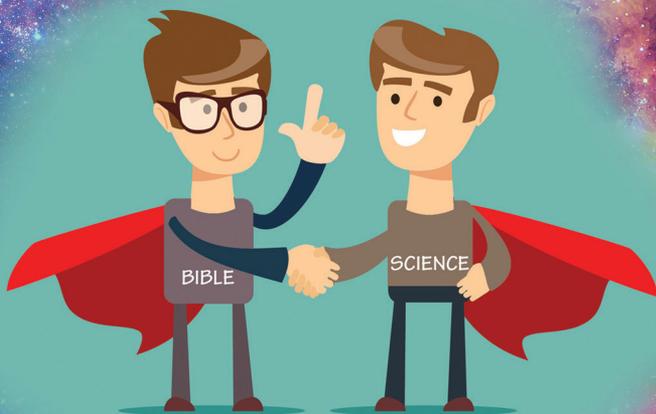


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**1st Quarter 2018
Volume 45 Number 1**



**THE TRUE VIEW OF
SCIENCE AND THE BIBLE**

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THE TRUE VIEW OF SCIENCE AND THE BIBLE

As you read fundamentalist materials on the Creation and atheist materials refuting creation, you see them making the same error. Both are adding human traditions and assumptions to what they find in the Bible. Some of this comes from denominational traditions and some from second-hand information. In the past ten years discoveries have challenged both creationists and atheists to find a way to fit their belief systems into the mountain of new data. I am talking about data, not theory or opinion. Religious extremists may attempt to deny the data, but in the twenty-first century, that is increasingly difficult to do because everyone can see the evidence for themselves.

All of this data leads any thinking person to realize that his view of the cosmos must accommodate the facts. Some of these facts are very complex and have implications that are not easy to ignore. Some of the interesting facts are these:

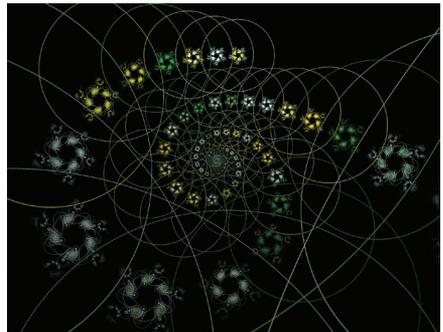
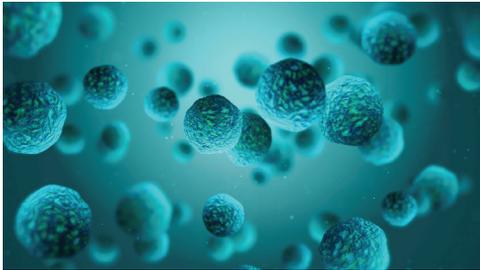
1. The Earth is not the physical center of the cosmos.
2. The Earth orbits the Sun, one star of the billions that make up our Milky Way galaxy, and along with these stars in the galaxy, orbit the core of the galaxy.
3. There is dark matter/energy holding galactic systems together.
4. Space has shape and gravity (mass) can warp that shape.
5. Stars vary in type and function, and they can even explode.
6. Distances in space are huge and some objects are so far away that it takes millions of years for light to get from them to us.
7. There are other solar systems with planets orbiting their parent stars, some of which could have liquid water on their surfaces.
8. Matter in the physical world obeys physical laws. The energy and electromagnetic forces that produce charge and mass have their own set of laws and do not always obey the physical laws.

So how do fundamentalists and atheists deal with these facts and others we have not listed? Atheists suggest theories which provide a possible explanation, but are scientifically and mathematically

Atheists suggest theories which provide a possible explanation, but are scientifically and mathematically impossible.

impossible. Frequently they do that by redefining words so that their attempt to discard or discredit God can be accomplished. An example would be to redefine “life.” Life has traditionally been defined as “that form which can move, breathe, respond to outside stimuli, and reproduce.” In the September 2017 issue of *Astronomy* magazine (page 10), Dr. Bob Berman makes the statement that, “Scientists can’t agree on a definition.” Atheist Francis Crick who was the codiscoverer of the DNA helix describes the origin of life as “almost a miracle, so many are the conditions which would have to be satisfied to get it going.” Some suggest life in the form of rocks, gases, or latent energy. These creative proposals are not science. They cannot be tested or falsified in any way, so they are simply guesses with no scientific validity. Another example is the word “nothing” which has been redefined to attempt to maintain that something can come from “nothing.” What most rational people accept as nothing is different from those proposals.

To deny God’s participation, some have proposed a creation process that is not science at all because it cannot be falsified. No experiment can test the idea to see if it is valid. Virtual reality is a classic example of this. “Virtual” means “unreal.” A virtual image cannot be projected. It depends on perceptions, with the brain being the major player. You can propose anything in the virtual world, so it is, in essence, a religious proposal with no purpose or use except to exclude God. In some cases like string theory or brane theory, the proposal may be real, but it is untestable. There are 10^{500} different solutions to the equations in string theory making it impossible to test on any



practical level. If you want further explanation, there is an excellent book by Leonard Susskind titled *The Cosmic Landscape: String Theory and the Illusion of Intelligent Design* (New York: Little, Brown and Company, 2006).

Religious fundamentalists have several methods of dealing with scientific facts. One is the method we have already discussed, and that is to make proposals that have no scientific credibility and cannot be falsified nor tested in any way. They simply say, “God did it” or “God spoke it into existence.” This method is very popular because it avoids science completely. All of the questions raised about evolution, dinosaurs, or cavemen are simply swept away. As popular as this method is, it has severe problems. The most glaring problem is that it violates the Bible. First Peter 3:15 (NIV) tells us to, “Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.” Throughout the Bible, God tells us to look at the creation and learn and build our faith (Job 38–41; Psalm 19:1; Proverbs 8; Romans 1:18–20).

There is another major problem with avoiding scientific facts. Doing so puts us out of touch with both what we see Jesus and the apostles doing in their day and with what a majority of people in our day accept as reasonable. When Jesus went into the temple at age twelve, he reasoned and studied with the leaders of the temple. That was his pattern throughout life. When Paul was in Athens on Mars Hill, he debated and discussed with the Epicureans and Stoics. He also taught and spoke in the synagogues and schools throughout his ministry. So too, in our day, we must teach people where they are in their understanding. All studies show that a large percentage of people in the Western world say “none” when asked what their religious beliefs are. When pollsters ask why people have left their Christian beliefs, a majority either say it has no relevance to their lives or that their questions have not been answered.

