU ALONE AND GOD.

In the 40-plus years of this ministry, I have had a lot of opposition. The hostility of atheists I expected, but the most destructive criticism has come from religious people, and a majority of those claimed



to be Christians. A great Christian preacher told me when I started this work, “Remember, John, you can’t outpuke a buzzard.” There are lots of religious buzzards out there and you cannot allow these tools of Satan to stop you. Jesus told his followers, “Do not give dogs what is sacred; do not throw your pearls to pigs. If you do, they may trample them under

their feet, and turn and tear you to pieces” (Matthew 7:6). When the apostles spoke to people the approach was always personal. “Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling” (Philippians 2:12) does not mean to do it any way you want, but to use God’s Word individually in building your faith. The Bereans were praised because they “searched the scriptures daily” to see if it was as Paul said (Acts 17:11).

The people around you—family, friends, associates, and neighbors—cannot tell you what to believe and do. This ministry has survived attacks and abuse by keeping our focus on Jesus Christ and relying on his Word alone. I have found 2 Timothy 3:16–17 to be true and workable in building my faith and my life’s work. “All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

2. BUILD YOUR FAITH ON EVIDENCE.

I was raised in a home where belief in God was not accepted and was even ridiculed on occasion. I came to faith through my studies in science. I began my ministry in apologetics in 1968 when I realized how many young people were being given destructive, inaccurate, or evasive answers on important questions that I had wrestled with myself during my journey out of atheism.

When atheists and religious critics attacked me, I had to reexamine what I believed. Sometimes that meant going back to the Bible and reexamining what I understood. Sometimes I had to go back to the original language or look at the context and the culture more carefully. Sometimes I had to study the scientific evidence more carefully or look at a new discovery and learn what implications it had for what I believed. The more I looked at the evidence, both biblically and scientifically, the stronger my faith became. There were beliefs I had to change and understandings that were different from what I had originally believed; but these changes enlarged and deepened my faith and that growth process continues to this day.



The web and the media are full of these challenges to faith. The vast majority of these challenges are wild, ignorant speculations that have no evidence to support them, are invented to deny faith, cannot be falsified or tested in any way, or have much evidence against them. It is important to deal with the evidence, not “what if” or “perhaps” types of speculations. We need to keep up with new discoveries and look at any new evidence. The lesson of history is that when new discoveries are understood they inevitably support faith in God and in the teachings of Jesus Christ.

3. LOOK AT THE ULTIMATE END OF A BELIEF.

Many years ago during a lectureship at a major university, I had a young man who had asked many questions and posed many challenges, stand up and say, “I can’t deny what you say, but I don’t want to change how I am living so I reject belief in God.” Recently in an e-mail exchange that same young man, who is now an active Christian, told me what changed his mind. “Shortly after you were on campus my live-in girlfriend left me for another guy. Four girlfriends later and after a bad experience with drugs, I asked myself if this was really the

way I wanted to live and the kind of people I wanted to be around? I realized it was time to make a change and Romans 6:4 convinced me I could become a new person and start over.”

When a person adopts the belief system of atheism, Islam, Hinduism, etc., what is the effect upon him personally? That question needs to be answered both in an eternal sense and in terms of how it effects this life. In an eternal sense, atheism offers absolutely nothing except an end to the pain of life. In a daily living sense, atheism offers an intellectual guide to life but it is based on



the assumption you are the “fit” in “survival of the fittest.” Where atheism has been tried, it has been a dismal failure.

Compare the teachings of Jesus in Matthew 5–7 with the Koran, the Vedas, or the writings of Buddha or Bahá'u'lláh. Ask yourself what the position of women is in these systems, and how polygamy and its effect on a population compares with the biblical view of marriage. Jesus said it well, “Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them” (Matthew 7:20). If you do not like where your life is going, the obvious answer is to change it.

4. BE CAREFUL WITH WHOM YOU ASSOCIATE.

“Bad company corrupts good character” (1 Corinthians 15:33) is a truism. “No man is an island” is another truism. I can really relate to the person who says “A walk in the woods brings me closer to God than any preacher.” The fact is, however, that we are all social in nature and living with trees and animals only lasts so long. We need each other and we choose whom we spend time with. One of Elvis Presley’s early hits was “Heartbreak Hotel”, and there are a myriad of songs built around the idea that misery loves company.

