

DOES GOD EXIST?

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

January/February 2014

Volume 41 Number 1

PLURALISM

PLURALISM

**PLURALISM
IN ASTRONOMY**

*An irregular galaxy known as
the Small Magellanic Cloud*

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

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

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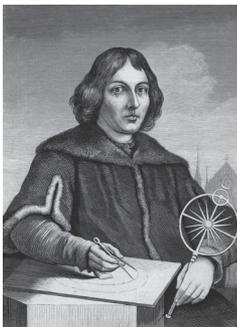
Does God Exist?, PO Box 2704, South Bend, IN 46680-2704
Phone: 574-514-1400 or by e-mail: marcusen@michiana.org

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PLURALISM IN ASTRONOMY



ARISTOTLE taught the people of his day that the earth was fixed in place at the center of the universe. This view had religious appeal because it put humans at the center of everything and, therefore, indicated they are superior to all other things. For many years people believed that Genesis 1 supported this view. Humans were special and had dominion over everything else. Stars were fixed points of light, which gave directions and filled the night sky. The ancients knew that there were wandering stars. Unlike the fixed points of light, these “stars” moved in an arc across the sky. They were called “planets,” which meant “wandering stars.” In order to maintain the Aristotelian view, early astronomers invented “epicycles”—curves along which the wandering stars moved.



COPERNICUS proposed that the observations of astronomy would fit a model in which the earth circled the sun and rotated about its own axis. This was a huge change because now the earth was *A* world rather than *THE* world. The planets, or “wandering stars,” now had something in common with earth—we all circle the sun. Many saw all of this as a “Principle of Mediocrity” indicating that there is nothing special about our planet. By extension that meant there was nothing special about earth’s inhabitants.

If there is nothing special about earth, then it seemed logical to assume the wandering stars—Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, and Saturn—would be similar to earth in other ways, including intelligent life. The eighteenth-century French astronomer, Jerome Lalande wrote, “[T]here is every possible resemblance between the planets and the earth: Is it, then, rational to suppose the existence of living and thinking beings is confined to the earth?”

By 1800 most intellectuals believed in pluralism—that possibly every planet had intelligent beings living on it and that every star had planets, all of which housed intelligent life. There were even serious scientists—including William Herschel (who discovered Uranus), Carl Friedrich Gauss, David Brewster, and Norman Lockyer—who proposed that “solarians” lived on the sun. In 1895 the Italian astronomer Giovanni Schiaparelli proposed intelligently-made features on Mars. This led to Percival Lowell’s photographs of “canals” on Mars. *The*

Wall Street Journal in 1907 wrote, “The most extraordinary development [of 1907] has been the proof afforded by astronomical observations of the year that conscious, intelligent life exists upon the planet Mars. . . . There could be no more wonderful achievement than this, to establish the fact of life upon another planet.”



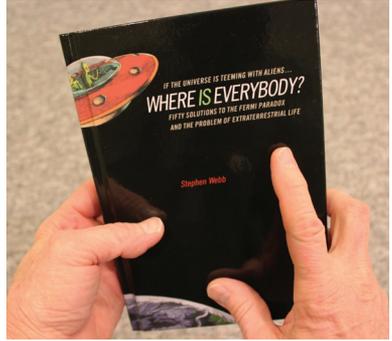
Atheists seized on this to attack the Bible and Christianity. Thomas Paine had written in his 1794 book *Age of Reason*, “[T]o believe that God created a plurality of worlds, at least as numerous as what we called stars, renders the Christian system of faith at once little and ridiculous, . . . From whence then could arise the solitary and strange conceit, that the Almighty, who had millions of worlds equally dependent on his protection, should quit the care of all the rest and come to die in our world because, they say, one man and one woman had eaten an apple!” Paine wrote that it was ridiculous to assume Jesus traveled from world to world in an “endless succession of death.”

The first nineteenth century scientist to oppose this pluralism was William Whewell of the University of Cambridge, who, interestingly, invented the word “scientist.” In an 1853 essay he pointed out that there was no sound evidence to support extraterrestrial intelligence. Alfred Russel Wallace, who was a co-discoverer of the theory of evolution, supported Whewell’s views and gave evidence to support it. In our time we have had attempts to resurrect this pluralism concept. Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence (SETI) assumes an updated form of pluralism. Popular movies like *Star Trek*, *Star Wars*, *Avatar*, and others have built on this theme.

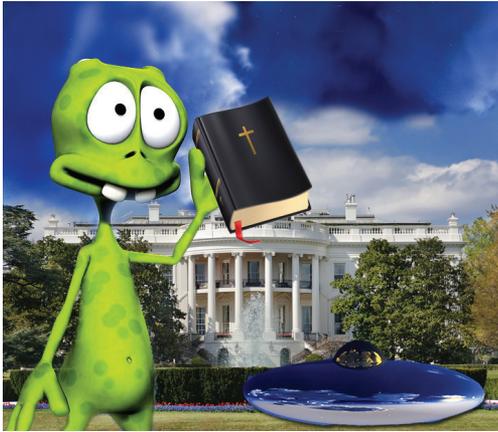
In the past fifty years, science has discovered that there is astounding diversity in our solar system. Some planets, like Jupiter, do not even have a surface but are made mostly of gas and limited amounts of liquid. For that reason we call them Jovian planets. Some planets are rocky like earth but have such a small mass they cannot hold a significant atmosphere. Earth has a large moon to stabilize its axis of rotation and influence our tides and plate tectonics, which are vital to the existence of life. The importance of shielding to protect the surface of a planet from bombardment by space debris, such as asteroids and comets, has become more obvious with new scientific observations. For example, we have seen Jupiter intercepting these objects before they could come close to earth. We have also seen how destructive such a collision can be with our studies of the asteroid that apparently did strike earth during the Cretaceous geologic period. That impact caused massive extinction of life—including the dinosaurs.

Leading scientists are now challenging the concept of astronomical pluralism. An example is British physicist Stephen Webb’s book

If the Universe Is Teeming with Aliens ... WHERE IS EVERYBODY? (Copernicus Publishing, 2002). Caltech professor of planetary astronomy, Mike Brown, who discovered Eris, the dwarf planet beyond Pluto, in an interview on NPR's "All Things Considered" (April 1, 2010) discussed "The Fruitless Search for Solar Systems Like Ours." Astrophysicist Howard Smith wrote an article in *Scientific American* in 2011 titled "Alone in the Universe."



The purpose of this article is not to say that there is no life in space. The Bible does not address this question, but it does make it clear that Jesus Christ is "the way, the truth, and the life" and no one comes to God except through him. I am reminded of a radio discussion and debate I had some 40 years ago on a program titled "Encounter." The program was hosted by a rising star in the radio industry named Larry King. A caller asked the atheist representative on the show with me what he would do if a spaceship landed on the White House lawn and a little green man jumped out with a Bible in his hand and asked, "Has Jesus been here yet?"



That question was rooted in the same misconception that Thomas Paine had about the nature of God, but I used it then and use it now to make a point. The message of Christ in Matthew 5–7 is a message of love, caring, peace, giving, compassion, sharing, supporting, and consistent concern for the well-being of others. If there are other sentient beings out there somewhere, they need

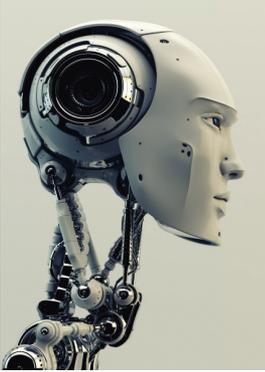
to hear that message. Naturalism and moralities based on "survival of the fittest" do not work. If Christianity is tried, it does work.