Another method that religious fundamentalists use to deal with scientific facts is to offer claimed scientific evidence to refute the facts. The reason this works is that a large percentage of the world’s people are scientifically illiterate. Several religious organizations attempt to deny the existence of dinosaurs or show that dinosaurs and humans lived together. A classic example of this was a claim that human and dinosaur tracks were found





together in the same rock strata in Glen Rose, Texas. To support this belief, biblical words were distorted, facts about the tracks were kept hidden, and alterations of the tracks were kept secret. We visited the tracks in 1976 and had an article on them in our journal

(September 1976, page 27). One of the main fundamentalist groups that promoted the Glen Rose effort made a film titled, *Footprints in Stone* which was finally recalled (September 1986).

This same kind of problem exists with many claims and organizations today. Great distances and long time intervals are handled by using scientific claims that simply do not work. Suggesting time dilation or advocating relativistic speeds during the creation week ignores the fact that mass increases in the same way that time dilates. Claiming that the speed of light in a vacuum has changed radically ignores the fact that the value of this constant is used in a plethora of equations describing other phenomena. Claiming Noah's flood produced the rocks in the Grand Canyon and then eroded them "as the waters abated" ignores the fact that most of the rocks in the canyon are not flood deposits. Skeptics have produced flashy journals like *Skeptic* magazine in which God and the Bible are ridiculed because of errors such as these.



Most of these religious attempts to deal with scientific facts come from non-biblical doctrinal traditions such as dispensationalism, millennialism, rapture theology, Jehovah's Witness doctrines, Mormonism, spiritism, or others.

So what is "the true view of science and the Bible" as our title suggests? How can we convince people living in the twenty-first century that God does exist, that the Bible is the Word of God, and that Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life and that no one comes to the Father except through him? (See John 14:6.) We would suggest that four fundamental statements need to be accepted before one begins to look at the evidence:

1. The Bible and science have to agree because they have the same Author.
2. Science is knowledge and is true by definition.
3. God wants us to study the creation and learn from it (Psalm 19:1; Proverbs 8:1, 22–28; Romans 1:18–20).
4. The Bible is inspired and true but must be read by looking at who wrote the passage, when and why it was written, and how the people it was written to would have understood it (2 Timothy 3:16–17).

Atheists and skeptics will want to deny all but number two. Fundamentalists will want to deny all four statements. They will deny number four because their view of the Bible is that the Spirit makes the King James Version accurate for all people as written in all ages. To rational, educated twenty-first century people who are searching for answers, these four statements make sense and can be used as a guide to build a dynamic, working, functional faith. This ministry is designed to assist people in building faith. We can assist by helping people understand words in the original language. We can assist by debunking bad science and pointing out so-called scientific statements from both atheists and fundamentalists which clearly are not scientific. We can share the knowledge of great scientists who are believers, both in the past and in today's world. We do not claim to be infallible in attempting to do this, but we would suggest the approach has been time-tested. We have been in this ministry for 50 years now and offer these materials free of denominational bias, tradition, and without cost. Welcome.



—John N. Clayton

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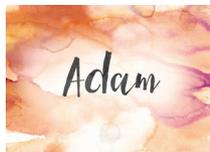


WHO WAS ADAM?

When you mention Adam and Eve in a crowd of mixed beliefs about religion, what kind of a reaction do you get? I suggest the reactions are different from what they were 25 years ago. For some, it is an eye roll and perhaps a suggestion

that they no longer believe in myths and fairy tales. For many, Adam and Eve are mythical figures of ancient Hebrew poetry—a story to teach, but certainly not history. Others suggest that the story of Adam and Eve is a social myth describing in figurative terms a view of human social evolution. For still others, the story is a description of a miraculous literal historical event of a few thousand years ago. Others simply do not have an opinion, and they do not care.

Throughout human history, these views have shaped the way people live on this planet. Some justified slavery because they felt their race was created by God while other races evolved. Those who view Adam and Eve as fictitious characters and the entire account of them as allegorical at best open the door to compromising all of the biblical account. If Adam and Eve are symbols and never lived, then why could we not also say that Jesus Christ was a symbol and never lived? Our view of Adam and Eve has a domino effect. If you take the account as historical, then you have the question of where Cain got his wife? Did Adam have a belly button? What is a “help meet” and does this not justify the subjugation of women? Does “subdue” mean to exploit the Earth with no regard for pollution or depletion of resources? Some of these questions may never have completely satisfying answers, but most of them can be studied to find reasonable answers. We would like to attempt to do that in this article.



The name Adam, in addition to being a proper name, also has the connotation of mankind and it occurs over 500 times in the Old Testament. In the New Testament, the name Adam occurs eight times—seven times referring to the first man (see Luke 3:38; Romans 5:14; 1 Corinthians 15:22, 45; 1 Timothy. 2:13, 14; and Jude 14.) In 1 Corinthians 15:45 it is used as a reference to Christ. We would like to make three points about Adam as he is presented in the Bible.

1. ADAM WAS A CREATION: UNIQUE AND DIFFERENT FROM ANYTHING ELSE.

There are three verses in Genesis 1 in which the word “create” (*bara* in Hebrew) refers to something only God can do — a miracle. In Genesis 1:1 *bara* is used to describe the creation of time, space, and matter/energy. In Genesis 1:21 it is used in reference to life. In Genesis 1:27 it refers to the creation of man and woman, “So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them, male and female he created them.” In Genesis 2:7 we read, “Then the LORD God formed a man from the dust of the ground” The Hebrew word used there is *yatsar* which means to form or fashion as a potter would fashion a vase. God makes a vessel into which he could place the man whom he created. The verse goes on to tell us that into the body he formed, God breathed the breath of life and the man became a living soul.

Adam was a miracle. The Bible does not tell us how God molded the ground to make the body, but the fullness of a human cannot be realized until there is a body to put the soul into and until that body has the breath of life and until the soul becomes the dominant part. James 1:13 tells us that God is incapable of deception. We can be sure that Adam did not have a belly button because that would be deceptive. We do not know what he looked like physically, but both he and Eve were created in God’s image spiritually, and that made them different from anything else in the creation. Genesis goes on to describe Adam’s existence. He lived as a gatherer, simply picking his food off the many trees in the garden. Genesis 2:15 tells us that Adam’s employment was to “work” and “take care of” the garden. The Hebrew word *abad* used in this verse is commonly used to describe labor. Exodus 20:9 uses the same word to describe human responsibility in the Ten Commandments. We were never intended to be idle.