I do not want to be around people all the time who do not share my values and views. The whole idea of church is made up of people who are “called out” of this world and passages like 1 John 2:8–11 talk about building a life in which love for one another dominates. The biblical concept of church is not an adherence to ritual or control or politics. The picture of the church



that we get in Acts 2:42–47 is people who ate together, shared with one another, were joyous at being together, and took every opportunity to learn and grow.

As an atheist, I had been indoctrinated with the notion that life consisted of winning. Whatever it took to win in life was what you did. Survival of the fittest meant always covering your back and trusting no one. As I got older, that kind of existence became increasingly lonely and hard to accept. You eventually realize you can trust no one but yourself and sooner or later we all become less fit, and life becomes unbearable. Being around people who have such a negative viewpoint is a destructive experience, and reading nothing but atheist websites will ultimately depress anyone.

I am not a Christian today because I inherited the Christian faith. I have retained my sanity in the face of religious hypocrisy and opposition by focusing on God and maintaining a relationship with Jesus Christ. I would urge you to do the same.

—JNC

DO BUZZARDS KNOW A THIEF WHEN THEY SEE ONE?

There is an old saying that buzzards know a thief when they see one. Is there any truth to that saying and where did it come from?

Buzzards, vultures, and condors are birds that live on carrion. If the thought of eating putrefied road-kill makes you queasy, you are not alone. However, these birds have extremely strong stomach acids which make it possible for them to digest dead animals infested with cholera, anthrax, and other toxins without any harm. They may also use projectile vomiting as a defensive weapon. Who would not want to stay out of their way?

They may look ugly with their featherless heads, but the naked head is designed for sanitary purposes when they get their heads into their meals. These birds do an important job of cleaning up the world and reducing the spread of disease. They are a part of God's dandy designs we see in the world around us. For more see page 24 and visit our dandydesigns.org website.

The saying that a buzzard knows a thief came out of southern plantations before the Civil War. Theft of meat was common and buzzards can spot even concealed meat. Those carnivorous thieves could be identified by the buzzards flying over their heads.



WHAT THIS VERSE MEANS TO ME

by Dr. Phillip Eichman

Anyone who has ever sat in or taught a Bible class, read a commentary or other religious book, talked to another person about the Bible, or listened to a sermon will agree that not everyone interprets the Bible in the same way. Failing to properly interpret the Bible often leads to misunderstanding and confusion about its message. If we are to truly understand God's Word, we must learn to interpret it well. Thus, the importance of good interpretation cannot be over emphasized.

The text of the Bible is intended to communicate God's Word to human beings. Like any form of communication, this is a rather complicated process involving three different components. These are the author (sender), the text (message), and the reader (receiver), and communication is possible only when these three are connected in a meaningful way.



The main goal of biblical interpretation is to determine the meaning of the text or message that was written by the author. Sometimes this can be accomplished by simply reading the text. Some of the Bible is in simple, straight forward language and can be understood in this way. For much of the Bible, however, determining the meaning of the text is much more

complicated.

There are different theories about where the meaning of the text “resides.” Some people, for example, have suggested that the meaning is within the text itself. The text is described as being “autonomous” and the meaning is thought to be independent of the author. The text is viewed as “literature” or “art” with the meaning of the text within itself much like the “meaning” of a painting or sculpture is within itself. As such, the normal rules of communication no longer apply to the text. Further, what the author originally intended the text to mean is unimportant. The text essentially stands alone. Also, there can be no common, or shared, interpretation since the meaning is totally within the text and each person must try to find it for themselves.

However, the text is simply made up of symbols or letters written or printed on some type of material. A written or printed page of

text by itself has no meaning. It is only when a person can read and understand the symbols that communication can take place. I can look at a page of Arabic or Chinese symbols but it will have no meaning for me because I cannot read the language. It is only when there is a connection between the author, text, and reader that meaning exists.

Another approach to interpretation suggests that the meaning is determined by the reader. The person reading the text gives meaning to the text. This is a rather common approach and many people accept this view of interpretation unknowingly. It is quite common in a Bible class for the teacher to ask questions like, “What did Luke mean in verse 3?” Questions such as these are frequently answered by someone giving his or her own personal view of the passage with little or no regard to the literary or historical context and shaped primarily by the person’s own personal experience and viewpoint.