My atheist colleague on the show gave a short and intelligent answer. He said, "Punt." Indeed we need to see the earth as special, needing to be cared for, and its people desperately needing what Jesus Christ has to offer.

—John N. Clayton

Some information for this article is from "Life as We Know It," by Michael J. Crowe, published in the *Notre Dame Magazine*, Autumn 2012, page 37.

ARE WE GENETIC ROBOTS?



“As Darwin recognized, we humans are the first and only species able to escape the brutal force that created us: natural selection. . . . We alone on earth have evolved to the point where we can . . . overthrow the tyranny of natural selection” (Richard Dawkins’ TV series *The Fifth Ape*, Episode 2, “The Genius of Charles Darwin,” August 2008).

The past 25 years have seen incredible progress in our understanding of genetics. As the human genome has been compared to that of other living things, it has become apparent that what distinguishes us is not our genetic makeup. Our genome is over 90% the same as many other forms of life, but it is clear that our culture is not 90% the same as any other form of life on this planet. It is also true that our culture has evolved. The way we live is completely different from the way humans lived 500 years ago, and how they lived then was radically different from how people lived 5,000 years ago. This is not true of other forms of life. Chimpanzees today live exactly as chimpanzees lived 10,000 years ago.

Atheists would maintain that this cultural evolution is totally due to the evolution of the brain. The idea is that the brain evolved, and when it reached a certain point, the brain took over. The problem with this proposal is that we do not see evidence of genetic evolution in humans, even though changes in phenotype (that is the outward appearance) are apparent. We also do not see humans as having a prerogative on brain characteristics. Our brain is not the largest in the animal kingdom, nor does it have sections that do not exist in other forms of life.

It is important to examine the unique characteristics of humans. Animals can think, solve problems, reason, communicate, have emotions, and have social structures. We have a tendency to anthropomorphize animals, in other words to ascribe human emotions to animal behaviors. When a dog cowers it is not an act of repentance and sorrow; it is an act of submission. Walt Disney may have done us a disservice when he gave us deer and rabbits weeping or jumping for joy. This anthropomorphism is pitched to us daily in such things as the GEICO lizard and the polar bears and their bottle of Coca Cola. The things that are unique to humans include our capacity to worship, to create in abstractions, to be able to be taught to think, to learn, to organize, to teach, to express ourselves in musical and

artistic creation, and to create and build unique, complex structures. All of these abilities go beyond what is in our genes. These abilities have had an effect on our biology as well as our culture. We live twice as long as we used to. We have new diseases and have escaped some old ones. We have modified our way of living from agricultural to urban. We have also escaped dependence on natural selection, as Dawkins claims.

When the Bible states that we are created in the image of God (Genesis 1:26–28), the words in Hebrew are chosen to give a special



meaning which is completely different from the description of the physical creation of humans in chapter 2. In Genesis 2:7 we are told that man was formed of the dust of the ground. The verb used here is *yatshir*, indicating something like what a potter would do using natural, physical materials to form the final product. The formation of humans is by the genome, or the pattern, the “potter” is following. In Genesis 1:27 the verb used is *bara*, indicating a process only God can do and in an image of God himself—a spiritual image (John 4:24). This is further

emphasized in what God tells mankind this unique creation will allow, “... fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living creature that moves upon the earth” (Genesis 1:28). In Genesis 2:15 God tells the man to dress and keep “the garden.” The final awakening of humans comes with the ability to choose good or evil—obedience or disobedience. Up until that time, humans could make physical choices, but their moral sense was not awakened.

Animal behavior is genotypically driven and does not change. The mating dances of birds are the same as they were 1,000 years ago. The chemical signaling of ants is as it was when life first appeared on earth. Bees signal, wolves howl, penguins nest on ice, salmon migrate, sharks hunt, and bats catch bugs as they did thousands of years ago. We may disrupt some of these behaviors, but, when the disruption is removed, the behavior returns.

Our social problems are not genetically driven. War is not inevitable. Alcohol use is a choice, not a robotically driven disease from which we cannot escape. Abuse, sexual behavior, food habits, smoking, drug use, and education or lack of it are all things we have the capacity to control. We are not genetically programmed to destructive behaviors. If we understand and believe that, we can change ourselves and the world around us for the better.

—JNC

SCIENCE AND FAITH: ENEMIES OR FRIENDS?

BY Godwin Oriyomi Adeboye

Editor's Note: The **Does God Exist?** ministry gives \$1000 scholarships every year for post-secondary education. To win the scholarship, participants must enter a 5,000 word (or less) essay on an announced topic. In 2013 the topic was "Science is a Friend of Faith — Not an Enemy." Our winning essay for 2013 was submitted by Godwin Oriyomi Adeboye of Igbaja, Kwara State, Nigeria. We have made several changes to the grammar and cultured structure of this essay.

INTRODUCTION

In the twentieth century there was a widespread conviction that a trend toward secularization inevitably goes hand in hand with the development of a modern industrialized society. Accordingly, there



was much talk about the impossibility of a modern, scientific mind believing in God. Rudolf Bultmann and other radical theologians went so far as to claim that "it is not possible to use electric lights and modern gadgets and at the same time believe in the biblical faith and miracles."¹ Other scholars also concluded that science and faith are in conflict. The basic challenge is whether science undermines religious faith, or whether there are particular tenets of religion that are at odds with some tenets of science. My point in this paper is that science and faith are not enemies but friends.

Evolutionary biologists like Richard Dawkins opined that religious and scientific claims are not reconcilable. However, the much-hyped conflict between faith and science is really a conflict between men of science and men of religion rather than science and religion themselves. Faith tries to answer the question of why nature exists and who is behind it, while science tells us how nature goes. Science and faith do not, therefore, seem to be essential rivals. In view of this argument, we will be doing a critical assessment of some scientific theories with a keen interest in reconciling them with some religious facts.

EVOLUTION AND BIBLICAL CREATION

How should we discuss the seeming contradictions between the scientific theory of evolution and the biblical concept of special creation? First, how shall we deal with the apparent conflict between what the Bible says about the origin and development of the universe and what the scientific theory of evolution seems to tell us about the same subject?

Some people have taken evolution to what could be called “evolutionism.” They have made evolution to be what philosopher Alvin Plantinga called the “crucial myth of our secular culture.”² The theory of evolution plays a fascinating and crucial role in contemporary western culture. Evolution has become the regular subject of courtroom drama and public debate. In academia, it is an idol of the contemporary time. It serves as a litmus test distinguishing the ignorant and bigoted fundamentalist from the properly cultured and scientifically informed individual. Oxford biologist and well-known atheist Richard Dawkins wrote, “If superior creatures from space ever visit our universe, the first question they will ask, in order to assess the level of our civilization, is ‘have they discovered evolution yet?’”³ This assertion shows the importance of the evolution-creation debate.

The Bible teaches that God created the heavens and the earth and all forms of life on it by his sovereign power and will. The Hebrew word *bara* is translated “create” in English. The word *bara* is used in the Bible for a special act of creating out of nothing—which can occur only through the instrumentality of God. From the historical evaluation of biblical facts, some Bible students believe that the earth is only 6,000 years old.

On the other hand, evolutionists say that life arose via a process that started from simple to complex forms. They believe that life originated from a unicellular organism such as bacteria to more complex life and eventually to mammals and man. This denotes that all life descended from organisms that lived in the past. Scientists call this the Common Ancestry Theory (CAT), indicating we are “literally cousins of all living things.”⁴ The main issue in the evolution-creation debate is the evolutionary claim of natural selection and its dependency on genetic mutation as the sole mechanism through which all living organisms evolve.