There is every indication that Adam and Eve had children in the garden. In Genesis 1:28 they were commanded to “be fruitful and increase.” In Genesis 3:16 God told Eve, “I will make your pains in childbearing very severe;” That indicates she must have had childbirth before. Those who have viewed sex as a punishment have a sad understanding of one of God’s most beautiful gifts to us. Sex is not evil, even though our generation has demeaned it. Genesis 3:16 is most accurately translated “your desire will be for your husband.” Genesis 2:24 explains that the man’s relationship with his wife is one of clinging, closure, and oneness in all the couple does. Being one involves far more than sexual intercourse. This means that a population left the Garden of Eden, not just one



man and one woman. Cain married a distant relative born in the Garden, and incest was not an issue because no time for significant genetic damage had transpired. In Genesis 4:14 Cain was worried about other humans killing him because there was a population that came out of the garden. In Genesis 4:17 Cain builds a city, which means there was a population present to dwell within the city.

Adam was very different from us. His communication with God was different, and in all probability his communication with the animals was different. He was now a farmer, not a gatherer. Animal husbandry was beginning as indicated by Abel being a herder.

2. THE FALL WAS PRIMARILY A SPIRITUAL EVENT NOT PRIMARILY A PHYSICAL EVENT.

Genesis 2:17 tells us the word of God given to Adam and Eve about the forbidden fruit: "... you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die." They did not drop dead physically when they ate from the tree. Genesis 3:6 tells us that the physical appearance of the tree was that its fruit was good to eat. The next verse tells us that their eyes were opened. They obviously were not physically blind before eating from the tree. God also states that there was a "tree of life" (Genesis 3:22), and that its fruit would enable one to live forever. The Bible does not describe that tree, but Revelation 22:2 tells us that the tree of life will grow along the river flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb in heaven. The image is clear that it is not a physical existence we will have in heaven. Our bodies are dust-to-dust, and 1 Corinthians 15:42–55 describes our new existence.

Adam and Eve did not drop dead physically when they ate the forbidden fruit, but they did drop dead spiritually. First Corinthians 15:44–50 tells us about Adam coming as a physical being, but being a place for the spirit to dwell. "It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual



body. So it is written: 'The first man Adam became a living being' [Greek *psyche*, meaning a breathing animal soul]; the last Adam [Jesus], a life-giving spirit [Greek *pneuma*, meaning a spiritual being]. The spiritual did not come first, but the natural, and after that

the spiritual [came into being]. The first man [Adam] was of the dust of the earth; the second man is of heaven. ... as we have borne the image of the earthly man [having a physical body], so shall we bear the image of the heavenly man [Jesus]. ... flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God"

Attempting to make the fall a physical occurrence, and to say that the death referred to physical death misses the point of what happened when Adam and Eve disobeyed God. Humans were doomed to eternal separation from God and from all God had to offer us.

3. SINCE THE FALL GOD HAS SOUGHT TO RESTORE US.

From Adam to Moses humans were in a free-fall having only instinctive morality. Romans 2:14–15 speaks of Gentiles doing instinctively some of what the Jews had in the law. Judges 17:6 and 21:25 tell us, “In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as they saw fit.” Cut off from God; humans were in chaos in the days of ancient Israel, in Paul’s day, and even today.

From Moses to Christ social order and structure came through legalism—a method that primitive humans could understand and live by. All connections to God were by force. God’s desire was and is to put us back into the relationship that Adam had with God. The way to do that was through Jesus Christ who gives us a way to live eternally. We are freed from legalism and given a relationship with God that is based on love, not force. Colossians 2:12–15 says it well: “having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through your faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead. When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross. And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.”



The message of Adam is a message of salvation—of being restored to God. In A.D. 70 the Temple was destroyed, wiping out all vestiges of the Old Law.

All attempts of humans to follow a legalistic way of being restored to God were gone. The entire book of Galatians is devoted to Paul trying to stop the churches in Galatia from going back to the legalistic attempts to reach God by following laws. Jesus Christ gives us freedom from those legalistic attempts and brings those who obey him into a relationship with God. Revelation 21 and 22 gives a picture of that restored relationship. It is the beautiful relationship that Adam had in the beginning before sin separated us from God and made spiritual death a reality.

—JNC



As an atheist, one of the things that angered me the most was believers using miracles as proof of the existence of God. I spent many years looking for a verification of a miracle happening. When I dug into the evidence, I could find nothing to convince me that something had happened that did not have a natural, physical explanation. Claims of modern medical miracles either turned out to be fabrications or they ignored what had been done medically to help the individual. When the country singer Naomi Judd was cured of hepatitis, she attributed it to an act of God. The doctor who treated her said he felt it was more a product of interferon. Many doctors will tell you that they only facilitate what God has built into his miraculous design of our bodies. Recovering from an illness with medical support is not the same as Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead.

We can explain miraculous escapes as blind luck. When I was in the army, the claims that God protected some of my fellow soldiers did not stand up. Two guys in my battalion were active Christians, and as far as I knew, both lived exemplary lives. They tried to convince me of the existence of God. They both had loving wives, and both had two children. One of them was killed, and the other was not killed in a Korean fire-fight with Chinese soldiers. The one who was not killed claimed that God had protected him. As an atheist, I could see no reason why he should not have died instead of the other. I especially did not see why I should have survived while the Christian died. The adage that “there are no atheists in foxholes” simply is not true. Many of the



cases of mental illness stemming from military combat are rooted in men unable to make sense of why they survived when their best friend did not.

As an atheist, I saw Christmas as a commercial holiday with no real religious significance. The obvious materialistic obsession in even the most dedicated Christians denied that the birth of Christ was really the main focus of the holiday. Holiday stories about miracles that happened in association with Christmas were not only difficult to believe but, in some cases, scientifically impossible to support. A true star cannot hover over a manger. The stars you see at night cannot travel in front of some “wise men.” The whole notion of the time of year when Christmas is celebrated did not make sense. The winter solstice was a better explanation for the celebration than the arrival of God’s Son on planet Earth. Shepherds spending the night in the hills with their flocks in late December did not make sense.

Confronted with all of this, many Christians will resort to quoting scripture to back up their claims that miracles prove the



existence of God. Matthew 11:4–5 quotes Jesus answering John’s disciples’ question about whether he was the Messiah by saying, “Go back and report to John what you hear and see: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good

news is proclaimed to the poor.” As an atheist, I found this claim to be interesting but not convincing. These are ignorant ancient people living in a pagan world. Jesus stilling the storm in Matthew 8 or raising the dead in Luke 7:11–15 and 8:49–56 was folklore, as far as I was concerned. Like Thomas, unless I saw it, I was not going to buy into what seemed to be silly religious claims.

