

# DOES GOD EXIST?

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

**Second Quarter 2020  
Volume 47 Number 2**



# ***GOD - THE EQUALIZER***

## Does God Exist? Lectureships

No Lectures are scheduled,  
but visit us at  
[doesgodexist.org](http://doesgodexist.org), where  
many materials are available  
free of charge.

We hope that all our friends and readers of this *Does God Exist?* journal are staying healthy during this sheltering-in-place pandemic. We all need to rely on God to watch over us and protect us from this virus as well as from other maladies that we may face.

We want to suggest visiting the Clayton Museum of Ancient History at York College in York, Nebraska, when the pandemic allows us or online at <https://www.claytonmuseumofancienthistory.org/>.

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**DOES GOD EXIST?** (USPS 011-010) is published quarterly (January/February/March, April/May/June, July/August/September, and October/November/December) by **Does God Exist?**, 814 S. Main St., South Bend, IN 46601-3008. Subscription is free upon request. Periodicals postage paid at South Bend, IN. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: **DOES GOD EXIST?**, PO Box 2704, South Bend, IN 46680-2704.

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# GOD - THE EQUALIZER



One of the most exciting events in the New Testament is the story in Acts chapter 10 of Peter's conversion from a dedicated Jew to a preacher of the Gospel to all people.

The story began when God told Cornelius, a gentile leader in the Roman army, to send for Peter, who would have a message for him. Meanwhile, God sent a vision to Peter, telling him to violate the law of Moses by eating foods the Jews were forbidden to eat. Peter objects saying, "I have never eaten anything impure or unclean." God responds by saying, "Do not call anything impure that God has made clean" (verse 15 NIV). Peter later summarized his vision from God and his visit to Cornelius by saying, "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right" (verses 34–35).

What an incredible and unique teaching that is. In Acts 11, the early Christians had a hard time accepting the idea that Jews were no longer God's only people. Jesus had eradicated all the racial, ethnic, financial, and nationalistic barriers that separate humans from one another.

Paul's entire ministry involved bringing the Gospel of Christ to people who had previously been rejected because they were not "Abraham's seed." In Galatians 3:28–29 Paul writes, "There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise."

Every religious system outside of Christianity has taught the opposite of this. Religious wars rip and tear at the fabric of humanity. Even atheism, which is a religion, has turned to politics as a substitute for God, resulting in political teachings that persecute religion and generate war and civil strife. We see that in Russia and China as well as other countries.

The skeptical response is to say that history does not support what the Bible says. Religious wars, inquisitions, cultural violence, and segregation have all been done in the name of Christianity. Jesus knew that human greed and power struggles would oppose what he taught. “For many will come in my name, claiming, ‘I am the Messiah,’ and will deceive many. You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. ... Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. ... and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, ...” (Matthew 24:5–12). Religion has been a tool of men and women in whom have “the increase of wickedness.” Greed, arrogance, selfishness, and pride have brought great suffering and violence. All of those actions, including the Crusades, were done in contradiction to what Jesus taught and what the Bible teaches.

So how does this apply to me? God is the equalizer. Just as Cornelius was as important as any Jew, and as Christ made us all “Abraham’s seed,” I am important to God. First Corinthians 6:9–11 gives a list of sinful lifestyles in which many of us have been involved. Verse 11 ends that list by saying, “But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.”

We do a lot of work in prisons. One of the hardest biblical teachings for prisoners to accept is that they are justified by Christ. I have frequently baptized a prisoner and had them stand still after being baptized, not willing to step back into the prison world. Just as my computer justifies this page making the margins line up, so too does becoming a Christian make us line up so that we “are all one in Christ Jesus” (Galatians 3:28). John 3:16 states it clearly “God so loved THE WORLD ...” [not just the theologian, or the preacher, or the missionary, but every human in the planet] “... that he gave his one and only Son that WHOEVER ...” [no racial, political, ethnic, sexual, educational, social, or physical limits of any kind] “... believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” How could it be any clearer?



Paul wrote in 1 Timothy 1:15, “Here is a trustworthy saying, that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners — of whom I am the worst.” Paul, who calls himself “the worst,” was still of value to God. In Romans 7: 14–25, Paul describes his struggle with sin. He ends that discussion by saying, “Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus” (Romans 8:1). First John 1:5–10 tells us that

we have value if we are “walking in the light” and that the blood of Christ actively keeps us in a saved relationship with God. Walking in the light simply means living as a Christian, which we can all do, even though we will not do it perfectly.

There are no rituals, no pilgrimages, no sacred places, no power structure for us to maneuver. There are no levels of achievement, no roles, no educational levels required. There is nothing to suggest that a person is too weak or born into the wrong situation or has too bad of a past to start walking in the light. Romans 6 describes the change that can happen in any human being who believes in God and is baptized to wash away his or her sins. We are all a part of the world that God so loved that he sent his Son. That makes every one of us valuable in God’s sight.

—John N. Clayton





I lived for 20 years as a committed, evangelistic, aggressive atheist. For many more years, I have lived a life based on belief in God. The difference is huge! Here are five things I would not have without God.

**1. I would not have a meaningful explanation for why there is something instead of nothing.**

If there is no God, then the creation is meaningless. Even if a model is eventually constructed that explains how time, matter/energy and space came into existence, the purpose of the existence of time and space remains unanswered. The existence of God, who is defined as love, goodness, peace, and the Creator of all kinds of beauty, opens the door for an understanding of the things we all enjoy. The struggle between good and evil gives us a role to play as sentient beings who can choose and facilitate love, goodness, and beauty.