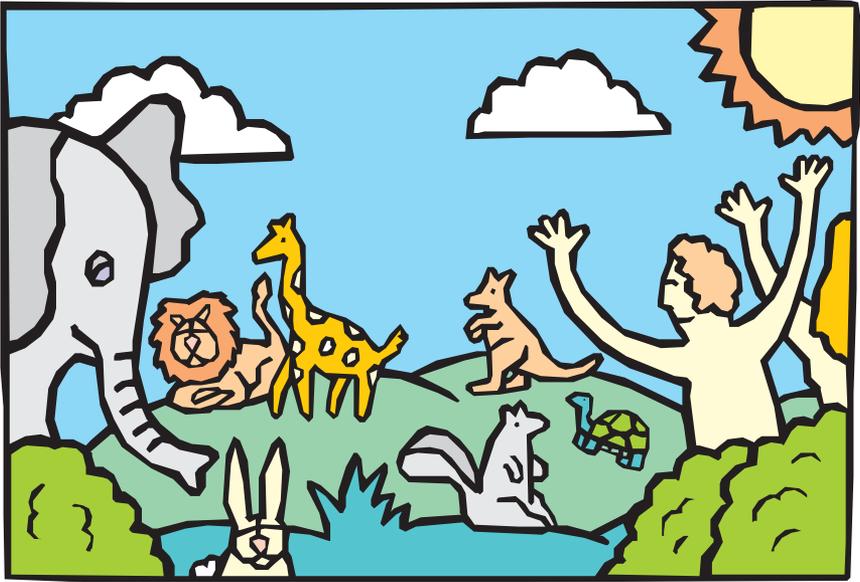


The principle of natural selection is vital to evolution. Atheistic evolutionists not only take evolution as a proven fact, but also take the theory to undermine the possibility of any external monitoring agent on the evolutionary process. A cursory look at the issues in evolution will make it clear that evolution itself does not exclude a concept of an external monitoring agent (God).

From the viewpoints of evolution and creation, one can notice some apparent conflict between assertions of the Bible and that of science, but are they really in conflict? The first seeming conflict is the age of the earth. While evolutionists propose billions of years, some creationists suggest 6,000 years—even though the Bible does not literally mention the age of the earth. The assumption that the earth is 6,000 years is based on a genealogical study of scriptural records connected with some biblical history. The first two verses (Genesis 1:1–2), which are critical to this discussion, need clarification to solve this apparent contradiction between science and faith. What does the Bible really say from unbiased, exegetical engagement of the texts?

From Genesis 1:2 Victor Hamilton mentions the three words that are very important to ascertain the age of the earth from the biblical perspective. These are *tohu*, *bohu*, and *hayah*.⁵ The Hebrew word *hayah* means “to become” or “was” when used in relation to the two other words (*tohu* and *bohu*), which mean “chaos” or “without form” in English. It can be translated “it became or was formless or chaotic” In regard to the word “earth” (Hebrew *erets*) as the subject in Genesis 1:2, the text can be rendered, “Earth became or was formless and empty” as the appropriate interpretation of the text. This fact suggests that there are two stages of creation: the original creation of the universe in Genesis 1:1 and then the process of bringing order out of the disordered chaos in verse 2.⁶ The first creation in Genesis 1:1 can be up to 15 billion years old as the scientific claim purports. This perspective, and the fact that the age of the earth is not mentioned literally in the Bible, solves the apparent science-faith conflict about the age of the earth.

There is another useful concept that is worthy to note in determining the age of the earth and examining the contradictions between the Bible’s special creation and the scientific claim of continuous evolution. It is the biblical usage of the Hebrew word *yom*, which means “day” in English. (This word appears more than 2,000 times in the Old Testament.) This word is used in a variety of ways in the Bible: (1) It can be used in regard to daylight in the diurnal cycle; (2) It can mean a normal 24-hour period day; (3) It can mean an indefinite period of time as in Psalm 90:10. The best methodology in hermeneutics and exegesis is using the Bible to interpret the Bible. This methodology is useful to examine the word *yom* in Genesis and usage of its Greek equivalent (*hemera*) in 2 Peter 3:8, “... one day is with the Lord as



a thousand years.” In the Epistle of Peter, the word “day” is used in reference to a long period of time. So the word *yom* as used by Moses in the Genesis account of creation may not have been a 24-hour day. The longevity of “day” in Genesis time may not be equal to the duration of a day in our time. Similarly naming of all the animals by Adam in just a day is enough to understand that the Genesis day is beyond a 24-hour day. The day as used in Genesis could be a long period of time corresponding to the major periods of evolutionary geological history. The implication of this fact is that the period between the time of the beginning and end of God’s creation need not be just six 24-hour days. The Genesis account of creation does not necessarily denote the concept of an instantaneous creation, but one that happened in stages, possibly over eons—which is the same as what the evolutionists claim. It would be a red-herring to claim that the interpretation of the word *yom* in Genesis as a 24-hour day is the most spiritual and most conservative interpretation. Interpreting it as indefinite periods of time is hermeneutically appropriate. Even the Talmudic tradition, which contains commentaries on virtually every passage in the Old Testament, is not in support of 24-hour periods for the days in the creation story.

However, a clarification is needed at this junction. We have to strip evolution of the naturalistic coat that has been given to it by the atheistic evolutionists. By doing this, we will be able to see whether evolution’s claims really contradict the concept of creation as we have it in the Bible. We will give attention to this clarification next.

EVOLUTION, EVOLUTIONISTS, AND EVOLUTIONISM

It is easy to see that what we could call “evolutionism” is not as much science as it is a philosophy of science. Evolutionism is philosophically constructed upon the foundation of naturalism. The naturalistic evolutionists “reflect their metaphysical presupposition, which is an image of their atheistic conceptions.”⁷ Simply put, evolutionism is what the evolutionists have made evolution to become as a result of their presuppositions.

One such presupposition is that God has nothing left to do in the world, and all beliefs in him are therefore unnecessary. Because of their preconceived prejudice about the existence of God, they have replaced what might be the intervention of God in the evolutionary process with their atheistic-colored natural selection. The evolutionists are not religiously neutral—rather they are religiously biased. As stated by Alvin Plantinga, there are two presuppositions that underlie the views of evolutionists. On the one hand, there is perennial naturalism—a view according to which there is no God. Secondly, there is what can be termed “enlightenment humanism.” If we can remove these notions that have been imposed on evolution by atheistic evolutionists or ill-informed scientists, then the remaining evolutionary fact is never an enemy to the biblical concept of creation. The clash is not between evolution and biblical creation, but it concerns the nature of scientific philosophy employed by some scientists. As long as atheistic scientists and philosophers assume that matter is eternal and thus needs no creator, they can easily leave God out of the picture—even when evolution is pointing to divine intervention in its process.

So the evolutionists presuppose that natural selection is the only mode through which evolutionary trends are guided. One of the major theories postulated by Dr. Johnson Philip of the Graduate School of Apologetics and Theology in India is that one’s presuppositions cannot be separated from the theological conclusions that he/she makes.⁸ Some neo-Darwinists have pressed too far on their doctrine of natural selection because of their preconceived, prejudiced presuppositions.