If there is no God, then the Bible is just a bunch of silly old stories concocted by religious charlatans to control ignorant people. From personal experience, I suggest that quoting biblical claims of miraculous events will not change the mind of most atheists. Someone will quote Romans 10:17, “faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ.” The question here is “faith in what?” If you go back to verse 13 you will read, “for, ‘Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.’” The faith here is faith in Jesus. It is not faith that there is a God.

The answer to all of this is not to just keep spouting scripture! The answer is evidence! Proof of the existence of God is only hinted

at in Scripture and even in those cases, it points to evidence. For example, Romans 1:20 tells us that God's existence can be "understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse." Psalm

In the twenty-first century, we are blessed to have literally mountains of evidence in the natural world to help us gain faith in God as the creator.

19:1 tells us that "The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands." In Proverbs 8 wisdom challenges us to understand the wisdom built into every fabric of the creation. Job 38:1–40:1 brings us face-to-face with the design built into everything we know of in the cosmos. In the twenty-first century, we are blessed to have literally mountains of evidence in the natural world to help us gain faith in God as the Creator.

Even the miracles of the Bible can be investigated on the basis of evidence. How many people saw the miracles of Jesus? How



many people saw him crucified? How many people saw him after his resurrection? The answer in each of these cases is "thousands." What historical evidence do we have for the validity of Christ? The answer again is in the thousands of ancient manuscripts which verify the life and teachings of Christ

as opposed to 12 for Socrates and 6 for Plato. Nearly every day we see new discoveries made by scientists in different fields that support the biblical account or disprove an old claim of an error in the Bible. This journal is just one of many that record this information and our website www.doesgodexist.today continues to grow with examples to build faith and answer some of the challenges that plagued me as an atheist.

The main purpose of miracles in the time of Christ and the infant church was to verify who was credible and who was not. Today we see religious charlatans making claims leading to making money and bilking innocent people out of their savings. There were such people in the first century (see Acts 19:13). Jesus said in John 10:38; 14:11; and 20:30–31 that the miracles he did were the basis of faith for people of that day. Hebrews 2:3–4 tells us that in the early church

miracles separated the hucksters from the true spokespersons of God. First Corinthians 13:8 tells us that miracles would cease when the written word was available as a standard of authority to teach God's will.

Let us be clear that God can perform a miracle any time he chooses, but it will be for a specific purpose unique to an individual. Miracles are not a tool to convince an atheist that there is a God. But once we come to faith

through the evidence God has provided, the indwelling of the Spirit that Peter promised in Acts 2:38–40 can give us strength and guidance to become new people as Romans 6 describes.

Since I came from atheism to faith, I know how much evidence God has given us. I have now lived for over half a century with God working to make me a new man. I have seen a miraculous change in myself, but the change is in what Galatians 5:22–25 calls “the fruit of the Spirit.” Let God bring that same change and that same fruit into your life.

—JNC



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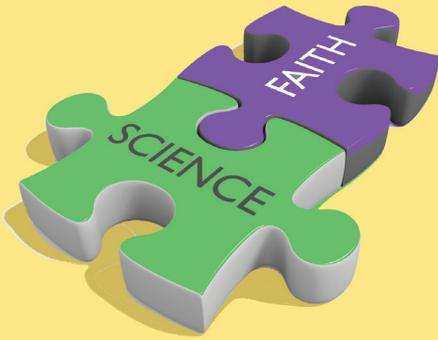
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SCIENCE OR FAITH: A FALSE CHOICE

by Douglas Jacoby

In your school days, maybe you loved science class, or perhaps you dreaded it. (I hope not.) I have been a science lover since childhood. Those were the early years of NASA when men were “walking” in space. I had a Mercury space capsule for my G. I. Joe. We even drove down to Cape Kennedy, the site of the rocket launches. I will certainly never forget waking up in the middle of the night to watch men walk on the moon (20 July 1969).

Astronomy was especially exciting—all those planets, asteroids, comets, stars, and galaxies! I remember the day our teacher told us that light had a velocity. I raced home and asked my younger brother



to turn on the flashlight. My aim: to beat the light beam in a foot race! On the first trial, I angrily accused him of switching on the flashlight before I was ready. The second time, I realized he was doing exactly what I requested. How was I to know that even if I multiplied my speed a million times, there would still be no hope of winning? (Velocity of an eight

year old: 15 km./hr. Velocity of light: 300,000 km/sec.)

The mystique of science continues to mesmerize me. I subscribe to scientific publications, buy books on biology, paleontology, and archaeology, and rush to read the science section of the daily paper. I would like everyone to be enthusiastic about science and share in the thrill of new discoveries. This helps us to keep an open mind and realize the greatness of the One behind all true science. Even now as I travel around the world, trying to convince skeptics and unbelievers about God and the Bible, I enjoy expounding on science and faith.

EXTREME PREJUDICE — ON THE SIDE OF FAITH

Unfortunately, faith and science, in the thinking of many, do not exactly fit hand-in-glove. I suppose it is not surprising that through the years a certain polarization has taken place. Nowhere is the debate hotter than in the science versus creationism debate. This began heating up within a few decades of Darwin's *The Origin of Species* in 1859 and received further impetus during the ignoble Scopes "Monkey Trial" of 1925.

Many Christians (and their children) have been taught that they must choose between science and faith. The former is the province of atheism and secularism, the latter the only sure way



Scopes Trial on July 20, 1925

to acquire true knowledge. The polarization is unhelpful and even illogical — given that the Bible itself points us to the observation of nature for knowledge of God (Psalm 19; Psalm 104; Romans 1).

MAJORING IN THE MINORS

It was during my junior year of high school that Young Earth Creationists grabbed my attention. These are persons who believe the only sane way to interpret Genesis is to allow for an Earth no more than 6,000–10,000 years old. Because these men spoke with conviction — and had lots of data — I came to accept their position lock, stock, and barrel. So convinced was I that I happily debated nonbelievers, defending the Young Earth position. I debated believers, too, for to me this was a matter of life and death. Cede one foot of ground at Genesis, I reasoned, and the entire battle for the Bible has been lost!



I well remember an argument I had with a fifty-year-old believer. He was a professional scientist, and I asked him if he accepted evolution. "Yes, I do," he replied. "I knew it," I thought. "Then how can you be saved?" (These were my exact words!)

