

# DOES GOD EXIST?

July/August 2015  
Volume 42 Number 4

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



*Evidence for God's Existence  
Through the Things He Has Made*

## Does God Exist? Lectureships

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Nov. 6–8	Salem, IN 812-883-5220

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“The Lord brought [wisdom] forth as the first of his works, / before his deeds of old; / I was formed long ages ago, / at the very beginning, when the world came to be. Proverbs 8:22–23, NIV

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*Evidence for God's Existence  
Through the Things  
He Has Made*

For those things of God which the eye is unable to see ever since the world was made have been clearly perceptible and understandable through the things he has made, even his everlasting power and divine character so that men have no excuse.  
(Romans 1:20, *The Word: The Bible from 26 Translations*)

Throughout the entire Bible, God has encouraged us to study the creation and learn from it. The writers of Psalms overflowed with repeated admonitions on all kinds of subjects. Psalm 19:1 encourages us to look into space and at the world around us. Psalm 139:14 tells us to look at our bodies and marvel at their design. Proverbs 6:6 urges us to look at the ant as an example of God's design of living things. Proverbs 8 enlists "wisdom" to urge us to look at the logistics of creation—in some cases seemingly bringing out concepts of quantum mechanics, and the role of wisdom in all aspects of the creation. In Matthew 6:26–33 Jesus refers his listeners to the beauty of the world around them in flowers and the provision of God to birds.

In the twenty-first century, we have so much evidence of God's planning and design in the world around us that the words of the Bible writers ring truer than ever. We can look deeper into space and gather light from the very beginning of the creation. We can smash atoms to bits and by looking at the bits know how the atom was designed. We can look at the very building blocks of life and see many things that tell us about forces and techniques that allow life to exist and to survive in a world that is hostile to the fragile elements that comprise life.

## INTUITIVE DESIGN

The simplest and easiest way to see the evidence of God's design is just to look at what we observe and ask how it is possible for such a thing to come into existence? In this journal we have had a column that we call "Dandy Designs" which shows this type of evidence. That column has been in every issue since 1981 with two example in each issue. That means we have described more than 1,000 examples of things to look at and think about that have taken mankind centuries to understand. Thus, they obviously required planning, wisdom, and design to come into existence. The question is whether such evidence demands that God did each of these things or whether there are natural processes that culminate in what we observe. Naturalism is the faith offered by skeptics as an alternative to believing that God did all of these things.



Two things need to be pointed out about naturalism. The first is that natural explanations for what appear to be designed and planned properties of organisms are not just blind statements of faith. Using principles of Darwinian evolutionary change, a reasonable scenario can be developed in many cases for whatever it is we observe. Migrations, for example, can be explained by the simple and obvious point that animals that migrate out of a lethal environment will survive and animals that do not migrate will not. The second point is that being able to propose a possible scenario for how something came about does not mean that the proposed scenario actually happened that way. Atheists tend to present the notion that if they can build any kind of model that might explain something observable in nature, that the model is a proven fact. In many cases, the model has so many statements of possible events that it requires massive faith to accept them all. In one of my biology books explaining hibernation the word "if" was in the explanation 32 times.

Intuitive design is a valid argument for the existence of God for two primary reasons. The first is that the number of examples is so massive, and the number of conditional statements in chance models for each of them is so numerous that naturalistic explanations have limited credibility. The second argument is that there are some situations, such as the presence of Fibonacci sequences in the natural world, where no naturalistic explanation seems possible. The skeptic will respond that as time goes by, naturalistic data will become available to eliminate this latter point. We cannot discuss what we do not know! We can only make judgments on the basis of the evidence available,

so appealing to what we may learn in the future is a departure from a logical consideration of what we know. When new data becomes available, it is up to honest people who want to know the truth to consider it.

## STATISTICAL DESIGN

A second kind of design evidence that points to God’s wisdom and planning in the creation around us is the evidence from mathematics. We have to consider what is reasonable and what is not. In 1961 Dr. Frank Drake introduced the Drake Equation. This equation attempted to predict how many active, communicative, extraterrestrial civilizations should exist within our Milky Way galaxy. Seven variables were considered—the rate of star formation, the fraction of stars that have planets, the number and fraction of planets that could support life, the fraction of planets that actually do develop life, the fraction of civilizations that develop technology, and the length of time for which such civilizations release detectable signals. When you look at Drake’s project, two things should become evident to you. First, any attempt to get an accurate number for many of these variables is impossible. Secondly, there are massive numbers of variables that are not included in the calculation.



As our knowledge of the cosmos has increased, the number of variables necessary for life to come into existence increases. In recent years, quantum mechanics, dark matter, and knowledge of the nature of space and of our solar system have added numerous variables previously not known. These variables have to be “right” for the formation and sustaining of life. An example of this is our growing understanding of how important dark matter is to the formation of life. A recent article in *National Geographic* (January 2015, page 109) said it this way: “... stars might never have formed ... without the gravitational force generated by abundant dark matter.” We now know that we can see only five percent of the observable universe. The remaining consists of 27 percent dark matter and 68 percent dark energy. We have a list of 47 variables essential to the formation of a life-supporting planet at [www.doesgodexist.org/Charts/EvidenceForDesign-](http://www.doesgodexist.org/Charts/EvidenceForDesign-)



InTheUniverse.html. (Also from Hugh Ross at [www.reasons.org/articles/astronomical-evidences-for-the-god-of-the-bible](http://www.reasons.org/articles/astronomical-evidences-for-the-god-of-the-bible).)

Statistical design depends on a simple principle of statistics. When there are multiple variables involved in achieving a particular end, the way you calculate the total odds is to multiply the independent probabilities. As a simple example, if you flip a penny, what are the odds that you will get heads? The answer, of course, is one out of two. If you flip two pennies, what are the odds that both pennies will be heads? The answer is  $1/2 \times 1/2$  or  $1/4$ . If you had five pennies and tossed them up in the air, what are the odds that all five would be heads? The answer is  $1/2 \times 1/2 \times 1/2 \times 1/2 \times 1/2 = 1/32$ . If you took the 47 variables mentioned earlier and had a probability of one out of two for each of them, you would have to multiply the one out of two 47 times!

When we calculate the variables related to the formation of matter, the creation of life, and the design of systems critical to the existence of life, we find the odds of these things happening by chance are astronomically small. In this journal over the years we have reported on numerous studies by believers and nonbelievers alike that show how unlikely this is. The odds are so astronomically small that the probability is statistically beyond any reasonable acceptance.



The incredibly complex DNA molecule found in every living cell defies the odds of chance.

Odds such as one chance in  $10^{160}$

(160 zeros) for chance events to result in the production of life have been quoted in many papers. Some have given odds of one in  $10^{800}$  for other events.