The evolutionists use the concept of natural selection to conclude that God does not exist. However, Professor Coudre of the University of Chicago said, “The most fundamental objection to the theory of natural selection is that it does not deal with the question of the origin of life, but how life developed.”⁹ This is very important. The concept of natural selection hangs on the theory of transmutation, which itself has some theoretical challenges. However, natural selection can only act on mutations in living things. It cannot explain where the life came from.

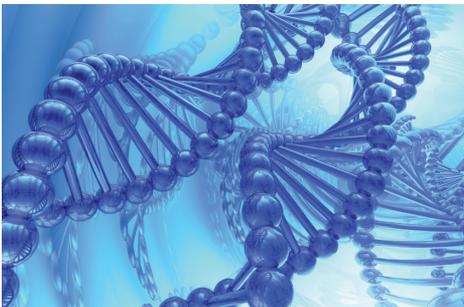
Another expression of the spirit of naturalism and atheism of evolutionists can be seen in their concept of the abiogenesis of life. Abiogenesis is the hypothetical natural process by which life came from simple organic compounds. They argue that the origin of life is abiotic though they cannot tell us clearly the nature of their proposed “prebiotic soup.” According to Pattle Pun:

The improbability that the specific coding information inherent in the genetic materials of the living system could have arisen spontaneously seems to be well recognized. The specificity of the genetic code and chirality [right- or left-handedness] of biomolecules have elevated the level of complexity in the living system from that of the periodic order of crystals to the informational organization of human language. Therefore, all chemical evolutionary scenarios require prebiotic production of the informational biomolecules. ... these enzymatically active RNAs [ribonucleic acids], so-called ribozymes, have rapidly taken the center stage in the discussion of prebiotic evolution. Ribozymes serve as an attractive model which possesses both the capacity of coded information which is normally associated with nucleic acid and the capacity of informational transfer which is carried out by proteins. ... However, the difficulties faced by the ribozyme hypothesis are not less impressive. The scarcity of the supply of ribonucleotide building blocks in the prebiotic environment, the chirality of the riboses and the specific Y-5' phosphodiester linkage are among these obstacles.¹⁰

These “impressive” difficulties are enough to falsify the concept of abiogenesis. In addition, the stipulation of the abiogenesis of life under conditions different from the present universe has removed the theory from empirical sciences. It can neither be verified nor falsified under the present condition of the earth.

In view of this, the theory of abiogenesis and natural selection as the cardinals of evolution are themselves not totally free from scrutiny. We

might say that natural selection can only be the “editor” rather than the “composer” of genetic messages as demanded by the neo-Darwinian evolutionists. Accordingly, directional natural selection is not the driving force of macro-evolution and abiogenesis. Rather it is the hand of the maker using



his own selected method in bringing the universe to what it is. It can thus be seen that it is not Bible versus science but Bible versus scientist—in this context, evolutionists. Stripping evolution of its clothes given to it by evolutionists will solve a lot of seeming conflict between evolution and the biblical concept of creation. Simply put, the discussion of evolutionists and evolutionism is deeply embedded in philosophical and naturalistic humanism. Atheistic evolutionists are influenced by the dominant cultural and reasoning patterns of the post-enlightenment.

Darwinian evolution, strictly speaking, begins after the first life has developed. This does not necessarily refute the claim that there should be a concept of first cause in the creation of the universe that stands outside of the creation. Robert Pollack, a professor of biological sciences at Columbia University wrote, “If you know someone who says the throne of God is empty [that is, God does not exist], and lives with that, then you know that you should cling to that person as a good friend. But be careful: Almost everyone who says that has already placed something or someone else on that throne, usually himself.”¹¹ This is, in fact, true of atheistic evolutionists.

SCIENTIFIC TERMS AND BIBLICAL TERMS

Another wedge used to draw the camel’s head into the tent by those who propose that faith and science are enemies is that most scientific terms are not found in the Bible. One should not expect the Bible to relate its divine truth in scientific terms because it is not a scientific textbook, but a divine book with a different purpose. Howard Van Till supports this when he writes the following:

We have to respect God’s choice for the historical and cultural contexts in which the biblical texts were written. It was God’s choice to accommodate this mode of expressing himself to the historically and culturally limited conceptual vocabulary of the day. While the Bible articulates the concepts of the created world science articulates its description.¹²

God was purposeful in the vocabulary he used to express himself through the Bible writers. Though they were inspired by God, biblical writers did not have terms like galactic redshift, thermonuclear fusion, plate tectonics, stellar evolution, ionizing radiation, atomic spectra, DNA, genetic drift, entropy, or even water cycle. Though these terms are not literally found in the Bible, many of them can be directly inferred and are inherent in biblical passages. For example, the concept of the water cycle can be seen in Jeremiah 10:13 and 51:16 where the prophet says, When he utters his voice, there is a multitude of waters in the heavens, and he causes the vapors to ascend

from the ends of the earth; he makes lightnings with rain, and brings forth the wind out of his treasures. This one verse clearly outlines four aspects of the hydrologic cycle [water cycle]: evaporation, wind, lightning, and rain. These verses show that though the Bible did not literally mention scientific terms, it discussed scientific phenomena in biblical language. The purpose of writing the Bible was never to develop theories. It was God's attempt to create the possibility of having a good relationship with his creatures.

It would be misguided to expect Scripture to use the kind of statements and terms that would be the same as that of contemporary science. The writers of the Bible conveyed their message to their contemporaries using the language and customs of their time. It is, therefore, unreasonable to expect Moses to describe his creation account in twenty-first century language. If the language of the Bible were to be that of modern science, people in the former age would not have understood it. The purpose of the Mosaic creation account is not to teach scientific terms but to give in a brief manner the account of the beginning of the universe that people of any age can understand.

SCIENTIFIC FACTS FOUND IN THE BIBLE

One of the arresting evidences for a non-conflicting science-faith relationship is the number of scientific facts that have lain hidden within the pages of the Bible. A good example of this relates to the field of astronomy. For thousands of years wise men have busied themselves with counting the stars and constellations. Before the invention of scientific equipment such as the telescope in the seventeenth century, the number of stars was regarded as practically determined. According to the great Ptolemy, the number was around 1,056; Tycho Brahe gave 777; and Kepler counted 1,005.¹³ This assessment has been tremendously increased and the end is not yet reached. It is now known that there are well over 100 billion stars in our own galaxy and many in billions of other galaxies like our own. Recently, many astronomers agreed that it is not humanly possible to count all the stars. The Bible also asserts this in Jeremiah 33:22: "The host of heaven cannot be numbered."

In addition, Isaiah 40:22 corresponds with the scientific concept of earth's sphericity where the prophet says, "It is he who sitteth upon the circle of the earth." The Hebrew word translated "circle" is *khug*, which can be translated circle or sphere or roundness. Similarly, the correlation between science of meteorology and some Bible facts is noteworthy. For example, the water cycle is a fundamental fact of this field of science whereby water is precipitated as rain or snow, drained off by the river system into the ocean, raised by evaporation back into the skies, and carried by the wind back to the land to be again precipitated. As pointed out earlier in Jeremiah, this was clearly stated



in the Bible ages before man discovered it. King Solomon almost 3,000 years ago in Ecclesiastes 1:6–7 affirms that, “The wind goeth toward the south, and turneth about unto the north; it whirlleth about continually, and the wind returneth again according to his

circuits. All the rivers run into the sea; yet the sea is not full; unto the place from whence the rivers come, thither they return again.” Elihu in Job 36:27–29, says “For he maketh small the drops of water: they pour down rain according to the vapour thereof: which the clouds do drop and distil upon man abundantly.” These passages are a most excellent summary of those phases of the hydrologic cycle involving the very marvelous physical process of evaporation, condensation, and precipitations.