Being created in the image of God embodies our very makeup, so there is a reason for us to exist, which in turn means that there is a reason for something to exist instead of blind, silent, unthinking nothingness.

## 2. I would be relegated to a life that involves only “survival of the fittest.”

If there is no God, then each of us is independent of any responsibility for anyone or anything else. Why would I do or give anything to anyone or anything else that would detract from my own existence?



If the strong survive and the weak die, why would I not want to devote myself to being strong? The foundation of survival of the fittest is not only being strong but also being selfish and dominant. There is no room for altruism in a belief system that

tells me to make sure I am the best and the strongest and the smartest. Looking after “number one” is my passion and guide to behavior.

## 3. I would have no fixed standard of moral behavior.

To be the strongest and most fit, I must have a moral standard that accommodates those attributes. That means that I must have a flexible moral standard so that I can adapt it to what fits me the best. My sexual morals must match my physical capabilities. My concept of ownership must revolve around my capabilities. There are times when lying will promote my station in life. Deception in the natural



world is a key to survival in many situations, so why would it not be a part of my basis for making moral decisions? If there is no God, then trust ceases to exist. No contract of any kind has meaning if there are no absolute concepts of what is right and what is wrong.

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#### **4. I would have no basis for secure family relationships — neither physical, emotional, nor spiritual.**

All the ingredients of “family” are rooted in the concept of there being a God. Terminating a life when that life has no spokesperson



is a function of one’s moral behavior. Abortion and involuntary euthanasia are both functions of rejecting the value of all human life. The survival of the fittest necessarily places one in the position of rejecting family when that family interferes with your fitness. Belief in God fosters a desire to have

a role that puts others above yourself and breeds love and fulfilling peace. It even spreads to those of like faith so that brothers, sisters, fathers, mothers, and children can be family even if there is not a blood relationship.

#### **5. I would have no hope for anything beyond this life.**

If there is no God, then our entire existence is couched in what happens in this life. If I am not fit, then death is the best I can hope for because I will never be in a positive survival mode no matter how hard I struggle. If I am fit, it will only be for a short time when old age makes me less fit. Faith in God means that whatever my lot in this life, this is the worst thing I will ever experience. I have great hope for what lies ahead and obeying and serving God, which means serving others is a real joy for me.



I lived for 20 years as a committed, evangelistic, aggressive atheist. I experienced all five of those things and saw it in my atheist family and my atheist friends. For many years I have lived a life based on belief in God. It has not always been easy, and I have failed in many ways. But if someone were to convince me there is no God, I would still want to be a Christian, because I have seen the love and hope and joy of living as Christ has called us to live. The evidence for the existence of God is massive, and that elevates the importance of the five things I would not have without him.

— JNC

# A Skeptic's Perspective

by Bob Kenney

**“Now faith is the assurance  
of things hoped for,  
proof of things not seen.”**

Hebrews 11:1 (WEB)

Editor's Note: We thought many of our readers would enjoy Bob Kenny's discussion of "experts" using the cougar example from southern Michigan where we live. It shows where people can go wrong by trusting "experts." The same issue is very much true of the evidence that there was a beginning and that an intelligence caused it. How much of what we read of "expert" theories about creation (both atheistic and Christian) is accurate, and how much is blind faith?

Faith does not have to be blind. I want to motivate unbelievers and believers to seek out and examine the facts and build a solid foundation for the position they hold. I want to show that skepticism is a necessary component of this process. Ultimately I hope you will examine the evidence and receive some assurance for yourself.

## VOCAL EXPERTS

I have become a skeptic, especially of the most vocal "experts" because they have theories that they "know" are correct, regardless of the evidence. They will look down on you when your experience or data contradicts what they know to be true. It is almost impossible for them to accept evidence that contradicts their position.

An example of this would be the reaction of the "experts" when the common people in southwestern Michigan claimed to have seen cougars in the area. The following article by Louis Stout appeared in the *South Bend Tribune* on July 9, 2017, page B7:



Wildlife officials have admitted a few cougars live in the Upper Peninsula, but have refuted their existence in southern Michigan.

A motorist driving at night near the DNR's Rose Lake State Wildlife Area east of Lansing provided proof when he snapped a picture of a large cat crossing the road in front of him.

The DNR reviewed the photo, visited the site, and verified it was a cougar.

Numerous cougar reports have been received from various Michigan locations over the years—including in Michiana—but all “confirmed” sightings have been in the Upper Peninsula. Since 2008 a total of 36 cougar sightings have been documented in Michigan's U. P. However, the DNR doesn't believe there is a breeding population in Michiana.

Cougars, also known as mountain lions, were native to Michigan, but were extirpated around the turn of the century. The last time a wild cougar was legally taken in the state was near Newberry in 1906.

If you've followed this column over the past couple of decades, you may recall periodic reports we've shared from Michiana readers who swear they saw cougars along roadsides or in farm fields on both sides of the state line.

You also may recall wildlife biologists poo-hooing the notion.

Although the newest DNR confirmed sighting was 2½ hours north of South Bend, it adds to the possibility that these big cats are

expanding their range and could be passing through this area.