Our point in this discussion of probability is simply to say that numbers of this magnitude are so impossible to comprehend that any attempt to justify things on the basis of chance borders on irrationality. Gordon Mills in the *Journal of the American Scientific Affiliation* (September 1990, page 159) shows that  $10^{42}$  molecules would fill all the oceans of the earth. Similar magnitudes have been given for the number of particles in the cosmos. Any attempt to say that there is enough space/time for chance to create life is in strong opposition to the facts. There just is not enough time or space for it to happen! Even proposing multiple universes is of no help because the events leading to creation have to occur at the same time and in the same place. It does no good for an event to be in a different universe at a different time since all the events have to work together in a given sequence to reach a desired result. All the atheist can do is to give a blind faith statement in the chance formation of the universe and life.

## BIBLICAL DESIGN

The final kind of design that can be seen as a support for the existence of God is what is revealed to us through the Bible and backed up by our own personal observation. Ronnie Dunn, of Brooks and Dunn country music fame, expressed it in a line in one of his hit songs (“Believe” by Brooks & Dunn). He said, “I can’t quote the book / The chapter or the verse / You can’t tell me it all ends / In a slow ride in a hearse / ... I believe.” There is strong evidence from our own experience that our physical lives are not all we experience. Creation of man and woman in the image of God sets us apart. Only humans worship, create art and music, feel guilt and sympathy, and exhibit a variety of other spiritual characteristics.

In addition to our unique spiritual nature, the institutions that God has given us and how we benefit from them speak of a design beyond what can be attributed to the human mind.

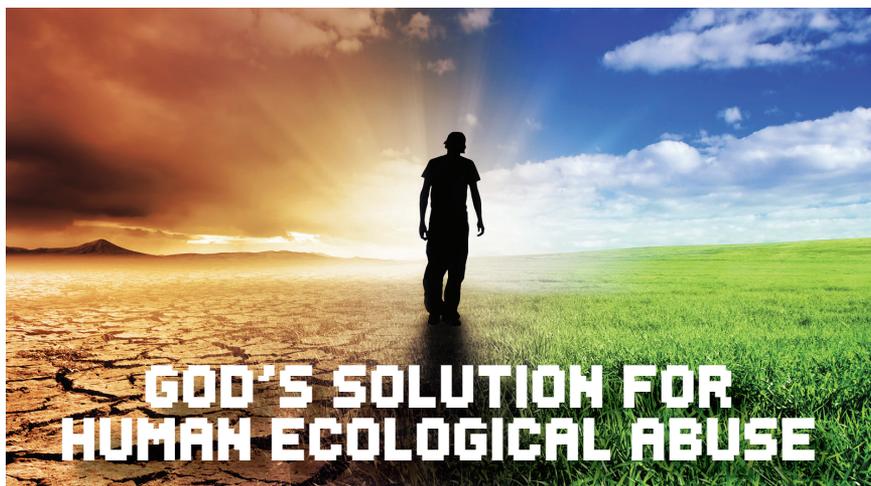
Marriage and the oneness that man and woman can have is a beautiful thing that goes beyond mere biology. The ecstasy of love and of worship, and the effect that God has in the lives of men and women speak of a design that is not a product of human intelligence. Tragically, many people who have been brought up to trust only in human devices and creations do not have the capacity to experience this beauty. Survival of the fittest and looking out only for one’s own well-being



brings us down to the level of the simplest forms of life. Paul wrote in Romans 8:5–7, “Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires, but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God’s law, nor can it do so.”

Those of us who have lived in rejection of God and have seen the consequences of that lifestyle can testify to what an incredible change happened when we allowed God’s design for our lives to rule what we do. We are unable to convey this to skeptics for the reasons Paul states. First John 1:5–7 describes the difference as walking in darkness as opposed to walking in the light. The contrast is a great evidence of God’s design for mankind. Rejecting it brings darkness in every aspect of our lives and throttles the love that God intended for us to have.

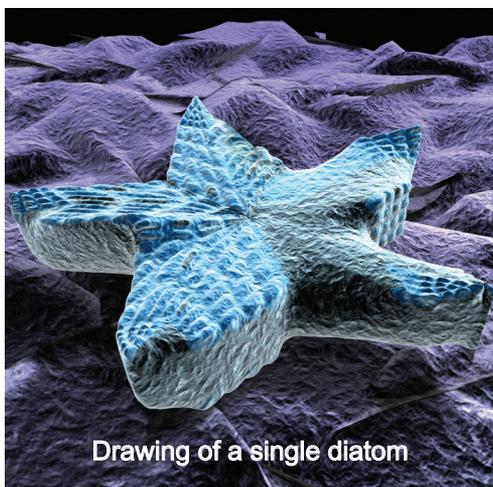
—John N. Clayton



Unless one has been isolated from television, newspapers, and movies for the past 25 years, he is certainly aware of the enormous amount of publicity that has been given to environmental concerns. We are constantly being told that the resources we depend on are in danger of running out, being contaminated, or being useless in the face of an environmental, planetary catastrophe. We have all heard about global warming, and we are all aware of the limited supply of fossil fuels. None of us is immune from concerns about the effects humans have on climate, pollution, and the shortage of water. When I am stuck in a traffic jam in one of our large cities, it amazes me that there has been enough gasoline available to run all of those vehicles in all these cities for so long.

One of God's first instructions to the man and woman is revealed

in Genesis 2:15, and it was given before man sinned. The Bible says, "The Lord God took the man, and put him into the Garden of Eden to dress it and keep it" (KJV). God gave the man everything he needed to "dress and keep." If we will look around, we will find that today's problems have solutions that God has left for us to use. One of the most carefully designed tools that God has given us is a species of single-celled algae that



Drawing of a single diatom

inhabits oceans, lakes, and other bodies of water. Like other phytoplankton, these algae convert carbon dioxide, water, and sunlight into food, and they release oxygen. This particular phytoplankton, called the diatom, is encased in porous, intricately structured shells which, because they are made of silica, are extremely sharp and resilient.

A mass of these shells is called diatomaceous earth, and the uses of this material have been known for a very long time. It is used to filter liquids, polish surfaces, and serve as a filler in concrete, plastic, and paper. It is used in paint to reduce sheen. It is used in gardening to resist insects that will not cross the sharp shell fragments and to aerate the soil. Because diatoms take in carbon dioxide and sink deep into the ocean, they remove massive amounts of greenhouse gasses from the atmosphere—perhaps as much as 50%. Recent studies show that diatoms remove as much greenhouse gas as all the trees, grasses, and other land plants combined.



Millions of diatom shells fused together

God has given us an excellent tool to use in combating a twenty-first-century plague. The diatom only lives about six days and yet a diatom doubling itself once a day would produce 100 million descendants. Learning how to stimulate the reproduction of diatoms is an area of research that may provide a solution to the greenhouse effect on our environment. Some promising areas are coming to the front, including the fact that iron concentrations can increase the reproduction rate.

So, before we get too hysterical about the future and the resources that we have available to face it, let us look around at what God has provided for us. The design of the earth includes providing tools and resources for us to use to “take care” of the garden. We must be wise



Diatomaceous earth

in finding all of God’s resources and using them effectively, which will allow us to concentrate on our spiritual future, not just physical existence. Source: *Smithsonian*, February 2004.