The subject of water supply and sewage disposal are of great interest and import to both bacteriologists and civil engineers, as well as to the general public. It was not until a few score years ago that the significance of a clean and sanitary water supply in the prevention of disease was recognized. But Moses in Leviticus 11:29–36 seemed to understand something of modern bacteriology because he forbade the drinking of water from small or stagnant pools or waters that had been contaminated. The word of God was scientifically accurate in this great biological truth penned thousand of years before man discovered and elaborated it.

Henry Morris wrote about another example:

The basic principle of all physical science is that of the law of conservation and deterioration of energy. The law of energy conservation states that in any transformation of energy in a closed system from one sort to another, the total amount of energy remains unchanged. A similar law is the law of mass conservation, which states that although matter may be changed in size, state, form, etc., the total mass cannot be changed. In other words, these laws teach that no creation or destruction of matter or energy is now being accomplished anywhere in the physical universe.¹⁴

These laws are of great and prime importance in all physical sciences. However, the Bible taught this thousand of years ago. These laws are related to the laws of thermodynamics in which the principle

of entropy increase is related. Entropy is a sort of mathematical abstraction that is actually a measure of the non-availability of energy in a system. Because of this law of entropy increase, it is impossible to create a machine that is 100% efficient and perpetual-motion is not possible. This law also indicates the universe had a beginning:

If it is growing old, it must once have been young; if it is wearing out, it must once have been new; if it is running down, it must first have been “wound up.” In short, this law of energy degeneration conveys us back inexorably to an affirmation of the necessary truth of the existence of a Creator.¹⁵

The meticulous care and scrutiny by which peer review is carried out in the scientific process is a great virtue. Science is the search for knowledge and truth. But the Bible also supports this fact, as this can be seen in the biblical usage of the words “faith” and “defense.” The Greek verb *pisteuo* primarily has reference to the act of faith, while the noun form *pistis* depicts more clearly what faith means. *A Greek-English Lexicon* by Liddell and Scott defines the noun as follows: “a means of persuasion, an argument, proof.” *Pettho* in active voice means to be “fully persuaded.” When these words are used in the infinitive form with relation to *oti* (because), then it means “to believe or to be convinced.” A good example of this is John 20:31, “Be convinced that Jesus is the Lord.” In 1 Peter 3:15, Peter calls upon all Christians to “be ready always to give an answer to every man that asks you a reason for the hope that is in you” The Greek word *apologia* (make defense) followed by the dative noun has reference to any kind of answer or justification, whether formal or informal. Another Greek word, *logon*, used by Peter here means “to ask a reason.” By this statement Peter laid his obligation of rational belief upon every child of God. Therefore, the Bible itself gives room for reasoning and defense for one’s faith. The apostle Paul also makes it clear that Christians are to prove or put to test their faith. Many people who tend to view their faith/beliefs as a “sacred cow” that cannot be touched need to shift from this dogmatic slumbering and wake up to embrace reasoning for what they believe. In 1 Thessalonians 5:21 Paul urged the Christian to “prove all things.” Also in Philippians 1:7 the term “confirmation” from the Greek word *bebaiosis* is used to make clear that reasoning is the justification for one’s proposition. So are reasoning and faith enemies or friends? The evidence points to a friendly relationship.

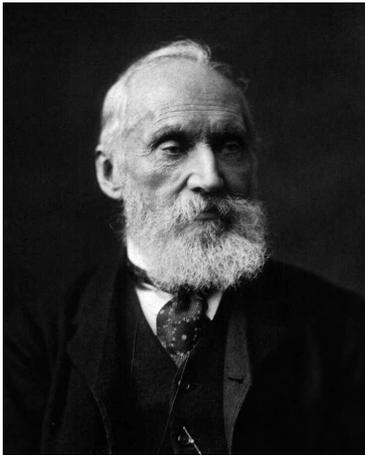
CONCLUSION

True faith, like good science, promotes a more measured rationality, and more thoughtfulness. Faith is never an arrest of thought

but a fertile basis and constant provocation of thought. Ultimately religion and science can interconnect and strengthen one another.

The pioneering astronomer and mathematician Johannes Kepler, who first calculated the elliptical orbits of the planets, perhaps put it best when he wrote: “The chief aim of all investigations of the external world should be to discover the rational order and harmony which has been imposed on it by God and which He revealed to us in the language of mathematics.”¹⁶

It is not the work of science to speculate upon the possibility of a supernatural cause since such metaphysical considerations are out of the realm of scientific inquiries. No scientific theory if well understood,



William Thomson
a.k.a. Lord Kelvin
1824-1907

British Mathematical Physicist
and Engineer
Founder of Thermodynamics

including evolution, can pose any threat to religious beliefs. For those two great tools of human understanding operate in a complementary, not conflicting, relationship. John Clayton quoted the British physicist Lord Kelvin who said, “If you study science deep enough and long enough, it will force you to believe in God.”¹⁷

From these facts one can be right to conclude with Stephen Jay Gould’s concept of “non-overlapping magisteria.”¹⁸ That is, the roles played by science and faith are two distinct roles, but they are complementary not contradictory. It is good to conclude this essay by mentioning Albert Einstein’s famous assertion: “Science without religion is lame, religion without science is blind.” Science and faith need each other and can work together.

Lord Kelvin was featured in our Scientists and God feature in the January/February 2013 issue and you will find Albert Einstein featured in this issue on page 20.

Check out our materials online. Our home page, www.doesgodexist.org, has a searchable archive of our bi-monthly journals back to 1995. We have links to all our sister websites as listed on page 2 of this journal.

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GREAT SCIENTISTS AND GOD

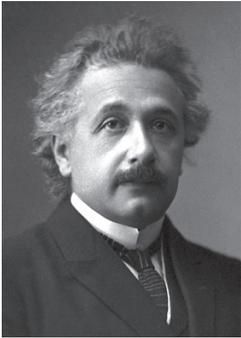
Editor's Note: There are many writers who claimed that good scientists and intelligent, well-educated people do not believe in God. This simply is not true. Tihomir Dimitrov (<http://nobelists.net>) has been researching the statements of the greatest scientists of all time, and we are reproducing some of their statements in this column.

ALBERT EINSTEIN

1897-1955

Theoretical Physicist who developed the
General Theory of Relativity

We have had Einstein's comments several other times in this column. Here are some additional statements.



“The deeper one penetrates into nature’s secrets, the greater becomes one’s respect for God.”

“The most beautiful and profound emotion we can experience is the sensation of the mystical. It is the sower of all true science. He to whom this emotion is a stranger, who can no longer stand rapt in awe, is as good as dead. That deeply emotional conviction of the presence of a superior Reasoning Power, which is revealed in the incomprehensible Universe, forms my idea of God.”

“My religiosity consists in a humble admiration of the infinitely superior Spirit that reveals itself in the little that we, with our weak and transitory understanding, can comprehend of reality.”

“In view of such harmony in the cosmos which I, with my limited human mind, am able to recognize, there are yet people who say there is no God. But what really makes me angry is that they quote me for support of such views.”

“As a child I received instruction both in the Bible and in the Talmud. I am a Jew, but I am enthralled by the luminous figure of the Nazarene.” 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.”