The last report we received from a Michigan resident was in 2010 when a Jones, Mich., farmer ... shared a photo of what appeared to be a young cougar in his field.

At that time, [he] had heard of several other sightings near his land and joked about them. The photo, taken by a neighbor, changed his mind.

The previous year, southwest Michigan resident ... swore he saw a large cat bolt across M-60 highway not far from Corey Lake.

Like most other sightings, the animal was described as a large, tawny-colored cat. ...

The DNR's Cougar team that verified the Lansing area cat remains skeptical.

“Even with this verification, questions remain, especially regarding the origins of the animal,” said DNR wildlife specialist ... “There is no way for us to know if this animal is a dispersing transient from a western state, ... , or if this cat was released locally.”

State officials have insisted that unconfirmed Michiana sightings are likely cats that were held as “pets” and released into the wild when they became too large to keep.

That is reasonable. But these southern Michigan sightings add credence that a nomadic cougar could find it's way into Michigan and northern Indiana.

If you see one, the DNR asks you to submit pictures for verification ...

Notice the self-assurance of the “experts.” Common folks do not know what they are seeing. When the “experts” say, “You are not seeing cougars,” you are supposed to trust the “experts.” When the pictures of cougars are shown to them, the “experts” do not believe it and have to confirm it for themselves. After confirmation of the sighting, an excuse is presented. Someone must have hauled one in and released it into the neighborhood.



Being a skeptic, I ask: Is that the truth or your excuse because you

were proven wrong? Consider this: When people saw a cougar, they never said how it got to Southwestern Michigan, they only said that it is there, so why can you not just admit that you were wrong? Another question: Who would want a cougar roaming around the neighborhood eating pets? The point of this story is that the “experts” had an opinion based on their model of cougar migration. When they saw data that would require them to either void their model or redesign it, they dismissed the data with a possible explanation, and further study has been minimal or non-existent. This is simply bad science.

### **Similar problems exist for the question of whether the universe had a beginning.**

The apparent age of the universe is billions of years old when you calculate it by dividing the expansion speed into the size of the universe. To use the thousands-of-years interpretation of the Bible would discredit this material to non-believers and those who interpret Scripture differently. One obvious sign that makes the universe appear to be older is the light we see from stars that are millions of light-years from the Earth. The light could not travel that distance in 10,000 years.

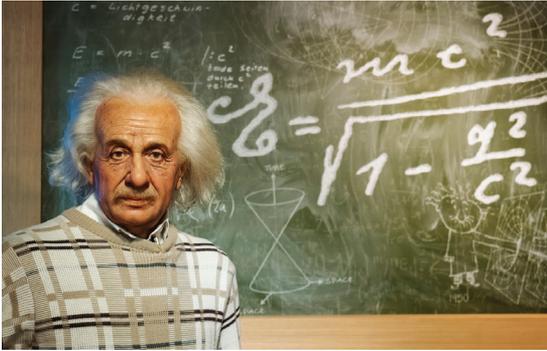
When God said, “Let there be light,” could the light have instantly filled the universe? God could have done that so the



universe would appear to be billions of years old. That is a position of faith that makes God deceptive, and I want to use the actual measurements accepted by science and see where they take us.

The big bang concept is, by far, the theory most supported by the evidence. Every celestial body in the universe is traveling away from a central point. When we project this motion backward, all of those bodies arrive at a central point at the same time. This fact is a

huge blow to those who do not believe in God. When we acknowledge that there was a beginning to the universe, there has to be a valid cause, which is God. Even Albert Einstein let his humanism manipulate his findings when he devised a formula for the universe.



His formula would require a beginning for the universe. His beliefs told him there cannot be a beginning, so he added a factor to the equation to make the universe eternal and called it the “cosmic constant.”

Einstein’s colleagues were delighted until they tried to find the cosmic constant for themselves. When asked where it came from, Einstein had to admit that he made it up. Einstein could no longer deny the existence of God and said the cosmic constant was the biggest mistake in his life. I would say that his biggest mistake was embracing an atheist theory. If he had been a scientist first and accepted the facts, there never would have been a cosmic constant. Unfortunately, some of the most vocal experts have let their atheism influence their observations giving us a lot of fake science that tries to make the universe eternal.

## OSCILLATING UNIVERSE THEORY

The oscillating universe theory was one attempt to show an eternal universe. This theory accepted the big bang, but put forth the idea that our big bang is only one of an eternity’s worth of big bangs. The theory proposed that the expansion of the universe would slow, eventually stop, then collapse on itself to produce another big bang. Experts wrote books on this theory declaring the universe is eternal. Of course, the second law of thermodynamics was either intentionally ignored or ignorantly left out of the equation. This law dictates that, because of energy loss, each big bang would have to be weaker than



the previous one until the energy was exhausted. Then the expansion speed was calculated, and it showed that the expansion is accelerating. There was a mad scramble to save the theory, but it was doomed. Atheists have theories, but it is not science when you state your be-

liefs and ignore the evidence. What we have is just another “Expert” who let his atheism supersede the scientific method.