It is not necessary to recount the rest of our conversation, but suffice it to say that in my way of thinking, no one who disagreed with me over the creation-evolution issue was "right with God." I cringe at remembering my presumption! The real point is not how much truth is on one side or the other, but that we err so

grievously in making this an issue of Christian fellowship, or scriptural fidelity.

THE REAL ENEMY

Do not get me wrong. If one believes in atheistic evolution, thus denying the Creator-God of the Bible, a fundamental line has been crossed. Atheistic evolution is a metaphysical, not a physical, scientific theory. It is reasonable to believe that God works in the biological world through natural processes. How God brought life into existence—whatever process he caused or allowed to occur—is within the range of acceptable. He is God, after all. So whether God brought the world—or life—into being instantaneously or through a lengthy process is beside the point.

THE HOW AND THE WHY

Keep in mind the distinction between the how and the why.



Scripture speaks of ultimate reasons—the WHY. Science deals with proximate reasons—the HOW. To cite physicist John Polkinghorne’s illustration, a kettle is boiling because burning gas raises the water temperature (how)—but also because someone wants a cup of tea (why). The “scientific” explanation is not at odds with the personal one. In fact, together they provide a more comprehensive understanding of what is going on.

CONCLUSION

Science should enhance our faith, cause us to ask questions, and help us to appreciate the answers when they come. Theology and science have something in common, for each seeks truth and all truth is God’s truth. As Solomon noted, “It is the glory of God to conceal things, but the glory of kings is to search things out” (Proverbs 25:2). It is the denial of God that is the issue, not where one stands vis-à-vis modern science. Do not let anyone pressure you into making a false choice. It is not a case of science or faith, but science and faith.

Find more by Dr. Jacoby at:
www.DouglasJacoby.com



DOES GOD EXIST? MINISTRY CELEBRATES 50 YEARS WITH A CANYONLANDS TRIP!



Our first lectureship was in the fall of 1968, and our first Grand Canyon trip was in the winter of 1970.

WE WILL CELEBRATE THOSE EVENTS WITH A CANYONLANDS TRIP: September 9–14, 2018.

- We will visit by air-conditioned bus Sunset Crater Volcano National Monument, Grand Canyon, Bryce Canyon, Zion, and Petrified Forest (including the Painted Desert) national parks, a boat trip on Lake Powell, and Meteor Crater.
- As we travel, Alan Doty and John Clayton will lecture on the things we are seeing and how they support the biblical record.
- This will be a trip for believers. Prayers and singing will be a part of every day's activities.

Trip arrangements are managed by
Story Land and Sea, 12835 E. Arapahoe Road, Tower 1-500,
Centennial CO 80112. Phone 877-865-6711.

E-mail: Mark@StoryLandSea.com

Website: www.storylandsea.com.

No money is paid to or managed by John Clayton, Alan Doty or the **Does God Exist?** ministry. The total cost is \$1,100.00 which includes bus travel from Flagstaff, all entry fees including the boat trip, breakfast on Tuesday through Friday, motels Monday through Thursday night. Not included are lunch and dinner meals, gratuities, travel to and from Flagstaff, or Sunday night and Friday night housing.

SCIENTISTS AND GOD

Editor's Note: Atheists attempt to suggest that scientists are intelligent people who have rejected faith and do not believe in God. The fact is that some of the most productive scientists who have ever lived were believers in God. We share some of their thoughts with you in this column.

FRANK J. TIPLER

(1947-)

Professor of Mathematical Physics
at Tulane University

Dr. Tipler graduated from MIT and began his science career as a cosmologist. He is perhaps best known for his book with John Barrow titled *The Anthropic Cosmological Principle* published by Oxford University Press in 1986. In 1994 he wrote a book titled *The Physics of Immortality*. In 2007 he followed up with *The Physics of Christianity*. The following quote from *The Physics of Immortality* is about his intellectual journey.



“When I began my career as a cosmologist some twenty years ago, I was a convinced atheist. I never in my wildest dreams imagined that one day I would be writing a book purporting to show that the central claims of Judeo-Christian theology are in fact true, that these claims are straightforward deductions of the laws of physics as we now understand them. I have been forced to these conclusions by the inexorable logic of my own special branch of physics.”

You can visit Dr. Tipler's personal website at:
<http://129.81.170.14/~tipler/>



Cynthia's Corner



HAPPY 50TH ANNIVERSARY DGE?

This is the 50th anniversary of the **Does God Exist?** ministry. In 1968 God placed a converted atheist and science teacher in a position to give a presentation at Harding University. With the help of his first wife, Phyllis, and the support and encouragement of many church friends, John Clayton started doing lectures on the basic premise that faith and science are compatible and mutually support each other. One of his most famous and often quoted lines is, "You don't have to put your brain in a tin can to believe in God. You can intelligently and rationally believe that 'In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.'"

This ministry has helped countless numbers of people come to faith in God or strengthen their faith in God. God has given believers and non-believers many reasons to believe that he is real and is the Creator and sustainer of everything. One way he has done this is through this ministry which gives evidences for belief in God, his Son, Jesus, and his Word, the Bible. These evidences are based on accumulated knowledge in many fields of science, Earth's history, and human history. If God is indeed the Creator of everything, then his creation and his Word (the Bible), reveal him to us and can never be in conflict.

The creation does indeed reveal the glory of its Creator (Psalm 19:1). Romans 1:20 says that we can know there is a God from the things he has made. All known, credible science supports the idea of intelligent design in creation. Every issue of this journal since 2007 has had statements by famous scientists who believe the creation was designed by an intelligent higher power. We call that power "God."

Our world and the universe we live in are full of examples of God's intelligent design. We cannot look at the world and the universe without seeing complex order and design. John has written a series of books called *Dandy Designs* that showcase specific examples of the complex, intelligent design we see in all of God's creation.

The Bible gives many proofs of the existence of God and Jesus. It is not a science or history book, but any facts it reveals in those areas have never been proven wrong, and never will be. God's words are true. That is not blind faith because we have many evidences all around us and we build our lives around that belief. We praise God that he has for half a century made this ministry flourish, and allowed us to be tools in this work.

The **Does God Exist?** ministry team members are John and Cynthia Clayton, Roland Earnst, Linda Glover, and Karl Marcussen.