Cynthia's Corner



OUR PLACE IN CREATION

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”
(Genesis 1:1)

God created the earth as a unique habitat to sustain and nourish human beings. Of all the life forms God created on earth, humans were the only ones created “in his image” (Genesis 1:26–27). What does that mean? That our bodies are in his image? Of course not! God is Spirit (John 4:24), and humans are created in his spiritual image. God gave us an eternal soul. What an amazing gift, and a gift he gave to none of his other earthly creations. How do I know that? After God had created all of the other living creatures on earth, he then created man specifically “in his image, in his likeness” (Genesis 1:26). The Bible does not say that about any other creature on earth (Genesis 1:20–26). God then gave mankind specific instructions to “be fruitful and increase, fill the earth and subdue it, and rule over every living creature” (Genesis 1:26, 28 and Psalm 8:6–8). This makes humans very special and unique among all of God’s creations.

God created us in his image as spiritual beings with the capacity to love and the desire to be loved. He gave us the ability to appreciate beauty and art, to create, and to seek knowledge and understanding. We especially seek to know about our existence and our relationship to our Creator. “He set eternity in the hearts of men” (Ecclesiastes 3:11). God did this so we would seek him and find him (Acts 17:24–28). That part of us which is in God’s image, our eternal soul, yearns to know God and to be with God. “My soul pants for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God” (Psalm 42:1, 2).

We have a void within us that can only be filled by God because of our spiritual makeup and because of God’s nature. “God is love” and “love comes from God” (1 John 4:7, 8, 16). “We love because God first loved us” (1 John 4:19). Only God’s love is perfect, and only God’s perfect love can make us complete and whole (1 John 2:5 and 1 Corinthians 13:10, 13). God created humans uniquely to be loved by him and to have a relationship with him—even for eternity. He sent his Son to save the world (John 3:17), and he gave us his inspired word to know him (Proverbs 2:1–6). God promises, “You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart” (Jeremiah 29:13).

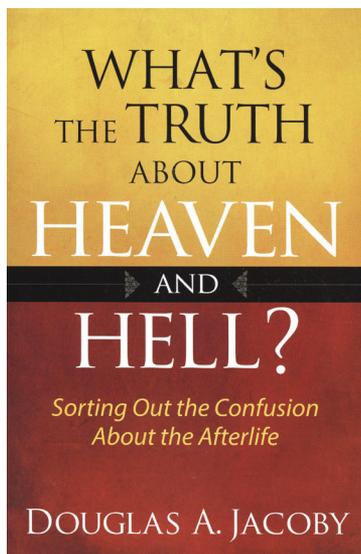
—Cynthia Clayton



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

What's the Truth About Heaven and Hell?

by Douglas A. Jacoby, Harvest House Publishers, © 2013,
239 pages, \$13.99 (paperback), ISBN-13: 978-07369-5172-2



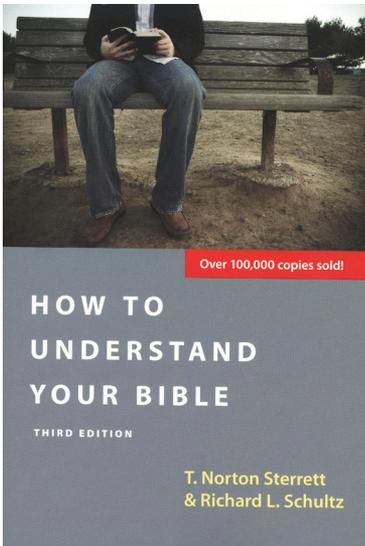
We regard Douglas Jacoby as one of the bright lights in the field of apologetics in the twenty-first century. His educational background includes degrees in history, theological studies, and a doctor of ministry degree in ministry and education. He has attended Duke, Oxford, the University of London, Harvard Divinity School, and Drew University. He speaks regularly around the world on apologetic issues.

This book is an in-depth study of what the Bible teaches and what various religions and theologians have taught about heaven and hell. In this age of postmodernism, it is popular to deny the existence of hell and to make heaven symbolic. This book explores this issue—emphasizing what the Bible actually teaches. It is divided into six chapters with two appendices on the imagery in Isaiah and Alcorn.

Jacoby defends the existence of heaven and hell and explores the challenges often given to oppose their existence. He presents the three basic views of hell— infinite torment, eventual annihilation, and universalism. He shows that annihilation has strong biblical support. He also provides wonderful material on judging and explores related topics such as purgatory, out-of-body experiences, ghosts, and the reality of Hades. This is an excellent, well-written book with very useful summary sections at the end of each chapter. We recommend it very highly.

How to Understand Your Bible

by T. Norton Sterrett and Richard L. Schultz, InterVarsity Press, © 2010, 205 pages, \$16.00 (paperback), ISBN-13: 978-0-83081093-2



Some people believe that simply reading the Bible will allow a person to fully understand and properly interpret God's word. It is true that some of the Bible is relatively simple and easy to understand. However, that is not true of much of the Bible. Differences in language and culture and centuries of history separate us today from the original authors and the original audience.

There are a number of lengthy, detailed books on biblical interpretation, but these books themselves require training in biblical studies just to understand them. *How to Understand Your Bible*, on the other hand, was written for those who lack formal training and

yet desire a deeper and fuller understanding of God's word.

The book is divided into four parts. Part I is titled "Basic Considerations." It introduces the reader to the communication process, various tools for Bible study, and a plan for implementing more detailed study. Part II, "General Principles," outlines several principles of interpretation. These include understanding the literary context, the meaning and use of words and grammar, and determining the author's intended meaning. In Part III, "Special Principles," the authors of the book introduce some of the more challenging aspects of biblical interpretation. These include figures of speech, symbols, types, parables and allegories, Hebrew idioms, and Hebrew poetry. In the final section, Part IV, "Application," the authors outline some basic principles for making application of biblical passages to our current situation. They also give an example of how to implement the method outlined in the book to study a selected passage.

This is a revised third edition of a book that originally came out in the early 1970s. Both Sterrett, the original author, and Schultz, who did the revisions for the third edition, have many years of experience training students in biblical studies. The book is well written and would be useful for anyone wanting to do more serious Bible study.

—Reviewed by Phillip Eichman

DANDY DESIGNS

ANTS AND SURVIVAL RAFTS



How do insects like ants survive massive flooding? It would seem that when an ant colony is covered with 20 feet of water that there would be no survivors, and yet right after a flood ant populations are as numerous as ever. The answer for some species of ants is that when the flood strikes, the ants will build a water repellent raft that can stay afloat for

weeks.

Researchers at Georgia Tech have found that the fire ant species *Solenopsis invicta* use their jaws, legs, and sticky pads to build a raft out of their bodies. As many as 200,000 ants can form rafts as big as two feet across, which are water resistant because of the irregular shape of the raft. The ants hairs trap air, creating buoyancy and forming a two-tiered structure. The ants that are on the bottom and under water are still able to breathe because of the air bubbles trapped among the ants' bodies.

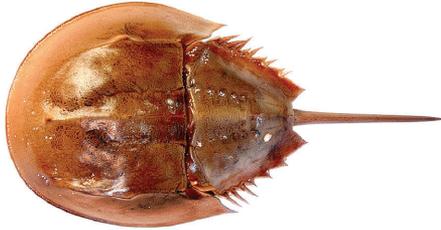
Nathan Mlot, who directed the study at Georgia Tech, says that studying the swarm intelligence that makes the raft seaworthy will give new insights into microrobotics and improved water repellency.

One of the interesting challenges to a system like this is to explain its origin. On an evolutionary scale, one has to postulate that ants accidentally found they could float and avoid drowning by locking on to each other. The origin and design of the ants' hairs, which trap the air bubbles, remain difficult to explain on a chance basis. That is even if one accepts the notion that trying to survive afloat by grabbing on to others explains how the survival skill started. When scientists attempt to explain something like this, they have to make a series of assumptions. Skeptics then repeat the assumptions as if they are facts and say that the theory proposed is how it happened.