## PARALLEL UNIVERSE THEORY

Another theory attempting to make our universe eternal is the parallel universe theory. This theory states that there are other universes, and matter can be pulled out of one universe into another through black holes. A black hole forms after a giant star collapses on itself. The star is more massive than our Sun, but after it collapses, it becomes the size of a baseball. Its gravitational force is so strong that it pulls in any matter that comes near it. Even light cannot escape. The theory

says that the collapse produces a hole leading into another universe. Matter then travels through the hole into the next universe. The existence of parallel universes comes from



the knowledge of “experts,” some of whom say they cannot believe in a God that they cannot see. They say belief in God is nothing but blind faith. My question is: Have you seen these parallel universes, or are you guilty of blind faith?

## VIRTUAL TIME THEORY.

The last theory I want to mention is the virtual time theory. This theory says time is not what it appears. We can look back to the center of the universe and find the beginning of time. The theory says that if we could go back in time, that point would move away from us, and we would never arrive at a beginning. My question is: If that point is moving away from us on this side of the universe, would it not have to overtake the galaxies on the other side of the universe? Now that probably does not make sense, but neither does virtual time. It cannot be tested or falsified. It is not science, but merely human

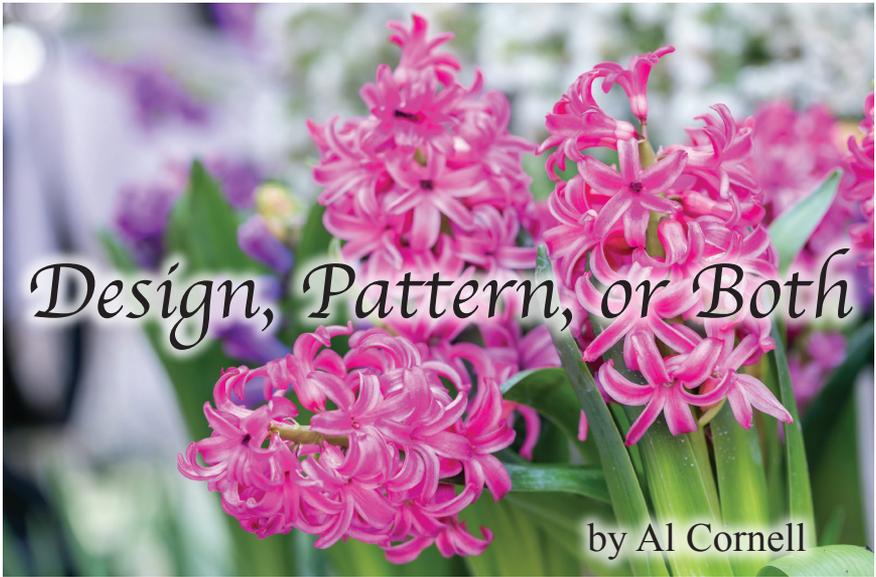


fantasy. More theories will come and go. An atheist once told me that he accepted anything scientists published because they were only looking for Truth. He is too naive for me. Scientists are human, also. They have prejudices and beliefs that affect their analysis of data.

**Atheistic theories came from “experts” who “know” there is no God and are out to prove it.**

There is good reason to be skeptical of those “experts.” Not all are closed-minded, and many have followed the facts and acknowledged that God had to be the Creator as Einstein had to do. Bad theories have also come from religious people. There was a time when the Catholic church insisted the Sun revolved around the Earth, because Psalm 93:1 (AMP) says, “The world is firmly established, it cannot be moved.” Galileo was sentenced to life in house arrest during the Roman Inquisition in 1633 for teaching that the Earth revolved around the Sun.

Even today, there is a group that will tell you that there were exactly 54 dinosaurs on Noah’s Ark. I am skeptical because there is no scientific or biblical evidence there were dinosaurs in existence during the age of humans. We should not accept information from someone just because he is a Christian or a scientist. There are “experts” on both sides with belief systems that affect their claims. Check the motivation of theories and verify the facts as much as possible. God says that we can know that he exists “through the things he has made” (Romans 1:20). Trusting experts who want to contradict that statement is a foolish thing to do.



By definition, design includes plan, intent, and purpose. As a consequence, most atheists make it a point to deny the existence of design in nature. Mostly, they restrict the word “design” to products of human creativity.

Here are some quotes that I copied down from an atheist blog site: “It’s easy to see that there is no design involved in anything around us.” “The appearance of design is an illusion.” “I disagree that there is the appearance of design in the universe.” While some atheists use the word “design” in a way similar to how theists use it, there appears to be a movement toward avoiding it and the dilemma it creates.

Atheists do use the word “pattern.” That word does not necessarily include plan, purpose, or intent. Without access to intellect, the wind may cause a rhythmic series of waves. In time, land uplift and rain can cause the formation of a dendritic watershed. Pattern as in a shirt pattern, a blueprint, or a prototype results from intellectual input, but that is not obvious for all patterns. Many atheists claim that all patterns in nature are the result of natural processes and the characteristics of matter. That supposedly eliminates the need for design.

Denying design requires a huge step of faith and runs contrary to scientific discovery. First, we have this amazing universe that is fine-tuned so



that it can exist for billions of years. That fact is the main driving force behind atheists' faith that there must be many universes exhibiting such an array of characteristics that at least one had to get it right. Being right, of course, not only had to be stable for billions of years,



but also had to accommodate the evolution of life and intelligence.

I struggle to comprehend the amazing complexity of natural patterns. They exist in subatomic particles and in the structure of atoms. The processes that have

yielded the necessary balance of carbon, nitrogen, and oxygen are fascinating. The structure of a simple water molecule is sublime.