—JNC

# PROCESS AND GENESIS 1

by Al Cornell

The realm in which God dwells is amazingly beyond our comprehension. While we cannot fathom the vastness of the universe, it is a mere creation of his, and time a mere dimension of that universe. Amazingly, we live in this era in which science has determined the relativity of time, even as it relates to the physical realm. Through Isaiah (55:9, NIV 1984) he informed us, “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.” Peter tells us, “With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day” (2 Peter 3:8).

Let me share some Scripture verses which show that activities rightfully ascribed to God are accomplished by processes he has set in place. I believe that God has intervened and can intervene by miracles, but I suspect that they will never occur where human science can prove them.

Does God bring out the starry host and call them each by name as written in Isaiah 40:26? In Job 38:31, 32 God says, “Can you bind the beautiful Pleiades? Can you loose the cords of Orion? Can



Orion Nebula

you bring forth the constellations in their seasons or lead out the Bear with its cubs?” Science has unveiled amazing processes at work in the cosmos that explain the movements of galaxies, stars, and planets. When scientists uncovered the heliocentric nature of our solar system, some people proposed that angels were guiding planets in perfect circular orbits around the sun. However, natural processes account for the not quite so perfect orbits of the planets.

Does God cause the dawn? The implications of Job 38:12 are that he gives orders to the morning and shows the dawn its place. Verse 14 continues the thought, “The earth takes shape like clay under a seal.” The light of dawn allows us to see landscape details compared in this verse to the intricate details left in soft clay by the impress of a signet-ring. However, it is scientifically accurate and reasonable to speak of the dawning as a natural event of earth’s rotation.

Does God send the sunshine and the rain? Matthew 5:45 says that he causes the sun to rise and sends the rain. Amos 5:8 adds a

detail of the hydrological cycle with the words, “He who calls forth the waters of the sea and pours them out over the face of the land.” Since science has discovered a great deal of information about the processes involved in sunshine and rain events, some think that God has been explained out of those events.

Does God cause plants to grow? Paul attributes their growth to God with these words from 1 Corinthians 3:7, “So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who makes things grow.” An enormous mass of information has been assembled about DNA, photosynthesis, and thousands of processes at work in the growth of living organisms.

A person equipped with ability, training, and access to scientific literature can write books about any of these natural processes. They are complex, intricate, and fascinating. But what do they reveal about God’s existence and involvement in their functioning?



Of course, science delves into an unending array of questions about how things function. It also addresses many why-questions about natural entities and events. However, many why-questions find no answer from scientists and their tools.

With human inquisitiveness, we rightfully seek answers to questions that science is not equipped to answer. Why does the universe contain the water molecule with its broad array of amazing characteristics? Why is there a thing called light that combines particle and wave characteristics and can be dispersed into a rainbow? Why do we think rainbows are beautiful? In *The Hidden Face of God*, Gerald Schroeder writes, “The mystery that remains in the sunset is the riddle of why and how a mixture of carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, and several other varieties can produce humans capable of having a subjective experience we refer to as beauty, or the love that would have us kiss our kids good night. Science is no closer to answering those questions than it was a century ago.”

We can, as humans should, step back from the tools of science and attempt to grasp the magnificence. We possess the power to feel the breeze, to hear the cardinal, to stare into the fog, to smell the bacon, to taste the raspberries, and to experience the emotions that arise as these events impact our central nervous system. Even those who claim that science holds all the answers live lives filled daily with subjective experiences.

Some imagine that the understanding of natural processes has undermined the necessity for belief in God. They reason that so

much has been brought to light that there is no longer a need for a God-explanation of events. However, at the same time that innumerable little things have been discovered, the big picture has taken on immense complexity. The universe is no longer perceived as having the simplicity that caused Ernst Haeckel to write in 1899, “With this single argument the mystery of the universe is explained, the deity annulled, and a new era of infinite knowledge ushered in.” Knowledge is not on track to be infinite, to annul deity, or to explain the mystery of the universe.

More than ever, we need an adequate explanation. The poet, James Russell Lowell, captured the essence of God’s relationship to the created world with the words, “behind the dim unknown standeth God within the shadow, keeping watch above his own.”

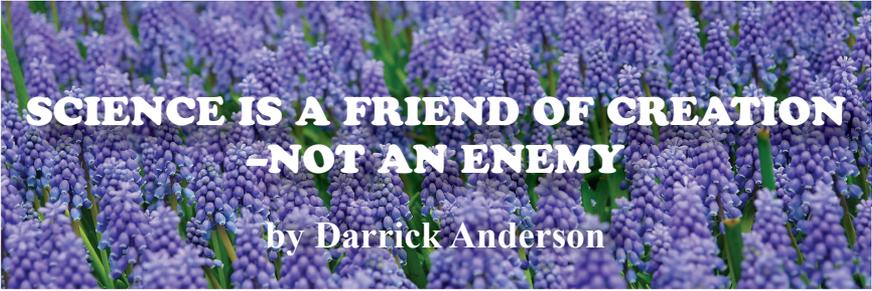
Any question concerning whether or not God exists will not be resolved by the scientific method. Those tools and discoveries do not offer a scientific proof of the existence of God. They do make a significant addition to an apologetic argument for God’s existence.

So universally believers accept God’s use of process in days and seasons, in rain and sunshine, and in plant growth and bringing out the constellations. However, because of the influence of a few teachers, many refuse to accept that process could be involved in the acts of God referred to in Genesis chapter one. In that chapter, a “literal” interpretation is often demanded. The obvious figurative parallelism in the construction of that chapter is ignored.

Whatever becomes evident through scientific discovery concerning the origin of the universe and the biosphere will not conflict with the great message of God to humanity in Genesis. All the information gleaned by scientists about the growth of living organisms does not violate the decree that God causes the growth. That is true of the other processes God has established in nature, including those revealed in Genesis. God set natural processes in motion, and the Bible rightfully attributes those activities to their Maker.



A human-invented hermeneutic that demands the elimination of process from Genesis 1 and conflicts with science is not somehow intrinsically demanded. To accept that interpretation does not somehow make us better believers and more faithful to God. It is just another human interpretation that tries to make God fit our limited understanding of what it means to be God. If we let God be God, he can use process to accomplish his purpose without it diminishing our faith.



# SCIENCE IS A FRIEND OF CREATION -NOT AN ENEMY

by Darrick Anderson

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 the topic "Science Is a Friend of Faith—Not an Enemy." Our winning essay for 2014 was submitted by Darrick Anderson.

The Bible very clearly identifies God as the Creator of the heavens and the earth. On the other hand, for years science has appeared to contradict this claim, and scientists have taught that the universe was eternal and did not need a creator. Carl Sagan, a noted scientist and atheist, expressed the sentiment of many skeptics when he said, "... if God wanted to send us a message, and ancient writings were the only way he could think of doing it, he could have done a better job."<sup>1</sup> Why does not the Bible give us more details or tell us exactly how and when God did this along with the specific processes that he used to create all that we see?