We would suggest that God designed ants with the right equipment to build the raft and programmed them to utilize this method of survival when floods came to their area. We have to be reminded of Solomon's observation in Proverbs 6:6–8, "Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise! It has no commander, no overseer or ruler, yet it stores its provisions in summer and gathers its food at harvest." Source: *National Geographic*.

The Lucky (OR DESIGNED) Horseshoe (CRAB)

If we believe that God created the cosmos and everything in it, then God has a purpose for everything we see. Many times the purpose of an animal or plant is not obvious to us. In recent months there have been



numerous articles in medical journals about the unique properties of the venom of poisonous snakes. It now turns out that the chemicals in the venom of some of the most deadly snakes known to man may have the answer to

serious diseases affecting mankind.

One of the seemingly most useless creatures on earth is the horseshoe crab. This arthropod does not seem to have any purpose that would make humans want it around. You cannot eat it, it is lousy bait, and, since it is mostly shell, it is not even good fertilizer. This crab is so primitive that scientists believe it is related to the trilobite, one of the earliest animals to live on the earth.

Scientists have now found that the blood of the horseshoe crab is one of the most important tools of modern medicine. Because of its ancient makeup, the blood of the horseshoe crab contains proteins that act like a primitive immune system. The blood is blue because it contains copper in its oxygen-carrying protein. The horseshoe crab's blood coagulates instantly when it touches pathogens — even bacteria like *E. coli* and Salmonella. The horseshoe crab's blood is so sensitive that it can detect pathogens as low as one part in a trillion — like a grain of sugar in an Olympic-sized pool.

God created life on earth to sustain mankind. The chemistry of animals is similar to ours. This allows us to eat meat and to have medicines that can relieve illnesses. The horseshoe crab is a good example of how a seemingly useless animal can have a major positive purpose in serving mankind. God's wisdom and design are seen all around us. The heavens really do proclaim his handiwork and the earth and its creatures show his wisdom and design (Psalm 19:1). Source: *National Geographic*.

News and Notes

ATHEISTS FIGHT CHURCH TAX EXEMPTION. The Freedom From Religion Foundation has a large ad in *Scientific American* (November 2013, page 20) asking for donations to its legal fund to support three federal lawsuits against church tax-exempt status. What people do not think about in this type of action is what the consequences would be of taxing church property and church facilities. If you force all homeless shelters, food kitchens, counseling centers, medical facilities, women's shelters, day care centers, elderly care centers, and church schools to pay taxes, you will cause a majority of them to close. Atheists do not run homeless shelters, soup kitchens, etc., so what will be the result of such actions? I have been told that welfare started when police in New York began addressing homeless immigrants because churches quit doing it. If atheists force churches to close these facilities, will we increase the debacle of tax-supported public welfare? In a related item, *Christianity Today* (October 2013, page 17) reports that the Justice Department has said that atheist leaders would qualify as ministers getting the same tax breaks as ministers if they apply.

MORE ON CLOSING CHURCH FOOD KITCHENS. Christian Service Center in Lake City, Florida, has been distributing free food to needy people in their area for many years. On the wall of the church distribution center is a portrait of Christ, the Ten Commandments, and a banner that says "Jesus is Lord." The Center also gives free Bibles and prays with needy folks who request prayer. One of the sources of the free food was the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which the center used to get government cheese. The USDA's Florida official has ordered the center to take down all the pictures, banners, and signs and stop the praying and Bible distribution or give up the USDA food. The center has given



up the government food. Fox News said it had to “Choose God or government cheese” and it chose to trust God to provide. Source: *Citizen* magazine, November 2013, page 8.

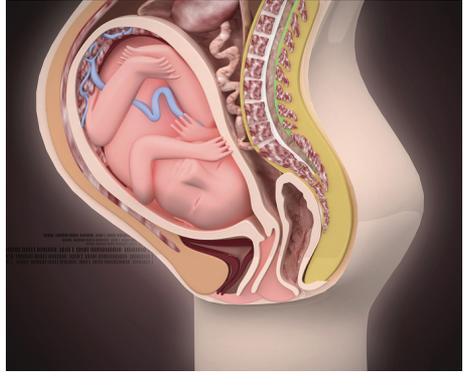
SKULL SUPPORTS BIBLICAL CLAIM. Skull 5 discovered in the village of Dmanisi in the nation of Georgia has been hailed as significant because of the completeness of the fossil. Now analysis has also created a stir because the researchers have concluded that skull 5 shows that there was only one lineage of early humans. The Bible indicates that all humans have a common ancestry in Eve and Adam, and genetic studies have supported that view. Now there is fossil evidence to further support it. Source: *The Week*, November 1, 2013, page 17, and *USA Today*, October 18, 2012.

ANOTHER BLOW TO ANAEROBIC LIFE CLAIMS. Those promoting a spontaneous start to life have been pretty much universal in assuming that there was no oxygen in the early earth. The problem is that oxygen would oxidize any carbon-based life that might be forming and thus destroy it. Experiments like the famous Miller-Urey synthesis of amino acids used an apparatus that excluded oxygen from the experiment. Scientists studying sediment in South Africa thought to be a billion years old have found evidence of atmospheric oxygen using the new Chromium 52/53 method of detecting oxygen. This discovery is significant because it will throw out a huge number of theories of how life started. The question of how life began on earth is an important mystery of design. This discovery adds to the evidence that chance is not the operative cause of life on earth. Source: *Science News*, October 19, 2013, page 12.

SPACE TRAVEL AND RADIATION DANGERS. In connection with solar activity, NASA has new data on the radiation hazards involved in going to the moon and Mars. The Mars Science Laboratory delivered the Curiosity rover by traveling to Mars for 253 days. The first radiation detector to make the trip was on the spacecraft. Because the solar activity was low, scientists thought that radiation levels would not be prohibitively high. Even with these ideal conditions, a human going to Mars would get so much radiation that it would be like having a whole-body CT scan every five or six days. It would be like a Hiroshima survivor experiencing that event two dozen times. The dosage would be 66,240 mrem (millirems), which is what the average person on earth gets in 184 years. This amount of radiation would increase a fatal cancer risk by 3 or 4 percent. We fail to realize how much shielding is built into the earth’s design by the atmosphere and the earth’s magnetic field. Source: *Astronomy*, December 2013, page 12.

BABIES LEARN SPEECH WHILE IN THE WOMB. A

study published in the August 26, 2013, issue of the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Science* describes an experiment that proves conclusively that babies start learning language long before they are born. The babies had a fake word “tatata” blasted at them five to seven times a week during their third trimester. When the babies heard the word five days after birth they all had a neural, jolt which is called a mismatch response associated with a recognized sound. Babies that had not heard the word during the mother’s pregnancy did not make a response of any kind in hearing the word again after they were born.



This research, conducted in Finland at the University of Helsinki, has many implications. Can babies be taught words before birth? It is also a reminder that an unborn baby is not an extension of the mother’s body, but a unique individual. This brings us again to ask if abortion is really infanticide and the destruction of a human being with potential. Source: *Science News*, October 5, 2013, page 15.