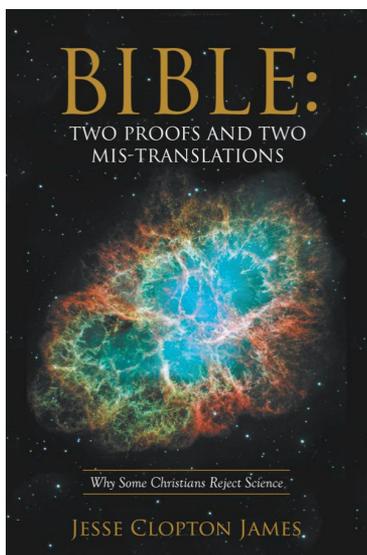
—Cynthia Clayton



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.

Bible: Two Proofs and Two Mis-Translations

by Jesse Clopton James, Westbrow Press, © 2016,
180 pages, \$13.95 (paperback) ISBN-13: 978-1-5127-4967-0



If you are looking for a strong rebuttal of young Earth creation theology, this book is for you. James has arrived at the same conclusion as your reviewer but from a different starting point. I have seen young Earth creationists coming to their views from their denominational dispensationalist creeds as I have confronted them in lectureships and public discussions for almost 50 years.

James examines the theological framework of Bible translators as they interpreted Hebrew words according to the traditions of their professors and schools of theology.

We both agree that young Earth arguments do not take the Bible literally.

They do not look at who wrote the passages in question, to whom they were written, and how the people of that day would have understood them. Interpreting the Bible by using a western tradition over 1,500 years after the original is not taking the Bible literally.

James argues that the Hebrew word *yom* in Genesis was translated “day” only because of the bias of the 1611 King James Version translators. He points out passages like Genesis 47:9 where the word *yom* is better translated “years.” He then traces the way various translators came to their conclusions about that Hebrew word. He does the same for the Hebrew word *asah* which is translated “make.” As we have pointed out many times, *bara* (Hebrew for “create”) is used

when a miracle of God is involved, but *asah* is used when there is a natural process. James came to the same conclusion by tracing the theological bias in early English translations of the Bible.

James also argues that God reveals himself in the natural world as well as the written word. He shows that an anti-science viewpoint was the approach of early scholars to the written word leading to bizarre interpretations of many passages. This not only involves the age of the earth but other biblical events as well.

James maintains that when science is compared to Scripture, it shows a solid proof of God's existence. He highlights two proofs. One is that the probability of biblical prophecies being fulfilled by humans is so low as to be discounted. Only the actions of God can

When science is compared to Scripture, it shows a solid proof of God's existence.

account for the fulfillment of the many prophecies. The other proof is the scientific integrity of biblical passages concerning Creation.

James holds a B.A. in physics from Auburn, an M.A. in nuclear physics from Rice, and a Ph.D. from Georgia Tech, so his scientific approach is very strong. The first nine chapters of the book are very useful as they develop this approach with extensive documentation.

Beginning with chapter 10, James presents 20 chapters and two appendices of generally related topics. Some of these chapters are less than a page in length. The topics are covered very briefly and leave many unanswered questions. They include:

- * Negative comments on young Earth views.
- * Reviews of various conferences on Creation.
- * Why people lived so long in the days of Methuselah.
- * What killed the dinosaurs.
- * Why Barton Stone's grandson became an atheist.
- * The rather sordid history of the Restoration Movement.

Those are just a few examples.

This book is worth the money. It has a great deal of information and some strong arguments about the topics James addresses. However, he tries to cover too much ground. The tone of the book will be offensive to young Earth proponents who are portrayed as being ignorant and negative toward science. In spite of those weaknesses, it contains valid points about the problems of young Earth denominationalism.

We recommend this book for its clear rebuttal of young Earth creation theology.

DANDY DESIGNS



A Design to Reduce Inbreeding

As our understanding of genetics has improved, we have seen the genetic hazards involved in too small of an animal or plant population. If a plant or animal breeds with a near relative, destructive genetic characteristics are more likely to show up in offspring. You do not breed litter-mates for this reason. Animal breeders are very careful to keep mixing their stock to minimize inbred malformations. The question that comes up for biologists is how inbreeding is avoided in the natural world.

In March 17, 2015, the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, published a report that addresses this interesting question. Biologists studied a plant known as *Heliconia tortuosa* which has long tube-like flowers. The plant can be pollinated by six hummingbird species and one butterfly species. But the most successful pollinator by far are the hummingbird species with extra-long, curved bills. Short-billed hummingbirds and butterflies are much less likely to cause the plant to produce more pollen tubes, so the reproduction rate from those sources is low. When long-billed hummingbirds (or fake glass pipettes) came into the plant, it responded with many more pollen tubes and much more nectar. That meant that the pollen from the long-billed birds was the main pollinator of the plant.

When scientists tagged the hummingbirds, they found that the short-billed birds and butterflies all lived very close to the plant. The long-billed hummingbirds flew long distances and covered many miles bringing pollen from distant sources. In that way inbreeding in the plant was greatly reduced. Plants located at great distances would be more likely to have a different genome. The design of the plant to accept primarily the bills of birds coming great distances, combined with the design of the hummingbirds to fly more miles as it gathered nectar, work together to address the issue of inbreeding. We suggest this is a wonderful example of God's wisdom and design in the creation. Sometimes it takes humans as curious investigators a long time to figure out the design, but a wonder-working hand has gone before us. We suggest that it is the hand of God.



When I was a kid living in southern Indiana, we had a fruit called paw paws also known as “Indiana bananas” (*Asimina triloba*). They were ripe in October when the green color lightened and looked a little yellow like a banana. If it was soft to a squeeze and had some black spots on it, you could eat it. It was custard-like and had a unique tropical flavor, but it soured quickly and could be nasty if it was too green or too ripe. What I did not understand was that the paw paw is a medicinal agent with a variety of beneficial uses.

Paw paws contain a group of chemicals called acetogenins. These chemicals interfere with the electron transfer in the mitochondria of cells reducing the cell’s energy transport system which cancer cells use. A chemical in the paw paw called bullatacin is 300 times as potent as Taxol, and its use as a cancer-fighting drug is ongoing. The paw paw tree also has an excellent pesticide, so it is a very versatile plant.

When God created the animals and plants, he made them to serve each other in many ways. It takes an incredible design to take care of food requirements, pest control, and medical issues. God even designed some plants to solve pollution issues. The brake fern (*Pteris vittata*) for example, absorbs, and thrives on arsenic and can remove it from contaminated soil 4,000 times better than conventional plants. Animals learn to use the properties of plants. Chimps and gorillas eat plants that science has discovered can kill parasites, bacteria, and fungi.