At the other end of the spectrum, planets, solar systems and galaxies add patterns in the heavens. Hubble telescope images amaze us with structures and patterns. Another quote from an atheist blog is, "As to the laws of physics ... they are not real." That remark amazed me. I am not sure how many scientists endorse it, but it is probably more consistent with the simplicity demanded by no design.

Chemist John Buehler wrote, "I postulate that man will never make a universal law of nature." In scripture, God asked Job, "Do you know the laws of the heavens?" (Job 38:33 NIV 1984). It is recorded



in Jeremiah 33:25f, "the Lord says, 'If I have not established my covenant with day and night and fixed the laws of heaven and earth, then I will reject the descendants of Jacob ...'" Those phenomena we have long considered to be laws of nature are very real and entirely consistent with the biblical, theistic viewpoint.

The artist Salvador Dali responded to the intrinsic beauty of the double helix DNA molecule with the words, "And now the an-



nouncement of Watson and Crick about DNA. For me this is the real proof of the existence of God.” The artist could not help but see beyond the science. Herein was pattern unattainable on canvas or by any other work of humanity. The perception that it could

self-construct out of chaos, unless that was predisposed by design, seemed absurd.

However, that code of life is the hem of the garment. It is abundantly present in even dead organic matter. Its function demands an amazing set of molecular machinery. It constitutes the highest order of pattern known. To imagine that it self-constructed without design is a colossal leap of faith. No wonder that some who deny the existence of God have been obligated by their intelligence to ascribe a level of plan and intent to the universe itself. Of course, it is more popular to imagine that an infinite number of universes result in unimaginable events.

When the programmed information in DNA encounters a particular living environment, it can direct the construction of its specified organism. Pattern in the biological realm taxes our ability to comprehend. Within the cell, the message coded in the DNA has to be transferred to cellular machinery outside of the cell nucleus where it is read and used to construct the proteins needed for specified structure or function. Beyond that simplified explanation, the complexity is multiplied.

When we encounter pattern of this magnitude, the conclusion that design is obviously missing seems contrived. At some point, pattern begins to require the logical explanation that it resulted from the intent of intelligence.



In an attempt to lessen the impact of pattern, some atheists state that our brains are wired to see patterns even when they do not exist. By use of human imagination, we have grouped stars into constellations and assigned imaginary images. No doubt that has aided nighttime navigation. However, that does not diminish the pervasive pattern all around us. It is real.

The presumption that science is leading us to an understanding that there is no purpose, no values, and no place for God is an unsatisfactory interpretation of the world in which we live. John Clayton does not need to change the name of his “Dandy Designs” pages to Possible Patterns, nor do I think he will ever run out of material to fill those pages.



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# SCIENTISTS AND GOD

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

## ARTHUR L. SCHAWLOW (1921-1999)

1981 NOBEL PRIZE WINNER IN PHYSICS  
PROFESSOR OF PHYSICS AT STANFORD UNIVERSITY



“It seems to me that when confronted with the marvels of life and the universe, one must ask why and not just how. The only possible answers are religious.” “I find a need for God in the universe and in my own life.” “For me that means ... Christianity, to which I was introduced

as a child and which has withstood the tests of a lifetime.

But the context of religion is a great background for doing science. In the words of Psalm 19 ‘The heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament showeth his handiwork.’ Thus scientific research is a worshipful act, in that it reveals more of the wonders of God’s creation.”

Source: [www.nobelists.net](http://www.nobelists.net)

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# Cynthia's Corner



This quarter's theme has two major steps. The first part has to do with convincing people that God is real and that he does exist. John's ministry is all about convincing people of God's existence based on the overwhelming evidence all around us. That is apologetics, and John has devoted most of his Christian walk to this endeavor. I cannot do justice to the subject in a couple of paragraphs. Check out all of the **Does God Exist?** information online ([www.doesgodexist.org](http://www.doesgodexist.org)) and share it with others.

Once someone accepts the fact that there is an intelligent, divine Creator who designed and made everything with purpose and meaning, then we can begin the next step. That involves teaching them who God is, what his nature is, and what purpose he has for us. That is when we introduce them to the Bible and Jesus. The Bible is God's inspired (God-breathed) message to us (1 Thessalonians 2:13; 2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20–21). It is a love letter from our heavenly Father. In it, we learn who we are and why we exist. God created us in love for a relationship with him. However, love cannot exist without choice, so God gave us free-will to choose whether to love him or not. From the first man and woman, Adam and Eve, who chose to disobey God (Genesis 3:11–13), to each one of us, we all choose to follow our selfish desires and rebel against God (Romans 3:23). The Bible describes in detail our sinful nature (Romans chapters 6 and 7; Galatians 5:19–21) and the consequences of sin, which is spiritual death (Romans 6:23)—separation from God here and eternally.

Fortunately for us, God knew we would sin and planned a way to reconcile us to himself. He provided a way that we could have the loving relationship he wants us to have with him in this life and in the life to come. He showed us his love by sending his only Son, Jesus, to become human and pay the consequences for our sins by dying on the cross (John 3:16–17; 1 John 4:9–10). Only Jesus could do that because he was sinless (Hebrews 4:15).