Unfortunately for those craving scientific facts, the Bible's goal is not to teach science. However, it is the history book of the universe. It tells us how the universe began and how it came to be the way that it is. It was written by inspiration of God. The Lord knows how the universe works. He made it. Unlike science textbooks, the Bible never changes or has to be revised. God got it right the first time concerning every topic that it covers.

The Genesis account of creation is brief and unsatisfying from a scientific point of view. However, communicating these facts was not God's real reason for giving us the book of Genesis. The greatest need of the human heart is not to know just when or how the universe was created but who created it. God's purpose was to reveal who he is and to magnify himself as sole Creator. Nevertheless, believers do not have to suspend reason to follow Christ. There is plenty of biblical support for science and vice versa.

For years, well-meaning Christians have believed and taught that the Bible must be the only source of truth for all things — religious and secular. This has led many to believe that science is of the devil, or any attempt to gain knowledge from other sources is sinful. However, this position runs contrary to Scripture itself. Psalm 19:1–4 tells us that God also speaks through his creation.

Science is basically the study of all that God has made, and the Scriptures declare that the physical world reveals the great power of an invisible God (Romans 1:19–20). This precept alone should comfort the faithful with the knowledge that science can only observe and comment on what God has already done. A Christian does not have to turn his back on scientific findings or discoveries in order to be true to his faith. He only has to conscientiously think through the issues that science presents. He will then discover that the consensus of the modern scientific community is that the universe had a beginning—a creation event as they say. This is in agreement with the ancient writings of the Bible stating that the universe is not eternal but was created by a transcendent, omnipotent God. The same conclusion that men of faith have arrived at through the Word of God, men of science have now found inescapable through several lines of overwhelming scientific evidence—the laws of thermodynamics, Einstein’s general theory of relativity, and observations of astronomy.

It is important to point out that while there is no conflict between science and the Bible, there is a conflict between science and some traditional beliefs among many Christians. According to practically all of the sciences (geography, physics, astronomy, etc.), the universe appears to be very old. However, many Christians have come to believe in a recent creation tradition which forces them to reject any scientific findings contrary to the belief that the universe was created within the last 10,000 years.

Some may argue that this belief is not a tradition but is based on the clear teaching of the Bible. However, history reveals that

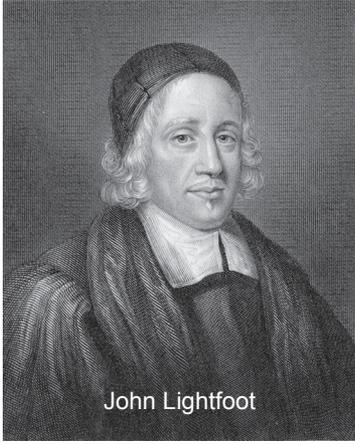


James Ussher

recent creation tradition stems from the teachings and methods of James Ussher (1581–1656), Irish Archbishop of Armagh. He used the genealogies found in Genesis and other portions of the Bible to conclude that there were 4,036 years from the creation of the universe until the birth of Christ. Another scholar, John Lightfoot (1602–1675) further refined Ussher’s calculations and figured that Genesis 1:1 occurred on October 18, 4004 B.C., and Adam was created on October 23 at 9:00 A.M. This date for creation became

a part of Protestant tradition even showing up in early printings of the Authorized King James Version of the Bible as a margin note and heading.

Neither Ussher nor Lightfoot recognized that in the Old Testament the Hebrew words for father (*'ab*) and son (*ben*) can also mean forefather or descendant. Nonetheless, these dates have become



John Lightfoot

ingrained into much Christian thinking. This is in spite of the fact that fossil evidence, radioactive dating of rocks, and the ability to see light from galaxies light-years away renders this view unreasonable. Proponents of the young-earth school of thought have tried to get out of this dilemma by proposing that God created everything with an appearance of age, even though the Bible and geology testify to a progressive creation. Both tell us that the earth was once “formless and empty” and that this condition was followed by a primitive, universal ocean which

in turn was followed by the appearance of dry land.<sup>2</sup>

Traditional beliefs may have been contrary to modern scientific understanding, but the Bible is not. This is an important point to keep in mind when viewing the vast times and distances that are used to describe the universe. How great our God is to do all that we see? We can only begin to understand the means he used to do it.

The laws of thermodynamics are a beginning to seeing that science is only a description of God’s handiwork and not an alternative view of creation. The first, called the law of conservation of mass and energy, states that matter and energy can neither be created nor destroyed. According to this description of what holds true in our present physical universe, matter and energy may each be converted to the other but neither can appear from nothing. This law seems to conflict with the Bible because there is no denying that the universe is here, and the Bible claims that nothing existed before God created everything. However, if a believer looks closely at the law of conservation of mass and energy, he will discover that instead of contradicting the Word of God it supports the inspired statements of Scripture.

First, no one denies that the creation of the universe was a miraculous event. When God created the universe he created a new thing; so, of course, new laws would apply. The law of conservation of mass and energy describes what we see operating today, and it is true that matter does not spring from nothing today. Therefore, to say that no new matter is being created spontaneously today is to agree with the Bible in Genesis 2:1 where it says that the “heavens and the earth were finished” and that God “rested” from his work of creation.

The second law of thermodynamics tells us that our universe is wearing down, and matter is, and will continue to become more and more dispersed—less and less structured. This scientific law or precept is simply an observation of what we see happening all around us. Our treasured possessions are rusting and turning to dirt, our bodies are wearing down, the sun and stars are burning up tons of hydrogen fuel every second, and earth’s magnetic field is decaying. Everywhere that you look the universe is dissipating. Therefore, we know that the universe cannot be eternal. Otherwise, it would have run down long ago. The stars would have burned out, and all matter would have decayed to a few elements. This law clearly points to a beginning—a highly structured and ordered beginning at that.

As human beings, we are like a person who walks into a room right after someone spins a top and walks out another door. We are able to observe the top spinning, but not who set it in motion in the first place. After carefully observing the top, we may note the skill of the “other” in spinning the top, but we can also see the effects that other forces have on the top causing it to slow and wobble.

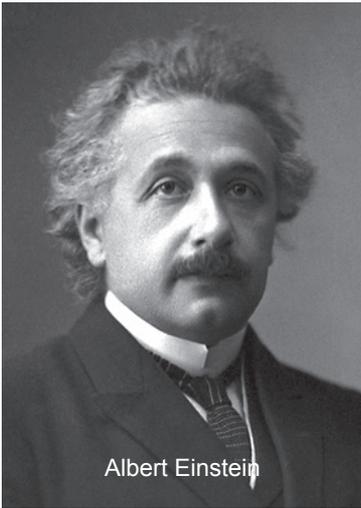
Our universe is slowing down and beginning to wobble. The second law of thermodynamics describes and predicts this phenomenon. Inspired writers of the Bible have been in full agreement with

this law for over two millennia. Communicating the clear message that our universe is “wearing out” and “... the heavens are the work of your hands. They will perish, but you remain, they will all wear out like a garment” (Psalm 102:25, 26; Isaiah 34:4; 51:6).