Indiana bananas have a positive reputation among Hoosiers who know how good they can be. Also, foxes, opossums, squirrels, and raccoons will eat them, but deer, goats, and rabbits will not eat the leaves, twigs or bark. When God created the biosphere of Earth, he had some incredible challenges, and as we study plants like the paw paw we see just how wise and complete God’s planning has been. Sources: *New Scientist*, February 1992, page 18; *Scientific American*, December 1996, page 20; and www.crfg.org/pubs/ff/pawpaw.html.

News and Notes

FRANCE ERASES CHRISTIANITY FROM PUBLIC VIEW.

If you remember studying the history of France, you will recall that Christianity in one form or another had a major role in the history of that nation. In 2004 the French passed a law banning religious symbols in public. Now the French have decided that anything reflecting in a positive way on Christianity must be obliterated as France erases Christianity from the public view. Recent incidents are:

- * The government ordered that a cross atop a statue of Pope John Paul II in a town in Brittany sculpted by Russian artist Zurab Tsereteli must be removed. It conflicts with the law banning religious symbols in public.
- * Greek yogurt pots sold in a French supermarket chain were decorated with pictures of Greek villages. However, the Orthodox crosses on the churches in the pictures were removed because of the law.
- * A charitable organization wanted to place posters in the Paris transport system inviting donations for Christians suffering persecution in the Middle East. The transport system refused to allow them because of the Christian reference.

The attack on Christianity is unique because public activity for other religions is encouraged. The mayor of Paris staged an event at taxpayer expense to celebrate the end of Ramadan.

As France erases Christianity from public view, we see the beginning of that kind of government bigotry in the United States. It shows its ugly head when Christmas scenes are displayed.

STUDY SHOWS HOW PEOPLE VIEW ATHEISTS. How do people around the world, even in atheistic cultures, view atheists as opposed to religious people? That was the target of an interesting study by the University of Kentucky. Using people in 13 countries around the world, the study gave a hypothetical situation and asked people what they would conclude about the result.

The candidates were told about a sociopath who tortured animals as a child, and killed five homeless people he abducted from poor neighborhoods in his home city and buried their remains in his basement. The participants were then given two choices. Choice one was

either: The man is a teacher and a religious believer. Choice two was: The man is a teacher and does not believe in any gods. Sixty percent of all responders said the man was a teacher and does not believe in any gods.

What is interesting is that a large percentage of the participants were atheists themselves, and the conclusion of the study in the *New York Times* was that “even atheists show bias against atheists.” You can argue about why this bias exists, but the possible positive effect of belief in God seems to be at least a hope of many people of all persuasions. Source: *San Antonio Express-News*, August 13, 2017, page K5.

KNEELING CONTROVERSY. During the U.S. football season in the fall of 2017, we had a national kneeling controversy. It centered over whether the players have a right to kneel in protest during the national anthem. There have been enough varied opinions on this issue to fill a massive number of talk shows and ESPN commentary sessions. Many argue that “freedom of speech” is the issue, even though not a word is spoken.



This debate has ignored the right of coaches to kneel—including high school football coaches. Two years ago a Bremerton, Washington, high school coach named Joe Kennedy was fired for kneeling in prayer on the field after football games. There is no indication that players

participated or were asked to participate. Kennedy appealed, and the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled against him. The court said he, “Took advantage of his position to press his particular views upon impressionable and captive minds before him.” Kennedy served 20 years in the Marines, and he says, “I just want the same rights as everyone else. What applies for one should apply to every American.”

As the kneeling controversy continues, I know many middle school and high school coaches in my area who have a moment of silent prayer or meditation before a game starts. If someone objected, that would probably be forbidden also.

In a C-SPAN interview, Senator James Lankford (R-Oklahoma) said that we must “be able to determine where we are as Americans. If we are going to honor all free speech and all free exercise of religion, we need to be able to honor that universally.” We agree wholeheartedly.

DATA ON ALCOHOL AND CANCER. Perhaps the most frequently asked question we get is why God allows a disease like cancer to exist. There are multiple answers to this question, and no one has all the answers.

A new study released by the American Society of Clinical Oncology gives some data on alcohol and cancer. There are connections between alcohol consumption and malignancies of the head, neck, breast, liver, esophagus, colon, and rectum. The data shows that drinking is responsible for 5.5% of all new cancers and nearly 6% of all cancer deaths worldwide.



Our bodies metabolize alcohol into acetaldehyde which can cause mutations in DNA that lead to cancer. The lead author of the study, Dr. Noelle Lo Conte, says, “The message is if you want to reduce your cancer risk, drink less.” “But if you don’t already drink, don’t start” she adds.

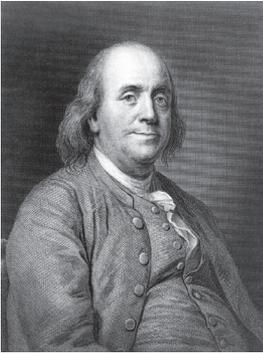
The word “intoxicate” has a simple meaning. When we take a poison (a toxic) into our bodies, we suffer the long-term effects of the poison. Most cancer is directly or indirectly related to what humans have done, and sometimes it is what we alone have done to ourselves. How can we blame God for what we have done?

PERSECUTION OF CHRISTIANS INCREASES. Persecution of Christians in the United States has thus far been pretty much confined to government legal attacks on the religious freedom of Christians. We have reported on some cases in recent months.

Unbelievers also are making legal attempts to silence the followers of Jesus Christ to prevent people from hearing our message. We are finding that even our lectureships on evidence for the existence of God and the validity of the Bible are now banned in many public places. That is especially true on university and college campuses. Places where we have regularly spoken for 50 years are now off limits to us. That is in the name of supporting the national mandate for religious pluralism.

Conditions in other parts of the world are much worse. The October 31, 2017, report from The Institute on Religion and Democracy tells that in India attacks on Christians have reached record numbers in 2017. Christians in a worship service in a small village were “viciously beaten by suspected Hindu radicals.” ISIS has killed Christians and destroyed churches in Syria. Coptic Christians in Egypt have been attacked and killed. In China, Christians were arrested for sharing their faith by singing in a public park. The Institute reports that “The greatest persecution of Christians in history has been occurring during years 2015–2017.”

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN'S WISDOM. Skeptics frequently take statements of the founding fathers of America and lift them out of context to make them appear to be rejecting Christianity. A careful study makes it obvious that they were certainly not opposed to Christianity and in fact embraced it. We even see it in Benjamin Franklin's wisdom.