This brings us to a third approach to interpreting the Bible. This view of interpretation suggests that the meaning of the text was determined by the author. This is sometimes referred to as the “intended meaning.” As I write these words, for example, I have a particular meaning that I want to convey. Likewise, as Paul wrote Romans, he intended to communicate a particular meaning to the readers. Through the process of inspiration and preservation of the text, Paul’s intended meaning is then communicated to us today.

This third approach is the most objective and reasonable way to view the process of biblical interpretation. It is also the only approach to interpretation that connects the author, the text, and the reader in a meaningful way. It is only when we come to some understanding of the author’s original intended meaning and “translate” that meaning into a form that can be understood within a particular twenty-first century context, that true communication has taken place.

It must be remembered, however, that the original text was written in a different time and place. We are also separated from the original authors by differences in language and culture. This is why it is so important to see the passage in its original literary and historical context before attempting to apply it to our own contemporary situation.

Interpreting the Bible can be a complex, but not impossible process. It will, however, require good translations, commentaries, and other reference works by reputable scholars, and patience to accomplish this important task. Taking the time to look at a passage in its historical and literary context and searching for the meaning intended by the author will help us to have a much better understanding of God’s message for us today.

Resources:

Robert H. Stein, *A Basic Guide to Interpreting the Bible* (Baker, 1994).
Gordon D. Fee and Douglas Stuart, *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth* (Zondervan, 2003).

Cynthia's Corner



This column is a regular part of this journal, but I asked Cynthia to let me say a few words in this issue because we have had so much mail about her writing in previous issues. Those of you who have been longtime readers of this periodical know that my wife of 49 years passed away in May 2008. Phyllis Clayton was not only the manager of this ministry and the producer of this bulletin, but she was my rock—the one thing in my life that gave me stability and uncompromising support. There were many people close to me who wondered how I would survive without her, and there were times when I did not think I would myself.

While I was struggling in major ways with my wife's death, a set of circumstances took place that brought a widow into my life. She had been through a variety of bad experiences that left her feeling beat up and clinging to her faith as the foundation of her hope to build a future based on some kind of ministry.

She was very pretty, very bright, and ten years younger than I am. When I met Cynthia I was attracted primarily to her spirituality. We communicated by e-mail on a brother-sister level, but gradually began to see that we shared a great deal in common. My loneliness and need for love and companionship caused me to wish for some way I could make her fall in love with me. An unattractive, bald, overweight, 71-year-old man coming off a good 49-year-old marriage is not exactly a “catch” for any woman, especially when his life is immersed in a consuming ministry.

There are two passages in 1 Corinthians that affected both Cynthia and me as we looked at our relationship. The first was chapter 10 verse 13 where we are told that no temptation we have is unique to us, and that God promises his children that a way of escape would be provided. The solutions I was entertaining as I worked through the trauma of the death of my wife were not good solutions. The circumstances that brought Cynthia into my life were so unusual that both of us felt God had a hand in it and a purpose in our being together. Both of us had to decide if we would recognize marriage to one another as God's “way of escape.”

An equally important scripture was 1 Corinthians 7:39 where Paul writes that if a woman's “husband dies, she is free to marry anyone she wishes, but he must belong to the Lord” (NIV). I wondered how Cynthia could possibly love me with all of my “baggage.” Cynthia's response is that to love someone is to love who they are inside. We all have “baggage” in later life, but God's love is made complete in

us (1 John 4:12–17). He helps us to love each other more deeply and completely as time goes on.

I have worried about how she could handle the drastic changes our marriage brought—including Michigan winters, a small mission-field-type congregation of the church, and living in a house Phyllis and I built together. I have been amazed that she can handle Phyllis’ shadow and constant reminders of Phyllis’ role in this ministry without being offended. It is only because of her being a Christian that this has been possible and that this new and rapid marriage has been able to work and work incredibly well. She does not blink when the name of my previous wife appears in discussions about the past, or when I tear up in a memory, or when I talk about an experience in which Phyllis was involved. Her Christian strength and resolve enables her to walk as no worldly woman could. God’s promise and his instruction concerning love the second time around is a great evidence of His hand in life and His love and concern for us, even when death strikes.