Another area in which the scientific community is a friend of faith in the Bible involves Einstein’s general theory of relativity. Few people possess the high-level intelligence required to thoroughly understand Einstein’s theory, but for the layman two main points are important. First, the equations of general relativity imply that the universe cannot be static,

but must be expanding or contracting. Secondly, every verifiable prediction that it makes has been proven correct.

In the general theory of relativity, published in 1915, Einstein reasoned that gravity could not be an attractive force like Isaac Newton and other scientists had thought. He explained the force of gravity as a consequence of the effect of mass on space/time. The gravitational force of great masses like the sun can be pictured, not as a force of



Albert Einstein

attraction tugging on other objects, but as a great mass curving the space around it, forcing each planet to follow a path that is as straight as it can go in curved space. His initial predictions held that if there were enough mass in the universe and it was not too dispersed, the mass would cause all of space to curve in on itself until the universe becomes closed. The other possibility is that if the density of the universe is lower than a critical amount, then all the bodies of the universe should fly apart from one another. The universe should be expanding and decelerating with time.

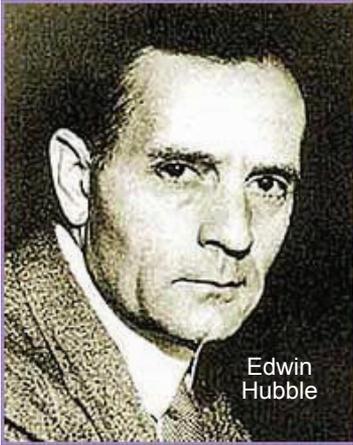
Einstein tried to get away from this idea because it implied a beginning, but was forced to concede to this inescapable conclusion after other scientists began to review his findings. He became convinced of the necessity of a beginning—a creation event. Astronomer Edwin Hubble (1889–1953) later



Large Magellanic Cloud (galaxy)

confirmed the expansion of the universe through telescopic observation. After this Einstein wrote about his desire “... to know how God created this world. I am not interested in this or that phenomena, in the spectrum of this or that element, I want to know his thought, the rest are details.”<sup>3</sup>

Since the early 1960s, the effects of general relativity have been confirmed in test after test as it has become possible to precisely measure the expansion of the universe. Science has been upholding the claims of Bible writers for decades. In several passages, the Bible points out that the universe has been “stretched out” or expanded. Isaiah 40:22 says, “He stretches out the heavens like a canopy, and spreads them out like a tent ... .” Psalm 104:2 echoes this same idea: “The Lord wraps himself in light as with a garment; he stretches out the heavens like a tent ... .” Job 9:8 says, “He alone stretches out the heavens ... .” These verses suggest that the universe has increased in size since its creation. God is causing it to expand like points on a balloon that is being inflated. It is amazing to see that scientific discoveries only confirm the biblical record God has given us. The observations of astronomy also provide a bridge between the findings of science and biblical faith. Twentieth century astronomers have recorded significant observations that offer proof for any objective person that the universe had a beginning just as the book of Genesis has detailed for over three millennia.



As mentioned earlier in this essay, one man who has contributed to this area of scientific support of the Scriptures is Edwin Hubble. After a decade of boxing, dueling, and World War I combat, this Rhodes Scholar devoted the rest of his life to astronomy. He spent most of the 1920s patiently peering into a 100-inch reflector telescope at California's Mount Wilson Observatory. It was there that he made the discovery that the "nebulae" outside of our galaxy are not nearby gas clouds but are themselves galaxies of stars like our own Milky Way, but at great

distances away. After careful observation, he also began to calculate the distances of these star systems using a method of calculation called trigonometric parallax. In 1929, Hubble made the discovery that the galaxies were retreating from each other and that there was a precise, linear relationship between the distance and velocity of the galaxies. This discovery, now known as Hubble's Law, tells us that all distant galaxies are retreating from us with a velocity that is directly proportional to their distance from us. Robert Jastrow, a self-proclaimed agnostic stated, "The Hubble Law is one of the great discoveries in science, and it is one of the main supports of the scientific story of Genesis."<sup>4</sup>

The Bible also says that each star is unique, which is consistent with the observations of astronomy. First Corinthians 15:41 says, "The sun has one kind of splendor, the moon another and the stars another; and star differs from star in splendor." This is an amazing declaration considering the fact that people living at the time that the Apostle Paul wrote this verse would have had to rely on the naked eye to view the heavens. All stars look alike to the naked eye. However, modern scientific analysis reveals that each star is different and unique. Even though there are millions of known stars in



100-inch Mt. Wilson telescope used by Edwin Hubble

the universe, each one is different. No two stars have the exact same properties. There are many variables in a star's makeup including the total number of atoms, chemical composition, size, temperature, color, and brightness. Sometimes spectroscopic study is required to detect the differences, nevertheless science reveals that the Word of God is true.

In conclusion, though science and the Bible have sometimes appeared to be enemies, this is far from the truth. When the claims of science are objectively examined, one will discover that the two are actually friends, not enemies. The laws of thermodynamics, Einstein's general theory of relativity, and observations of astronomy offer three examples of this friendship.

1. Carl Sagan, *Contact* (New York: Pocket Books, 1985), p. 164.
2. J. W. Dawson, *The Origin of the World According to Revelation and Science* (New York: Harper Brothers, 1877), pp. 343-357.
3. Albert Einstein cited by Nick Herbert, *Quantum Reality—Beyond the New Physics* (Garden City, New York: Anchor Press/Doubleday, 1985), p. 177.
4. Robert Jastrow, *God and the Astronomers*, second edition (New York & London: W. W. Norton & Company, 1992), p. 93.

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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.

JOHN ECCLES

1903-1997

1963 Nobel Prize in Medicine and Physiology  
One of the greatest neurophysiologists of the 20th  
century



“I believe that there is a Divine Providence operating over and above the materialist happenings of biological evolution.” “If I consider reality as I experience it, the primary experience I have is of my own existence as a unique self-consciousness being which I believe is God-created.”

“Since materialists solutions fail to account for our experienced uniqueness, I am constrained to attribute the uniqueness of the self or soul to a supernatural spiritual creation. This conclusion is of inestimable theological significance.

It strongly reinforces our belief in the human soul and its miraculous origin in a divine creation.”

“I believe in the reality of the world of mind or spirit as well as in the reality of the material world. Furthermore I am a finalist in the sense of believing that there is some Design that has eventually led to us self-conscious beings with our unique individuality; and we are able to contemplate and we can attempt to understand the grandeur and wonder of nature.” “We can regard the death of the body and brain as dissolution of our dualist existence. Hopefully, the liberated soul will find another future of even deeper meaning and more entrancing experiences, perhaps in some renewed embodied existence in accord with traditional Christian teaching.”

# Cynthia's Corner

## FEARFULLY AND WONDERFULLY MADE IN GOD'S IMAGE



My oldest son and his wife just had a baby boy. What a blessing and a joy to have a grand-baby! Psalm 139:13–14 says, “For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made.”