Franklin made comments in Europe that appear to be antagonistic to Christianity, and he is often cited by skeptics as an unbeliever. However, on July 28, 1787, the Constitutional Convention was deadlocked and could not agree on how to draft the United States Constitution. After five weeks of proposals and counter-proposals, Benjamin Franklin (who was 81 years old) stood up and addressed the convention. This is part of what he said as

recorded by James Madison:

“And have we now forgotten that powerful friend? or do we imagine that we no longer need his assistance? I have lived, Sir, a long time, and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth — that God governs in the affairs of men. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without his notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without his aid? We have been assured, Sir, in the sacred writings, that ‘except the Lord build the House they labour in vain that build it.’ I firmly believe this; and I also believe that without his concurring aid we shall succeed in this political building no better, than the Builders of Babel:”

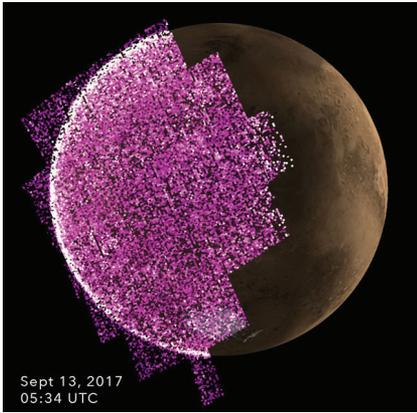
“I therefore beg leave to move — that henceforth prayers imploring the assistance of Heaven, and its blessings on our deliberations, be held in this Assembly every morning before we proceed to business, and that one or more of the Clergy of this City be requested to officiate in that Service.”

It is obvious that Franklin was not hostile to faith in God. Today as the United States Congress seems to be deadlocked on so many issues, perhaps they should take a look at history and accept Benjamin Franklin's wisdom.

WEBSITE FOR ASTRONOMY PICTURES. There is a wonderful website by NASA called APOD for “Astronomy Picture of the Day,” and the pictures are amazing. There is very little if any editorializing on the site. It is mostly just pictures with some technical comments about how the picture was taken and by whom. Check it out at www.apod.nasa.gov.



MARTIAN GLOBAL AURORA. On October 6, 2017, NASA's daily space picture website apod.nasa.gov contained pictures of a Martian global aurora. Because Mars has virtually no magnetic field, the radiation level goes sky high during solar storms. In the latest storm, radiation levels doubled—which would have been dangerous to any life on Mars.



Earth's magnetic field is very strong, and deflects radiation coming from the Sun. The radiation is deflected toward the poles, which is why we see the auroras near the poles. By deflecting the radiation, the magnetic field protects life on Earth from dangerous

levels. The more we learn about the cosmos, the more we see factors that make life possible on Earth. Our magnetic field is one more example of the design of our planet.

Looking for life in space is not just about whether there is water on a planet. There is a huge number of other factors that must be present. A strong magnetic field to shield from radiation is just one of those factors. Of course, an atmosphere suitable for life is also a requirement. NASA has a space probe called MAVEN (Mars Atmosphere and Volatile Evolution) orbiting Mars. The purpose is to find out if Mars lost its atmosphere due to not having a strong magnetic field.

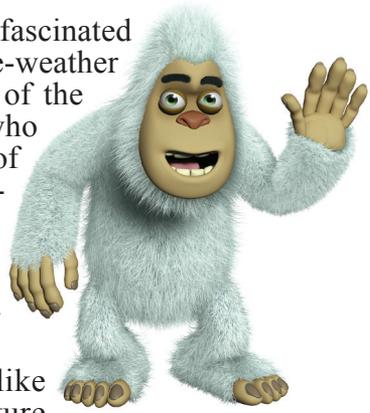
The Martian global aurora is just one more reminder of the blessing of life on planet Earth. It also indicates that life on this planet is no accident.

IMPORTANCE OF MOTHERS. An organization called MOPS encourages motherhood. On their website they say that there are two billion mothers in the world and that four million babies are born in the United States every year with six out of ten born to single mothers. Five in ten mothers say they do not feel they receive emotional support from their churches. Outreach ministries of most congregations have ignored the needs of mothers. We cannot overemphasize the importance of helping young mothers realize that the first seven years of a baby's life shapes its entire development. Church programs that do not start with helping train the child from birth on are missing the most effective ministry they can have. For ideas and inspiration for an outreach to mothers, visit www.mops.org/church.



YETI OR YOGI BEAR? The Yeti is a legendary creature of the snow-covered Himalayas. He has been described as an ape-like creature taller than a man and covered with white fur. In the 1920s a reporter for a newspaper in India gave the creature the nickname of “the abominable snowman.”

The general public continues to be fascinated with stories about Yeti or his temperate-weather cousin Bigfoot or Sasquatch. Some of the fascination is that there are folks who suggest that this creature offers a proof or disproof about the evolution of humans. The fact that *Bigfoot* continues to be a show on the Animal Planet network indicates that the value of these mythical creatures is more for entertainment than education.



The first point that we would like to make is that if a human-like creature existed that science had not discovered yet, it would not have evolutionary implications. Neo-Darwinists would say it was just another dead-end in hominid evolution. Creationists would say that God had created another creature that was previously unknown. Quite often previously unknown species of various creatures are discovered somewhere in the world.

On November 28, 2017, the *Proceedings of The Royal Society B*, released a report of genetic studies of the remains of bones, teeth, skin, and hair that people claimed were from Yetis. All of them turned out to be from bears. The genome of a bear is distinctive enough that scientists can know with great certainty what creature left the sample. While the report probably will not cancel any TV series on Bigfoot or interest in Yeti, it does give a rational answer to some of the claims.

STAY UP-TO-DATE ON NEWS AND NOTES. Many of the stories in our News and Notes this quarter have already been published on our website www.DoesGodExist.today. There are also many other interesting and informative articles on that website each day. We encourage you to follow us daily on “Does God Exist? Today.” On that website you can also subscribe to our free weekly e-mail update. We call it “The Best of the Week from DOES GOD EXIST?” It contains links to the most popular of our posts on DGE? Today and our Facebook page (Facebook.com/evidence4god).

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This journal is a part of a program of service titled Does God Exist? The purpose of the program is to provide thinking, seeking people with scientific evidence that God does exist and that the Bible is His Word. It is our conviction that all men can logically and rationally believe in God. In addition to this quarterly 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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