—John and Cynthia Clayton

SCIENTISTS AND GOD

Editor’s Note: Our thanks to Tihomir Dimitrov on the nobelists.net website for quotations from many of the founders of modern science who were also fundamental believers in the God of the Bible. As we share these quotations we are reminded that being a good scientist is not at odds with belief in God.

SIR ISAAC NEWTON

Physicist, Mathematician, Astronomer, and perhaps the greatest and most influential scientist who ever lived.

“This most beautiful system of the sun, planets, and comets, could only proceed from the counsel and dominion of an intelligent and powerful Being. This Being governs all things, not as the soul of the world, but as Lord over all; and on account of His dominion He is wont to be called Lord God.”

“From His true dominion it follows that the true God is a living, intelligent, and powerful Being; and from His other perfections, that He is supreme, or most perfect. He is eternal and infinite, omnipotent and omniscient; that is, His duration reaches from eternity to eternity; His presence from infinity to infinity; He governs all things, knows all things that are or can be done.”

“Atheism is so senseless. When I look at the solar system, I see the earth at the right distance from the sun to receive the proper amounts of heat and light. This did not happen by chance.” “I have a fundamental belief in the Bible as the Word of God, written by men who were inspired. I study the Bible daily.”

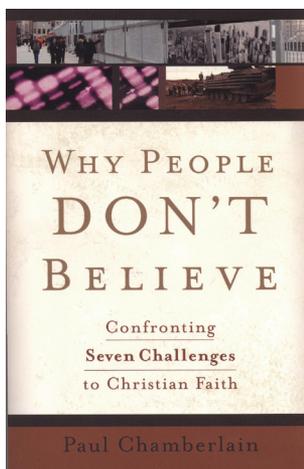


The books that are reviewed in the Book Review section are not available through us, but can be obtained from a local bookstore or through many online bookstores.

Why People Don't Believe

by Paul Chamberlain

Baker Books, 2011, 172 pages, \$14.99 (paperback),
ISBN-13: 978-0-8010-1377-5



If you have ever wanted a book that specifically counters and refutes modern atheist attacks on belief in God, this is the book for you. It is not a general apologetics book, but rather responds point by point to the attacks on faith by Richard Dawkins and Sam Harris. Chamberlain begins by presenting the views and attacks of Dawkins and Harris. The seven challenges he discusses are: (1) religion breeds violence, (2) religion is irrational and lacks evidence for its claims; (3) religion is anti-scientific; (4) biblical morality is appalling and promotes violence; (5) religious teaching of an afterlife is scandalous and dangerous; (6) religion

engenders intolerance and exclusivity; (7) religion leads believers to impose religious teachings on others.

Chamberlain answers each of these challenges in a convincing and clear way, drawing on scholarship, history, logic, and historical evidence. After refuting the arguments of Harris and Dawkins the book talks about “living the way Jesus calls us to live.” It has a great

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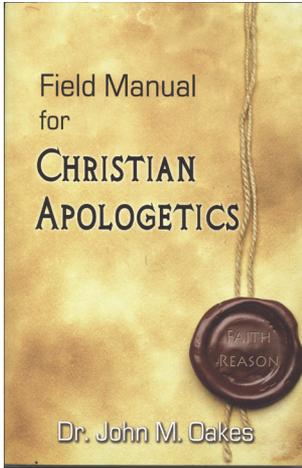
chapter titled “Christianity’s Gifts to the World,” which discusses the good things Christianity has brought to this planet.

This is an outstanding book. It is well written, brief, to the point, and easy to understand. We recommend it highly.

Field Manual for Christian Apologetics

by John Oakes

Illumination Publishers International (www.ipibooks.com), 2011, 366 pages, \$15.00 (paperback), ISBN-13: 978-0-9817373-1-7



I have mentioned in this journal in the past that there are several young men I feel have been uniquely called by God to lead the church into the first part of the twenty-first century in matters related to apologetics. John Oakes is one of these men, and this book is one of his most recent efforts. This book is in a question/answer format and is divided into 16 chapters that are areas of apologetics that have special significance in the twenty-first century. The chapters are given titles like “Reliability of the Biblical Text,” “Supposed Inconsistencies in the Bible,” “Science and the Bible,” “Evolution,” “The Genesis Flood,” “The Relationship Between Christianity and Other Religions,” and so forth.