Because of God's love for us, each human soul has value and purpose. God is no respecter of persons (Galatians 3:28). He does not show favoritism (Acts 10:34). He judges our heart, not outward appearances (1 Samuel 16:7). He loves each soul, and each soul has an opportunity to choose whether we will love God and follow him. This choice not only affects our life on Earth but also our soul's eternal destination. Choose wisely!

—Cynthia Clayton

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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.

### Letters from a Skeptic

by Gregory and Edward Boyd, David C. Cook, © 2008,  
254 pages, \$11.80 (paperback), ISBN-13: 978-1-4347-9980-7



This book is a collection of letters written by a believing son dealing with his father's unbelief. Gregory Boyd is a graduate of Yale Divinity School and Princeton Theological Seminary. His father, Edward, was 70 years old and resented the church and especially "born again types." Edward's wife had died, and his loss inflamed his antagonism toward God. Each section of letters deals with Edward's struggles with belief, and they are ones

we all have to some degree. The first correspondence is, "Why has Christianity done so much harm?" The second is, "Why is the world so full of suffering?" The first section, with 12 exchanges between father and son, deals with God. Part two deals with Jesus Christ and part three with questions about the Bible. The last section focuses on questions about Christian life and doctrine.

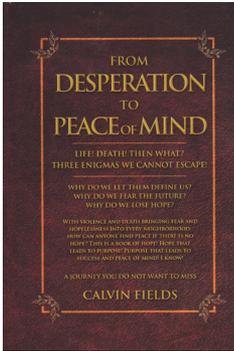
This book is not a book of science. Gregory Boyd is a trained theologian, but this book is not "high brow." The exchange is friendly, practical, logical, and useful. The author has added a study guide with each of the 29 sections with questions for group discussion. Edward's issues are the same that young people use to challenge Christianity. The arguments Gregory gives are not scientific, but philosophical and theological.

The letters confront questions such as: "Why did God create Satan?" "Why didn't God spare your mother (who died of cancer at a young age)?" "How could an all-loving God torture people in hell?" "Isn't the Christian life impossible to live?" You may not agree with all of Gregory Boyd's answers, but they did convince his father, and they may help you. We recommend this book highly to those who have philosophical or theological objections to faith.

## From Desperation to Peace of Mind

by Calvin Fields, Xulon Press, © 2019,

186 pages, \$30.99 (hard cover), ISBN-13: 978-1-5456-7503-8



Most of the books we review are single-issue books. What I mean is that the target audience for the book is a person interested in evolution, or dispensationalism, or comparative religion, or some other issue or specialty. Writing a book, that deals with all of those topics, is extraordinarily difficult. In general, those who have tried have not done it very well. I have often suggested that it is not just difficult; it is virtually impossible. In my opinion, Calvin Fields has come as close as humanly possible to writing a book that does not bog down in one area of concern.

Fields uses several methods that keep his target audience on board. The first method is to organize the book logically. There are four chapters, with each one broken down into sections. The first chapter is titled “Is There Life After Death?” It brings into focus the philosophical issue of why there is something instead of nothing. It has only one section because it is not an evidence-based discussion.

Chapter 2 is titled “Does God Exist?” It has four sections discussing design areas and the limitations of science. The treatment is not highly technical, nor does it go into great depth. Chapter 3 deals with the validity of believing that Christ was the Son of God. It focuses mostly on the support of prophetic and historical evidence that makes the Bible a valid source of information. The last chapter is titled “Christian Doctrine and Lifestyle.” There are 12 sections to this chapter, each discussing the validity of the church and the Christian way of living.

What makes this book unique and useful is that the author documents the statements rather than just throwing out his own opinion. The author quotes well-known scientists, secularists, historians, and scholars. When the author uses Scripture, it is identified and printed out. The book is worth its price just for the quotations that it contains.

Calvin Fields’ knowledge is exceptional, and he has a unique ability to explain things in a way that everyone can understand. This book is the kind of book you could give to someone struggling with their faith in a general way. Regardless of educational level, they would gain great insight by reading this book.

**Visit the Clayton Museum of  
Ancient History at York College**

# DANDY DESIGNS

## The Design of Tears



The human body is amazing. Things we take for granted or try to explain in simple ways turn out to be incredibly complex when we fully understand how they work. Tears are a classic example. Most of us do not realize why we need tears

and that we have three different kinds.

Basal tears lubricate our eyes. They are generated in the lacrimal gland, which sits just above the eye and just under the eyebrow. The word “lacrimal” comes from the Latin word for tear, which is *lacrima*.

Reflex tears form in response to irritants. You are most familiar with them when you cut an onion or are exposed to smoke or dirt. These tears have a complex mix of saltwater mixed with antibodies, oils, and enzymes that are not present in basal tears.

Emotional tears carry protein-based hormones, including leucine-enkephalin, which is a natural pain killer released when the body is under stress. Crying causes the release of oxytocin and endorphins, which are chemicals that help us feel better. Crying also may generate social support, depending on the situation.

Interestingly, babies do not produce tears until they are seven or eight months old. The average human produces 15 to 30 gallons of tears a year. It is incredible that such a simple thing as tears has such a complex design and serves so many different purposes. It is easy to see why we need tears.

The more I learn about God’s design of my body, the more I appreciate the statement of David: “I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvelous are thy works” (Psalm 139:14 KJV). Source: *Reader’s Digest* (rd.com), February 2020, page 34.