We are fearfully and wonderfully made. From the moment of conception until birth, the human body undergoes rapid transformation and growth. From the time of birth for the first few years of life, a human child is a sensory sponge soaking up all the stimuli around him or her, processing it all, and learning and growing at an incredible rate. The workings of the human brain are so complex that we are still discovering how the body and mind work together.

But, aside from the physical complexities of the human body, human beings are uniquely made in God’s image, in his likeness. (Genesis 1:26). We are spiritual beings with an eternal soul (Matthew 16:26). God is Spirit (John 4:24) and love (1 John 4:7, 8) and we have been created with spiritual elements which reflect our Creator: the ability to love and the need to be loved; the human emotions of empathy, sympathy, and compassion; and we have within us creative yearnings that are seen in a love of music, dance, art, and other creative expressions. The ability to appreciate the beauty, diversity, and wonder of everything that surrounds us is something we do not see being expressed by any other form of life on the planet. The uniqueness of humans is shown in the complexity of our mind and body. Even more it is clearly seen in the soul within us which reflects our being created in the image of God.

*For you created my inmost being;  
you knit me together in my mother's womb.  
I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;  
your works are wonderful,*

Psalm 139:13-14 (NIV)

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# BOOK REVIEWS

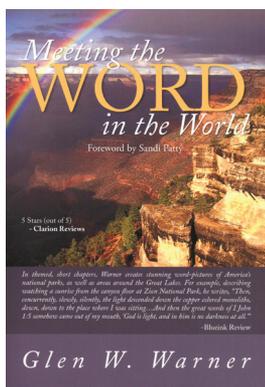
The books that are reviewed in the Book Reviews section are not available through us, but can be obtained from a local bookstore or through many online bookstores.

## Meeting the Word in the World

by Glen Warner, Authorhouse Publishing, ©2014

373 pages, \$23.95 (paperback), ISBN-13: 978-1-4918-3201-1

(Kindle edition \$3.99)



One of the characteristics of humans that is unique to us is our ability to love and appreciate beauty. It is our soul that allows us to be mesmerized by a sunset, the beauty of a bird resplendent in colors, or the magnificence of a great tree. Glen Warner is the kind of man who can be walking along the shoreline of Lake Erie and see something that brings a passage of scripture to his mind as he reflects his appreciation of the wisdom of God and the beauty of creation. In this book he has brought these thoughts into an excellent collection of

sights, sounds, and the scriptures that he sees as relating to what he is observing. Warner has done a great deal of traveling, and this book is broken down into the following categories:

The Word in the Desert      The Word at the Shore  
 The Word in the Country      The Word in the World

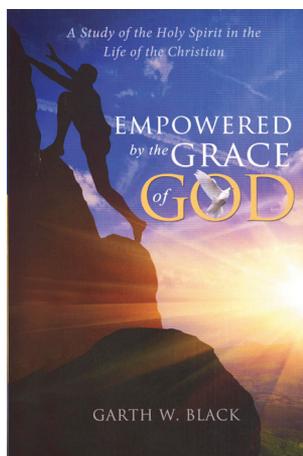
This book is not an apologetic, but the keen observations are scientifically accurate. Warner writes well with sensitivity and a great awareness of spiritual things. This is a book for believers who want to sharpen their awareness of the beauty and wisdom of the creation, and see the connections between the writers of the Bible and the world they observed.

The last part of the book contains studies of passages of the Bible and comments about how those passages intersect with daily life. This book would make a good source of devotionals, campfire talks, and introductions to class discussions. For many of us it is simply an excellent reminder of the handiwork and workmanship of God.

## Empowered by the Grace of God

by Garth W. Black, Tate Publishing ©2014

162 pages, \$15.99 (paperback), ISBN 978-1-63418-805-0



In the over 45 years that I have been talking to people about the existence of God and the validity of Christianity, I have frequently had the subject of the Holy Spirit brought up by skeptics. They say it is an example of wild, foolish belief that causes people to do and say things that are destructive. Whether it is Charles Manson or a recent murderer of innocent people, the Holy Spirit is frequently a scapegoat for irrational behavior. On a less dramatic note, we see religious fundamentalists attributing everything from tongue speaking to spirit dancing to the activities of the Holy Spirit. Some 40 years ago I taught several

classes on the Holy Spirit using a little booklet by Garth Black from Bakersfield, California. I found it to be intelligently written, scripturally correct, and presented in a way that everyone could understand. Unfortunately, that little booklet went out of print. This “book of the month” is an updated and expanded version of the old book, and we wanted to let people know about its availability.

Black introduces the book by telling of a young man who maintained he could not become a Christian because he could not measure up to the standard necessary to live a Christian life. Black points out that the failure in this case was a failure to understand how the Holy Spirit empowers us. The book is divided into 13 short chapters and has an appendix dealing with the error of denying the indwelling of the Spirit.

The nature of the Spirit, his role in the Old Testament, in nature, in man, and in prophecy is followed by a study of the Holy Spirit in the New Testament. The way the Spirit works in a Christian and how it helps us through the Word is explained. The gift of the Holy Spirit is studied as well as its history in the church. There is great emphasis on how each Christian is blessed and guided by the Spirit. This is not an apologetic for the existence of the Holy Spirit, but a careful, logical, biblical explanation of how the Spirit fits into our lives as Christians.

We recommend this book as a unique explanation of a badly misunderstood biblical concept. Believers will find the book helpful and motivating, and nonbelievers can come to a better understanding of the Holy Spirit and the Christian faith.

# DANDY DESIGNS

## Keeping Cool

Most of us know that feathers are good insulators. As a kid, you might have had a feather-down coat or blanket, or your grandmother may have had a comforter quilt that would keep you incredibly warm on a cold winter night. That was especially important in homes heated with wood or coal where the fire would go out around midnight and the house would get very cold.



That same insulating ability of feathers that keeps birds warm in the winter can be a liability in the summer. When the temperature hits 110 degrees, how do birds keep cool? In some cases like crows or blackbirds, the color of the bird also causes heat issues. The black feathers absorb a high percentage of the sun's rays and getting overheated can be fatal.

Like a lot of things we see in nature, the cooling features designed into birds are complex and involve several options. Birds do not sweat, but they have bare skin on their legs and faces which radiates heat. Birds increase their respiration rate in heat, producing the panting most of us have seen birds do. This action releases large amounts of heat and is similar to what we see in dogs. Most species of birds have a blood control device that increases the blood flow to their beaks in hot weather, causing rapid heat loss.

In addition to these physical design features, there are behavioral ways that birds keep cool. Wing flutters and the lifting of feathers increase air circulation, pulling heat from the bird's body. Some birds use evaporative cooling by bathing or urinating on their legs. Some birds soar where the air is cooler. Most birds feed in the cooler parts of the day and seek shade and rest during the hottest times of the day. The sound of moving water attracts many species of birds, and they will fly through a mist, a waterfall, or rub against wet foliage.

The Bible tells us "we can know there is a God through the things he has made" (Romans 1:18–20). Observing how the design of God's creatures allows survival in the hottest and coldest of times is one evidence of design. Source: *National Wildlife*, August/September 2014, page 12.