The way the material is handled is to ask questions in each of the 16 areas listed and then answer them. The wording of the questions is such that those of us who deal with the public will recognize them as the way these questions are usually phrased by skeptics and people with faith problems. Oakes has a Ph.D. in chemical physics from the University of Colorado and is president of the Apologetics Research Society, so his answers are very well handled and very scholarly. In some cases questions are answered by reprinting an article that Oakes has written in the past. “Is Christmas a Christian Holiday?” “Apologetics and the Christian World View,” “Should Intelligent Design Be Prescribed in Public School Curricula?” and “Judah: Another Gospel?” are examples.

This is a great book for building the faith of Christians, and would make a great study for a class of college students because it will generate a lot of discussion. The brevity of the answers is sometimes a problem, and the book really needs an index to find specific issues. However, it is a great tool in answering the questions of others as well as your own questions. We recommend it highly.

DANDY DESIGNS

CAT TONGUES: ELEGANCE IN DRINKING



Sometimes something that we see every day is taken for granted as normal, when in fact it is incredible. We have all seen cats drink water, but how many of us realize that the method cats use is so fast we do not actually see it. Cat tongues move at a meter per second so when we watch their tongue move, all we see is a blur.

The acts of drinking may seem common place for us humans, because we can create suction which makes drinking much easier for us than for dogs or cats. Dogs thrust their tongues into the water forming a crude cup. They then haul the cup back into their muzzle bringing the captured water with it. It is sort of like throwing buckets of water at a fire—a relatively sloppy, inefficient system.

Cats lap water so fast that only with high speed photography are we able to see what they do. The cat darts its tongue, curving the upper side downward so that the tip lightly touches the surface of the water. The water adheres to the smooth surface of the tongue, and the tongue is then pulled upward at a high speed, drawing a column of water behind it. Just at the moment when gravity overcomes the rise of the water and starts to pull the column down, the cats jaws close over the column of water and the water is swallowed. The cat has an instinctive ability to calculate the point at which gravitational force overcomes inertia and the water starts to fall. The cat laps four times a second, so all we see is a blur.

Scientists at MIT, Princeton, and Virginia Polytechnic Institute have studied big and small cats and find this ability to be present in all forms of feline life. It is another reminder of God's provision for all living things, something many of us need to stop and consider as we look at God's design for our own lives. Source: *The New York Times*, November 12, 2010, page A10.

FOXES AND MAGNETIC RANGE FINDERS

Most of us have either seen foxes hunting for mice, or have seen movies of their behavior. It has always been a mystery to me how the fox can be in high grass or in a snow-covered landscape and repeatedly and consistently catch its prey. The fox will jump in the air and come down on a place where there does not seem to be anything, and pull a mouse out of the snow or the high grass. How do they know where to land when they leap into the air several feet away with no visual clues as to where the mouse might be?

Recent studies in Europe and the United States have shown that there is a magnetic tool used by the foxes to locate their prey. These studies show that 75% of all successful attacks in high cover or under snow occur in a northerly direction, well within the inclination of the earth's magnetic field at that location. The studies were done under all kinds of weather conditions, at different times of the day, and in different geographic locations.

The fox will tilt its head sideways so that its ears are at different elevations above the ground. The sound from a mouse will arrive at the ears at different times giving a distance to the mouse. (Owls are known to use this same methodology.) The fox then moves toward the unseen prey along the compass bearing for that location until the sound relationship coincides with the inclination of the magnetic field. That will always be the same distance for that location, and the fox simply jumps to the same point every time it hunts. One researcher put it this way, "Think of a laser pointer attached to you that always points slightly downwards in the same direction." If a reflector on the ground will reflect the laser beam, and you want to find that reflector just walk towards it until you hit it, and you know that is the spot. Recent studies have shown many animals using magnetic fields for all kinds of purposes, but this seems to be unique.