# The Value of a Whale



Many years ago, an atheist challenged my statement that everything in the creation had a designed purpose and filled a need. My atheist friend insisted that the whale is one example of a poorly designed creature

with no purpose. He said that they eat massive amounts of the ocean's food that could be eaten by other, more useful creatures. He also challenged that they contribute nothing to the ecology of the oceans. At the time, I did not have a good answer to why whales are useful. Whale oil seemed to me to be a weak answer. Since then, I have learned the value of a whale.

One of the things I love about science is that it continues to look for understandings of the world in which we live. New studies of whales have revealed some facts that show the whale is incredibly useful. The winter 2020 edition of *Defenders of Wildlife* magazine reports data on the value of a whale.

Whales live a long time, and they accumulate carbon in their bodies. When the whale dies, it takes that carbon to the ocean bottom, removing it from the atmosphere. New research shows that each whale takes 33 tons (30 metric tons) of carbon out of the atmosphere. By comparison, a tree absorbs 48 pounds (22 kg) of carbon dioxide a year. In 60 years, which is the lifespan of most whales, a tree would remove one ton of carbon from the air. Whales play a role in removing the greenhouse gas that people are concerned about today.

In a whale's lifetime, it will bring minerals to the ocean surface to stimulate phytoplankton growth. This plankton contributes more than 50% of the oxygen we breathe and absorbs 37 billion tons (33.5 metric tons) of carbon dioxide a year. Phytoplankton also sustains many fish species, and today, fishing is a \$150 billion industry.

So what is the value of a whale? *Defenders of Wildlife* maintains that each whale is worth more than \$2 million. God has a purpose for everything he created, but sometimes it takes us a long time to understand how his creatures help us.

# News and Notes

**STAY UP-TO-DATE ON NEWS AND NOTES.** The stories in News and Notes are condensed from articles previously published on our website [www.DoesGodExist.today](http://www.DoesGodExist.today). You can use the QR codes with each of these articles to see the original posts for more details and references. 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](https://Facebook.com/evidence4god)).

**JOHN C. WHITCOMB AND FLOOD GEOLOGY.** The co-author of *The Genesis Flood*, John C. Whitcomb Jr., passed away on February 4, 2020. Whitcomb and Henry M. Morris wrote the book advocating Flood Geology and supporting young-Earth creationism. Morris was an engineer, and Whitcomb was a theologian. They used the so-called flood geology to fit scientific data into their religious beliefs. The problem with their approach was that neither of them was trained in geology. Many of those reading *The Genesis Flood* were also not trained in geology and had grown up in a religious tradition that demanded a young earth.

The result was the wide acceptance of Flood Geology as the book became a best-seller. Young people today have had academic training in geology and earth science. *National Geographic*, *Smithsonian*, and *Scientific American* have popularized modern understanding of the facts of astronomy and geology. Most of us know that the cosmos is larger than 6,000 light-years, indicating that the light from distant stars has been traveling for far longer than 6,000 years. In places such as the Grand



Photo: Roland Earnst

Canyon, we can see rock layers that contain fossils that were clearly not produced by a flood. A flood did not produce structures like the Grand Canyon since they are mostly made up of rocks that are never associated with a flood.



Flood geology, which Whitcomb and Morris wrote about in 1961, will not stand up in 2020. Students of the Bible today know that the Genesis account is not dated or timed. They know that attempts to use the Bible as a clock of history is bad theology and violates its purpose. For more on this discussion, please read *God's Revelation in His Rocks and His Word*, available online at <https://www.doesgodexist.org/Pamphlets/GodsRevelationInHisRocksAndInHisWord/GodsRevelationInHisRocksAndInHisWord.html>.

**CHRISTIAN MARTYR DATA.** We live in a time in which many people who wear the name “Christian” are being killed. Various groups who keep track of Christian martyr data have wildly different counts of how many have died for their faith. The Center for the Study of Global Christianity says that 90,000 Christians were martyred in 2019. The International Society for Human Rights says that 10,000 were martyred. Open Doors puts the number at 4,305.



The problem here is that the definition of a “martyr” is not the same for everyone. However you count them, the number is too many. In today’s world, there are many countries where converting to Christianity is a sure way to be executed. Those of us who live in the United States should be thankful that, so far, we do not have to worry about being singled out or killed by the government because of our worship. That may change, but we should thank God for the freedom Christians enjoy now in the U.S. and other countries. Source: *Christianity Today*, March 2020, page 23.



**EUTHANASIA ADVANCES.** In virtually every country that has approved abortion, there has been an eventual acceptance of euthanasia, allowing a doctor to administer fatal drugs to a patient. Abortion was instituted in Portugal in 2007, and in February 2020, Portugal’s parliament approved euthanasia for terminally ill people. Portugal now joins six other countries in sanctioning euthanasia—Belgium, Canada, Colombia, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, and Switzerland. In the United States, medically assisted suicide is permitted in which patients administer the lethal drug themselves.

The issues involved in the advancement of euthanasia are very complex. No one wants a loved one to continue suffering when eventual recovery does not seem possible. The burden to family caregivers, the expense, and the level of pain present are all huge issues. In the progress of the disease, who would decide to administer euthanasia? Do not forget that doctors can be wrong about a terminal diagnosis.