# The Lowly Catfish



How many times is the word “catfish” included in country songs? For you “non-country listeners,”

the answer is “a large number of times.” We tend to take this fish that is so familiar to us for granted in spite of the fact that we see restaurants that advertise it as their specialty. Anyone who has done much fishing has caught a catfish by accident, if nothing else. There are even catfish that are sold for use in household aquariums because they help keep the aquariums clean.

In the past year, there have been some detailed studies made of the catfish and what they eat and how they find it. Catfish are found in all kinds of lakes, ponds and rivers. Frequently the water in which they live is so muddy that they cannot use sight at all in locating food, and catfish feed at night so no vision is required for their securing food. While they will eat anything, catfish depend on organisms found at the bottom of lakes and rivers for their food. This includes worms, crayfish, and small, bottom-feeding fish.

In *Science* magazine (June 6, 2014) there is a detailed research report titled “Marine Teleost Locates Live Prey Through pH Sensing.” The new word used to describe this ability is “chemoreception.” Electrophysiological recordings from the barbel or whisker of the catfish have shown that the barbels respond to small changes in pH. The barbels are so sensitive that signals are received when the pH varies by as little as .1 on the pH scale. This sensitivity is enough to detect worms and other benthic forms of life—that is, creatures that live in the lowest level of water. As those creatures breathe they cause small changes in the pH of the water around them.

In experiments conducted on sea catfish, areas of an aquarium where worms had been present but were removed attracted all of the catfish in the aquarium. When a tube was inserted with water in it that had a slightly different pH than the water in the aquarium the catfish bit at the tube.

Catfish are an important part of the ecology of any body of water. Their ability to live and find food even in fouled water and in very muddy conditions shows the design that has been built into their creation. God’s wisdom and planning can be seen everywhere around us. Even in the lowly catfish we can see the hand of God molding and shaping life to exist in abundance on this planet.

# News and Notes

**ATHEISTS INITIATE TV CHANNEL.** There is now a TV channel that features programming created by and for atheists. It is AtheistTV and is available on the Roku streaming network as well as the American Atheists website. Its goal is “to give a yet-unavailable broadcast voice to an already strong but growing atheist community.” Its slogan is “Atheism Everywhere.” As more and more atheist arguments are given to the public, it will become increasingly important for us to “always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have” (1 Peter 3:15).

**ATHEISTS EXCLUDED FROM PUBLIC OFFICE.** Did you know that seven states have constitutions that do not allow an atheist to hold public office? Obviously, such laws are ignored and will eventually be changed. However, they show that the original writers of those state constitutions did not think that someone who does not believe in God could be moral or self-sacrificing and thus would be unfit for public office. Obviously, there have been politicians who were very religious and very dishonest at the same time, and all an atheist has to do is lie to get elected if the laws remain. By the way, the states where this is still in the state constitutions are Maryland, Arkansas, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Texas. Source: *Austin American-Statesman*, December 14, 2014, page A15 (originally in the *New York Times*.)

**GENETIC ANALYSIS SUPPORTS BIRD TREE OF EVOLUTION.** Genetics is a useful tool in a variety of modern studies. We are making great strides in understanding medical problems humans face that have a genetic origin. We are also finding that genetics aids in our understanding of the history of life on earth. However, like the medical applications, the study is so complex it will certainly be revised and expanded in the future. In our discussions of evolution, we have pointed out that the Bible indicates multiple starts for the various groupings of life on the earth. First Corinthians 15:39 states that there are four kinds of flesh — fish, men, mammals, and birds, and that grouping is used consistently in Genesis 1 and

in the flood account. Recent genetic studies have supported the bird family tree, with 48 bird species related to one another through their DNA. The complexity of this is seen in the fact that there are more than 10,000 species of birds, and only 48 have been cataloged, and that took 200 scientists seven years to complete. The more we know of the creation, the more evidence we see of God's wisdom and design in his creation and the integrity of the biblical record. Source: *Science News*, January 10, 2015, page 6.

**MORE OR FEWER TORNADOES?** Doom-sayers on all sides try to convince us that earthquakes and horrendous storms are happening with increasing frequency as we approach the destruction of the earth. The fact is that all of these things are cyclic in nature, and we now are in a low-frequency part of the cycle. In *National Geographic* (February 2015, page 15) there is a report from the NOAA Prediction Center showing that the number of tornadoes in the United States each year has dropped from 526 in 1954 to 485 in 2013. The number of tornado days has dropped from 157 to 100.

**WHY SO MANY PLANETS?** As scientists study planets orbiting other stars, new understandings are coming forward. One of those is the question of the shape of planetary orbits and how that impacts life's existence. Many extrasolar planets have very eccentric orbits — meaning they swing very close to their parent star and then swing very far away. For life to exist, there has to be a steady distance to the parent star to avoid climatic extremes that would extinguish life. Earth's orbit has an eccentricity of 1.7% which is very close to a perfect circle. Pluto has the most eccentric orbit in our system, being 25%. Some extrasolar planets have been observed with orbits of 80% eccentricity. A study reported in *Scientific American* (March 2015, page 18) correlates the number of planets in a planetary system with the shape of the orbits of the planets. The gravitational interaction helps keep the orbit circular which gives the stability necessary to allow life to exist. This is one more variable in the long list of things that have to be right to allow life to exist.



**WHAT CAUSES HUNGER?** God has given us the capacity to produce more than enough food for every man, woman, and child on this planet. Why is it then that 805 million people do not have enough to eat? The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) identifies the causes as (1) civil war, (2) poor infrastructure, (3) restrictive leaders, (4) natural disasters and erratic weather, and (5) economic swings. An interesting website on this subject is [cargill.com/foodsecureworld](http://cargill.com/foodsecureworld). Some amazing work is being done by Christian organizations to address hunger. We have the tools, but selfishness, greed, and control issues prevent real answers from getting to all people.



**HOW ARE WE USING GOD'S MONEY?** The 2015 federal discretionary budget request sent to Congress in March of 2014 shows interesting numbers—2% of the budget went for food and agriculture, 2% for transportation, 2% for science, 3% for energy and environment, 3% international affairs, 5% labor, 5% health, 5% housing, 6% government, 6% veterans benefits, and 6% education. If you add that up you get 45%. The rest of the budget—all 55% of our money goes to the department of defense. That's \$653,110,000,000 or \$1.2 million per minute. How much suffering on earth could be eliminated with one minute's worth of our national defense? Skeptics blame God for the horror and pain we see all around us, but God has provided the resources for us if all mankind would just follow the teachings of Jesus in Matthew chapters 5–7.

**ISLAMIC LEADERS CALL FOR REFORM.** My Muslim friends here in Michigan are as appalled as the rest of us at the violence and massive killing being carried on in the name of Muhammad. Recently the president of Egypt, Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi, made a call for Islam to reform the faith that has “made the Muslim world a source of destruction, and pitted it against the rest of the world.” One would have to hope that this is the beginning of a change in how the Muslim world treats those with whom they differ. The problem that our Muslim friends face is the clear statements in the Koran to kill and destroy those who are not Muslims (see Sura 47:3–7; 2:178 and 216; 8:37–41; 9:4–7 and 122–125). Source: Associated Press 1/10/15 and 1/11/15 available in *South Bend Tribune* on those dates.