Foxes have an onboard "targeting system" to measure distance to prey. Without such a design not only would the foxes go hungry in winter and high grass conditions, but rodents would become so numerous they would wipe out the food supplies of all land life.



Designing equipment that maintains a balance is vital to the survival of life on earth, and we are just beginning to understand how complex some of these systems are. We can know there is a God through the things He has made (Romans 1:20). Reference: *Wisconsin Outdoor News*, May 20, 2011, page 21.

News and Notes

ANNOUNCING OUR 2012 CANYONLANDS TRIP!

Last year we canceled our Canyonlands trip, and we received a significant amount of mail from readers who were unhappy about that cancellation and indicated that they wanted to go but had not made a commitment to do so. Our problem is that we have an investment in the cost of the trip and we even lose some personal money in doing the trip. We have no resources to underwrite the costs for others. To try to eliminate that problem in 2012, we are going to ask anyone who would be interested in participating in the Canyonlands trip to pre-register. You do not have to pay anything now, but if you are reasonably sure you want to go, we would like to know that so we have some indication of whether there is enough interest.



The Canyonlands field trip, July 23–27, 2012, is for Christians and involves lectures on the bus and field examination of the Grand Canyon, Bryce Canyon, Zion Canyon, Petrified Forest, Meteor Crater, Lake Powell, Sunset Crater, and the Painted Desert. We travel by air-conditioned, chartered bus and stay in good motels. The cost this year will be \$889 per person for two in a room. This covers all bus costs, entry fees, motel bills, breakfasts, and materials. No money is paid to your host or guides. Transportation to Flagstaff, noon and evening meals, gratuities, souvenirs, and housing for Sunday and Friday nights are not included.

If you want to go on this trip, please e-mail us ASAP at jncdgc@aol.com or mail us a note. Whether we do the trip this year will depend on the interest that is expressed.

If you want to go on this trip, please e-mail us ASAP at jncdgc@aol.com or mail us a note. Whether we do the trip this year will depend on the interest that is expressed.



FASTER THAN LIGHT FLAP. In September the newspapers were full of material from an experiment in Italy in which neutrinos were measured to have traveled from Switzerland to Italy, a distance of some 456 miles, at a speed slightly faster than the speed of light. Since one of Einstein's prime principles is that the speed of light is an absolute limit, there was great media play on the idea that Einstein was wrong. In fact, such a discovery would be revolutionary! But it now appears that uncertainty in the measurements, not a failure of Einstein's work, is the cause. The primary problem is that neutrinos should release energy in such a journey and no released energy has been detected. There will be more on this later, but do not throw out all your physics books yet. Source: *Science News*, November 5, 2011, page 10.

PLESIOSAUR HAD LIVE BIRTH. One of the interesting questions about ancient reptiles is whether they were like our modern reptiles or something altogether different. A discovery in Kansas of a plesiosaur with a large, fully-formed baby inside has provided more confusing data. Apparently this sea reptile did not lay eggs, but gave live birth in a way that resembles a whale. This is one more evidence that these animals were living in a different kind of world than the one we live in and were not a part of the description of man and his world given in the Genesis account. Source: *El Paso Times*, August 12, 2011.

TEXAS BOARD OF EDUCATION REJECTS INTELLIGENT DESIGN SUPPLEMENTS. In July 2011 the Texas state board in charge of curriculum rejected an attempt to have anti-evolution supplements added to high school biology textbooks. A spokesman for evolutionists said that the supplements were "laced with creationist arguments ... remarkably shoddy, teeming with misspellings, typographical errors and mistaken claims of fact." We have requested but have not been given a copy of the supplements. It is important to understand the nature of such material. Pressure from denominational creationism which includes church positions on science will never be accepted into the schools. When things like this come up I am always reminded of the Arkansas case which was one of the first to go to the courts. In that case the textbook being pushed by people opposed to evolution had a section in which UFOs were presented as angels of Satan coming to begin the Battle of Armageddon before the rapture. This was a view that many who were promoting the teaching of creation in the schools could not accept and did not want taught. It is important for all of us to be careful that religious views of all kinds, including atheism, are not promoted in public education. Source: *Scientific American*, October 2011, page 92.