ADAM AND EVE CHROMOSOME DATA. As the human genome gets analyzed and refined, some interesting facts are emerging. Women’s genetic heritage has been traced through mitochondrial DNA. For many years geneticist have agreed that there was a single female ancestor to all humans on this planet, referred to as “Mitochondrial Eve.” The male genetic line is more difficult to trace because the Y chromosome is very complicated. However, a study published in the August 2, 2013, issue of *Science* magazine reports on work by Carlos Bustamante of Stanford. He says that evidence indicates a single male ancestor for all humans, referred to as “Y Chromosome Adam.” The authors are careful to say that they do not support the two being a single couple, but their research shows the time when Y Chromosome Adam and Mitochondrial Eve lived is basically the same—suggesting 120,000 to 156,000 years ago. An evolutionary biologist at the University of Hawaii is quoted in the article as saying, “People tied themselves in knots to come up with an explanation.” It is interesting that as more and more data becomes available both scientifically and biblically, the credibility of the account of Adam and Eve seems to gain ground. Source: *Science News*, September 7, 2013, page 14.

MORE NESSIE NONSENSE. A widely used hoax that dominates our television is the Loch Ness monster. When we were in Scotland, I found it interesting that people did not believe in God, but did believe in Nessie. However, those we met who live in the Loch Ness area had a very negative view of the claims of a monster in the Loch. In the October 25, 2013, issue of *The Week* (page 40), there is a wonderful summary of the history and foolishness of the claims since 1822, when Loch Ness became part of a shipping channel.

LATEST MARTIAN DATA REDUCES CHANCES OF LIFE ON MARS. On earth, most bacteria release methane as a by-product of their biological functions. Scientists looking for life on Mars have been looking to verify the presence of methane in the Martian atmosphere. However, the Curiosity rover, which was equipped to precisely measure the amount of methane on Mars, found virtually no methane at all. Even though there are bacteria that do not produce methane, this find greatly reduces the chances of active bacteria on the red planet. We want to say again that finding life on Mars has no biblical significance. However, it seems that claims of abundant and pervasive life in the cosmos have been shown to be exaggerated at best. Source: *The Week*, October 11, 2013, page 22.

DINOSAUR FIGHT PRESERVED IN STONE. Two dinosaurs that were fighting with each other and died in the midst of the fight are now on display and for sale at Bonhams in New York. One is a carnivore named *Nanotyrannus* who had attacked a herbivorous dinosaur named *Triceratops*. The carnivore has a cracked skull, and 26 of its teeth have been found imbedded in the body of the triceratops. Those who claim that all dinosaurs were vegetarians and that carnivores did not exist in early times do not have the evidence on their side. It is clear in this case that one dinosaur was trying to eat the other. By the way, the asking price for the two fossils is \$9 million. Source: *Popular Science*, November 2013, page 30.

CHIMP AND HUMAN DIFFERENCES. *Educational Research Analysts Newsletter* (October 2013, page 4) says that claims of chimp and human DNA sequences being 95–99% identical are in error for the following reasons:

1. Rank Cherry-Picking: Low complexity sequence masking excludes many non-aligning DNA segments.
2. Statistical Slant: Focusing only on the most similar portions of chimp and human genomes exaggerates their total actual harmony.
3. Overrated Sync: The longer the DNA sequence segments are compared, the lower we find the percentage of match-ups between portions of chimp and human genomes.

4. High Discrepancy: Twenty-three percent of chimp and human sequences show no similarity. Chimp and human Y-chromosome DNA sequences differ by over 30%, or about as much as human and chicken autosomes (chromosomes whose genes are not sex-linked). Eighty-three percent of amino acid sequences in chimp chromosome 22 differ from those in the human chromosome 21 counterpart.
5. Conflicting Descents: Biochemical phylogenies of chimps, humans, gorillas, and orangutans contradict their standard anatomical phylogeny 40% of the time.
6. Bloated Percentage: Counting the gaps between closely aligning strands of chimp and human DNA sequences deflates the overall identity ratio between their respective genomes to 70–87%.
7. Risky Snap Judgment: Any assured correspondence between the two genomes is premature and arbitrary. Unacknowledged functions of now-omitted, non-aligning DNA sequence sections may *revolutionize comparisons*.

Students may find these comments useful as they study and evaluate the genome comparisons in their biology classes.

EXORCISM FIASCO AND HARRY POTTER SPELLS.

One advantage that atheists have going for them is the continued irresponsibility of people who claim to be Christians but engage in practices to make themselves wealthy by exploiting the weak, uneducated, or sick. Three American teenage girls are traveling the world casting out evil spirits and “sexually transmitted demons.” Brynne Larson (daughter of Bob Larson, the television demon exorcist) and Tess and Savannah Scherkenback have been attracting large crowds in London. Their methods involve using holy water and reciting spells from Harry Potter books. The BBC has produced a documentary titled *Teen Exorcists*. This will only contribute to the growth of atheism in the United Kingdom, Europe, and America. We had a feature story on exorcism in the May/June 2011 issue and our video series programs

13–16 deal with this subject. The videos are available on DVDs or free on-line at doesgodexist.tv. Past *Does God Exist?* journals can be found on-line at doesgodexist.org.



NEW MAMMOTH FIND REVIVES FROZEN SPECIMEN INTEREST. A new find of a frozen mammoth in the Lyakhovsky Islands off the Siberian coast has accelerated the studies of these incredible animals who lived over 10,000 years ago. This specimen had liquid blood and perfect muscle tissue. How it was preserved, how the animals lived, and why they became extinct are all questions

that scientists hope will be revealed as the specimens are studied. The animals stood up to 13 feet tall and weighed up to 10 tons. Man's role and changes on the earth in the past (such as past global warming) should become better understood through finds such as this. Source: *Dallas Morning News*, May 31, 2013, page 10A.

MILITARY OATHS ATTACKED BY ATHEISTS. We have mentioned the Military Religious Freedom Foundation before in this journal. This is a group of atheists who is trying to remove any reference to God from military oaths and chaplaincies. The Air Force Academy has had "So help me God" at the end of its honor oath. As of October 25, 2013, that has been removed. There already is no religious component in the pledges at Annapolis or West Point. Source: *Time*, November 11, 2013, page 13.

SUN ACTIVITY AT A LOW. Every 11 years or so, the Sun has a period of maximum activity, measured in terms of the number of sunspots that are observed. In April 2000, the 23rd solar cycle produced 121 sunspots, and a variety of effects were observed on earth due to that activity on the Sun. The expected peak in solar activity in the current cycle was to occur in February of 2012. That peak turned out to be very weak, producing only 67 sunspots. The magnetic field strength of the Sun and the polarity of the field on the Sun varies widely in these periods of solar activity. Space travel, weather, and a variety of electronic considerations are affected by Sun activity. We are still learning about the Sun and how these cycles function. Those who try to use solar activity and magnetism to calculate the age of the Sun are not doing very good science because this process is cyclic and not a one-time thing. Source: *Science News*, November 2, 2013, page 24.

2013 YEAR-END REPORT. This journal is expensive to produce, print, and mail, but we send it free to all who request it. Our very small staff provides this publication, websites, video, audio, and printed materials. We do not solicit funds, and we have no sponsoring group to cover expenses. It is only because many individuals voluntarily send financial support that we are able to continue providing these resources. At the end of every calendar year we prepare a report on the **Does God Exist?** ministry. In it we share what has been accomplished and what work is being done, and we give a financial report for the year. Even though we have not solicited funds, we have ended 2013 once again in the black thanks to the help of many of our readers. If you would like to receive a copy of our report for 2013, just contact us and we will send it by mail or by e-mail. (Contact information can be found inside the front cover of this issue.)

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, CDs, 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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