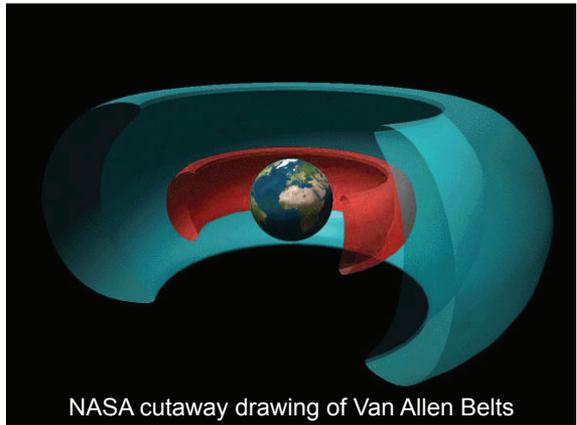
**MASKING ATHEIST TERRORISM.** Most of us were disturbed by the killing of three Muslim students in North Carolina in February. The media reported that the murders were motivated by a parking dispute. It turns out that Craig Hicks, who is accused of the murders, is a white atheist who is well known in North Carolina for

his anti-religion and anti-Islam rhetoric. Foreign newspapers have revealed Hicks' history as a white atheist and they claimed that if a U.S. Muslim had executed three white atheists it would have automatically resulted in the use of the word "terror" in American papers. Source: *The Week*, February 27, 2015, page 15.

**AMERICAN SNIPER.** Overseas papers have also jumped on the film *American Sniper* describing it as "a film based on the life of a bigoted liar who relished killing Arabs." That film was a top grossing film in the U.S. Source: *The Week*, February 27, 2015, page 15.

**NEW SURPRISES IN VAN ALLEN BELTS.** The earth's magnetic field protects us from charged particles coming from the sun and other radiation sources in space. Gravity pulls the particles in,

but the magnetic field pushes them out, and they end up in belts starting around 600 miles above the earth and stretch out as far as 25,000 miles. Astronomers announced in November 2014 that they have found another barrier some 7,200 miles above the earth forming an impenetrable barrier



NASA cutaway drawing of Van Allen Belts

to high energy electrons coming from the sun that are not stopped by the other belts because of their energy. Dr. Daniel Baker, who did much of the work, says the barrier is a force field somewhat like the force fields on Star Trek, but what is causing this phenomenon is unknown. It just adds one more factor to the long list of carefully designed features that allow us to be able to live on earth. Source: *Astronomy*, April 2015, page 18.

**OKLAHOMA QUAKES HUMAN CAUSED?** In 2014, there were nearly 300 times as many earthquakes in Oklahoma as in 2008, and more than the previous 30 years combined. In 2014 there were 584 quakes of magnitude 3.0 or greater. Before 2008 there were fewer than five a year. The cause seems to be injection wells that bury waste water from fracking and other oil and gas operations. Years ago sewage disposal in Colorado was linked to earthquakes, so this would not be a first. As time goes by we see more and more evidence that what God created was good and safe, but man's mismanagement can

cause tragedy and then skeptics attack God's poor design. Source: USGS, Oklahoma Geological Survey, and *National Geographic*.

**OUR CHEMICAL FOOD SUPPLY.** Since 1950, farmers have fed antibiotic growth promoters to livestock. Eighty percent of all antibiotics sold in the U.S. are given to poultry and other livestock according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2013 budget report). In 1960 it took 63 days to grow a 3.4-pound broiler chicken, and in 2011 it took 47 days to grow a 5.4-pound one. The problem is that this heavy use can produce superbugs that are resistant to drugs, and the government says that the cost of all this to the U.S. Health system in 2013 was in excess of \$21 billion. Like many things that threaten us, greed and mismanagement of what God has given us



bring pain and heartbreak to many people. God told man “to work it and take care of it” in Genesis 2:15. Like the earthquake issue in Oklahoma, we need to look at what we are doing and learn from the mistakes of the past. Source: *National Geographic*.

**CAGE FIGHTING CHRISTIANS?** We have all heard of church league basketball and softball leagues, but now we have teams of church groups engaging in cage fighting. This is a copy of UFC cage fights in which kicking and punching goes on until one fighter gives up in submission. Fights are posted on the organization's website and fighters are shown in action. *Biblical Archaeology Review* in their May/June 2015 issue (page 26) describes the “scene as pornographic ... it looks like rape.” We would suggest that the world's values and attitudes have been used to get attention and that such activity flies in the face of the teachings of Jesus Christ.

**THE GOSPEL OF JESUS' WIFE.** In September 2012, Dr. Karen King, who is a professor at the Harvard Divinity School presented a discovery of a document that she called “The Gospel of Jesus' Wife.” There has been considerable debate about whether her claims were justified, and whether Jesus was in fact married. A Coptic scholar named Christian Ashland has been studying Gnostic literature and particularly the Gnostic Gospel of John. Ashland has

shown that the Gnostic Gospel of John was a forgery and that the Jesus' wife fragment was by the same forger. There is no doubt in most scholars' minds that the claim that Jesus had a wife based on King's find is not supported by the evidence. Source: *Biblical Archaeology Review*, May/June 2015, pages 54.

**PRAYER FOR SICK LANDS CHRISTIANS IN JAIL.** A Laotian provincial court put five Christians in jail who prayed for a woman who later died. The woman asked for prayer from local Christian leaders after unsuccessful treatments from healers and doctors. After the Christians prayed for the woman, she died, and the Christians were arrested. The continued persecution of Christians all over the world is glossed over by the media but continues to be an issue. Source: *Christianity Today*, April 2015, page 17.

**FIRE CHIEF FIRED FOR BIBLE BELIEFS.** Kevin Cochran has been a fireman for 30 years and was also the fire chief in Atlanta. Cochran is also a strong believer in Christ and the moral principles taught by Jesus. He wrote a book about how good biblical moral standards are, and has been fired for giving copies of the book to coworkers. Advocates for Cochran have raised the question, "What could be more intolerant and exclusionary than ending a public servant's 30 years of distinguished service for his religious beliefs?" Source: *New York Times*, January 12, 2015 quote in *Citizen*, March 2015, page 9.

**TASTE IS NOT ALWAYS A GOOD THING.** It has always been somewhat of a mystery as to why some animals can eat things that are incredibly bitter, sour, or just plain unpleasant. Penguins, dolphins, sea lions, and whales all seem to be able to eat things that are pretty disgusting in taste. Recent research shows that these animals lack the ability to taste. Taste depends on proteins called umami receptors in the outer membrane of taste bud cells. These animals are missing the gene that allows umami receptors to exist. It seems to be a design feature for these animals so that they can eat things that normally would only go to waste because of their flavor, or lack of it. Sometimes the inability to taste can be a blessing. Source: *Science News*, March 21, 2015, page 8.



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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