VIRUS SOURCES AND UNCLEAN ANIMALS. As more and more data becomes available on the origins of the viruses affecting mankind, it is becoming increasingly obvious that most of the major virus infections of man have come about because of careless handling of animals. It is clear that HIV has been contracted by sexual and butchering practices with monkeys. The SARS virus has come to humans from civets, which are small cat-like mammals. The H1N1 virus emerged in pigs in Mexico and is a mix of other viruses. It is interesting that these animals were considered unclean in the time of Moses and would not have had enough contact with the humans who followed God's law to cause a pandemic. Source: *Time*, November 7, 2011, page 35.

BELIEVING IN GHOSTS. One of the areas we have gotten involved in studying recently has been claims of the paranormal. Ghosts are a part of that, and we have tried to point out that there is no evidence scientifically or biblically that ghosts are real. There are always relatively simple scientific or cultural explanations for claims of ghosts. In *Reader's Digest* (October 2011, page 94) there is a survey of belief in ghosts by country. The leading country for belief in ghosts is Malaysia where 57% of the people say they believe in ghosts. Number two is the United States and number 3 is Canada — with 47% of Americans and 43% of Canadians saying they believe in ghosts. We have frequently quoted the adage that “when you don't believe in something you'll believe anything,” and as people reject God the substitute is frequently ghosts or aliens.

NCSE AND ASA IN CONFLICT. Two of the organizations most involved in education in America have had some interesting dialogue over a man involved in both. National Center for Science Education (NCSE) is opposed to creationism and any attempt to limit the teaching of Darwinism in American schools. American Scientific Affiliation (ASA) is an educational group of scientists who hold advanced degrees in science but are believers in God and in Christianity (in the broadest sense). The ASA recently ran an article about Dr. Peter Hess who works for the NCSE and is a member of the ASA. Hess is a practicing Catholic but feels that evolution is not a threat to Christianity, only to certain hermeneutics — or interpretations. As a result of the conflict, Hess has received a formal denunciation of heresy lodged with the Bishop of the diocese of Yakima, Washington, while atheists have bombarded the NCSE with demands that Hess be fired. There is a detailed treatment of this conflict titled “God and Nature — Clearing the Middle Path” on the ASA website at asa3.asa3online.org/zine/?p=737.



IS OUR WORLD MORE VIOLENT? On July 22, 2011, Anders Behring Breivik managed to kill 77 people in Norway. Because the media now reports things from anywhere in the world, we frequently get the idea that our world is more violent than it has ever been. A long study by Steven Pinker has been released which shows this is not the case. In fourteenth century England violent deaths were at a rate of 110 per 100,000 people and today in the same area the rate is one death per 100,000. Violent deaths of all kinds have declined from 500 per 100,000 in pre-state societies to 50 per 100,000 in the Middle Ages to 8 per 100,000 today. Pinker has an 832-page study entitled *The Better Angels of our Nature: Why Violence Has Declined* published in 2011 by Viking Press. There is a reference with some of the data in the October 2011 issue of *Scientific American*, page 90.

ABUSE OF WOMEN CONTINUES IN CHINA. In the October 2011 issue of *Christianity Today* there is an article by Chai Ling who escaped from China 22 years ago and has been working to expose the abuse of women in that country. The data she reports is astounding: 500 Chinese women commit suicide every day, child brides number in the hundreds of thousands, 35,000 baby girls are aborted every day. We hear so much in the media about cooperation between the United States and China on trade and manufacturing issues, but the human rights issues connected with the one-child policy are not addressed and will not be addressed by the mainstream media.

GLOBAL WARMING REPEAT. The October 2011 issue of *National Geographic* has an article by Robert Kunzig titled “World Without Ice.” It tells about a natural historic event (56 million years ago) that sent global temperatures soaring, apparently caused by a massive release of carbon. In our day of finger-pointing and alarmist claims about global warming and man’s role in causing it, this article should be considered.

ATHEIST NAME-STEALING BACKFIRES. One technique that atheists have used over the years is to quote major political figures of the past to make it appear they were atheists or shared atheist views. In Costa Mesa, Calif., a billboard was erected which said “I do not find in Christianity one redeeming feature. It is founded on fables and mythology. — Thomas Jefferson.” It now seems to be apparent that Jefferson never said this, and that it is another case where a famous name is tied to a belief he did not have. Jefferson opposed organized religion, but he did not embrace atheism. The atheist group responsible has admitted not doing enough research, but has used the media attention to emphasize their goal which is to “expose the myth

that this is a Christian nation.” Source: huffingtonpost.com, October 27, 2011. (See the next note relating to Jefferson.)

THOMAS JEFFERSON’S BIBLE. The Smithsonian in Washington, D.C., is displaying the Bible of Thomas Jefferson until May 28, 2012, in the Albert H. Small Documents Gallery. Jefferson called his Bible *The Life and Morals of Jesus of Nazareth*. What Jefferson did at the age of 77 was to cut verses from the four gospels and paste them into blank pages which were then bound to make a book. The Smithsonian will also air a TV show in February titled “Jefferson’s Secret Bible.” There is more information available at americanhistory.si.edu/jeffersonbible. Atheists like to claim Jefferson as one of their own, but while Jefferson had some complex views on religion, you cannot read what he did and conclude he was an atheist.



LESBIAN COUPLE DELAYS SEXUAL IDENTITY OF CHILD. A lesbian couple in California has been giving their 11-year-old son hormone blocking therapy. They plan to continue until he is 14 or 15 when they will let him choose whether to be a girl named Tammy or a boy named Tommy. Gender Spectrum is a California-based company that is defending the process. It would seem that such action would lend credence to those who do not want homosexuals to adopt or use artificial insemination to produce children. Dr. Paul McHugh at Johns Hopkins University says “This is child abuse. It’s like performing liposuction on an anorexic child.” The physical damage of the drugs, and the psychiatric problems in the case are unknown, but most experts believe they will be extensive. Source: [FoxNews.com](http://www.foxnews.com/us/2011/10/17/controversial-therapy-for-young-transgender-patients-raises-questions/), October 17, 2011 (<http://www.foxnews.com/us/2011/10/17/controversial-therapy-for-young-transgender-patients-raises-questions/>).



SESAME STREET REJECTS GAY MARRIAGE. The attempts of special interest groups to push their agenda has involved Sesame Street. Sesame Workshop, the creators of Sesame Street, revealed that they are rejecting a “campaign” demanding that Bert and Ernie have a same-sex marriage ceremony. The program released a statement that “They remain puppets and do not have a sexual orientation.” It is one thing to teach children tolerance, but when they have no capacity to understand the motives behind something like gay marriage the point of doing something like this has to be totally political. Source: [nypost.com](http://www.nypost.com), August 12, 2011 (http://www.nypost.com/p/news/local/bert_and_ernie_gay_it_ain_so_O1hjk3sEtOqazSLbu1RMN).

SCIENTOLOGY AND CREATION. In the November 2011 issue of *Scientific American* (page 94), Michael Shermer has an article on Scientology. Shermer classifies the Scientology story of the origin of souls and unhappiness as a “creation myth.” Scientology teaches that 75 million years ago Xenu, the ruler of a Galactic Confederation transported billions of souls to earth where they were placed near volcanos and killed by hydrogen bombs. They then inhabited the bodies of future earthlings causing spiritual harm and unhappiness that can only be cured by the use of a special technique using an “E-Meter” (Electropsychometer) in a process called “auditing.” The late science-fiction writer L. Ron Hubbard is claimed to be the author of much of this, but it continues to have growing influence in America. May we point out that this is a paranormal explanation and not a creation story. The origin of time, space, matter/energy, etc., is not what is being described, but rather an explanation of the problems of human beings. Bizarre as the explanation is, there have been many famous names who have embraced it.

KIDS SHARE—CHIMPS HOARD. A recent study of what happens when a surplus of food is gathered has shown a surprising difference between adult chimpanzees and human children. Humans divide the spoils of a food gathering while chimps hoard the food. The study is reported in the August 27, 2011 issue of *Science News* on page 10 and is in the online August 18, 2011, issue of *Nature* (<http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v476/n7360/full/nature10278.html>). Explaining human nature in evolutionary terms is always extraordinarily difficult and we would suggest it is because man’s spiritual nature is involved in things like sharing and caring for one another.



Top: Hemera. Bottom: © Line on White. Image from BigStockPhoto.com.

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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