One of the banners carried by protesters in Portugal says, “Euthanasia doesn’t end suffering, it ends life.” It is not the end of suffering for family, for friends, for those you have tried to teach, for those considering their own lives. In this day, there is no reason for physical suffering because medical science has ways to stop the physical pain. Ending life prematurely will generate pain for others. Once we accept euthanasia, how long will it be before the state will determine who should survive and who should be euthanized?

If we consider humans to be special and created in the image of God, then human life is sacrosanct. If humans are just animals, then killing a human is no more of a problem than killing a bug. This is not a trivial issue, but one that deserves thoughtful attention. Source: *South Bend Tribune*, February 21, 2020, page A6.



**PLANNED PARENTHOOD ABUSES.** A group called “Students for Life” has begun a campaign to publicize information about Planned Parenthood’s financial abuses. Here are some of the facts they present:

1. Planned Parenthood receives more than \$550 million from taxpayers every year.
2. 79% of Planned Parenthood’s 548 abortion facilities are located next to college campuses and high schools.
3. The president of Planned Parenthood makes over \$600,000 a year.
4. Planned Parenthood charges an average of \$450 for an abortion with 320,000 abortions a year.
5. Selling body parts from aborted babies is a major business for Planned Parenthood.



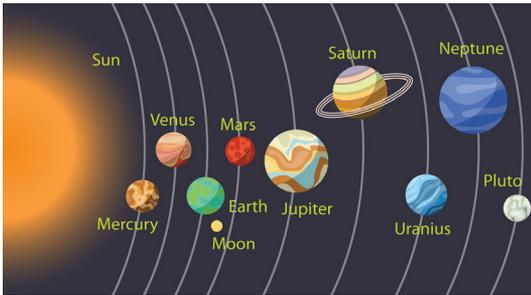
The continuation of Planned Parenthood abuses revolves around our culture’s value of human life. If we can kill babies because we consider them to be a burden, why not also extinguish the lives of the elderly who are also a burden? There are solutions to an unwanted pregnancy other than killing an inconvenient human being. Source: Students for Life, 2020 Elections, National Youth Campaign mailout.



**BLESSING NUCLEAR BOMBS.** Vladimir Putin has made the Russian Orthodox church an arm of the state. For some time now, he has had the priests blessing nuclear bombs. They do it by splashing “holy water” on the nukes. Previously the church was doing the blessing on all arms as well as seeking divine protection for soldiers. A church commission has been set up by the Russian Orthodox church to investigate whether they should continue to include weapons of mass destruction in their blessings. The idea of Christians blessing nuclear bombs is not defensible. Source: *The Week*, February 14, 2020, page 9.



**SOLAR SYSTEM DESIGN.** Astronomers have discovered thousands of extra-solar planets, and the evidence shows that our solar system design is not typical. They are finding giant planets that are closer to their suns than the planet Mercury. They have not yet



seen anywhere else in the Milky Way a planet as small as Earth located as far from the parent star as we are. That makes the chances of having a planet in the “Goldilocks Zone” (where water could exist as a liquid) very low. It also means

that the masses of the giant planets close to their parent stars must be enormous, and the speed of their orbits must be astronomical. The extra-solar discoveries just add more evidence to the fact that our solar system design is a unique product of engineering. That certainly urges us to care for what God has created. Source: *Scientific American*, March 2020, page 10.



**DARK MATTER MYSTERY.** Scientists understand that a vast percentage of the matter in the creation is something they call dark matter. The simplest way to understand dark matter is to realize that when something is spinning around a core, there must be a force to keep the spinning mass from flying away because of centrifugal force. The dark matter mystery is the unknown quantity preventing spiral galaxies like the Milky Way from flying apart. Some force must hold stars in place as they go around the center of a galaxy. That means there is a gravitational force we cannot see holding the stars in their position. Scientists refer to the mass that exerts that gravitational force as “dark matter.”

Astrophysicist Peter van Dokkum of Yale University has announced the discovery of a galaxy known as DF2, which has stars

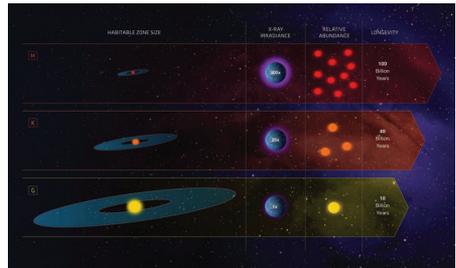
and star clusters moving at a very slow pace around the core of the galaxy. That can only mean that there is less dark matter in DF2. This discovery increases the mystery because it appears that dark matter is not constant in the cosmos.

The amount of dark matter in a galaxy depends on what is needed to keep everything moving at a speed that produces stability in the galactic system. It appears that the design of galaxies has a new variable that is critical to their existence. God has tools affecting the creation that we are just beginning to understand. The role of dark matter is only one of those. Source: *Astronomy*, March 2020, page 45.



**STARS AND HABITABLE ZONES.** The more scientists study Earth and other objects that surround us in space, the more variables we realize must be carefully controlled for life to exist. NASA posted a graphic of different kinds of stars in the cosmos and whether they could support life. Science defines life as having properties such as moving, breathing, eating, reproducing, and responding to outside stimuli. Water is essential for life. For that reason, scientists are interested in stars and habitable zones—the just-right “Goldilocks zone” surrounding a star where water can exist as a liquid.

The most common type of star, making up 73% of all stars in our Milky Way galaxy, are M stars. These red stars have very active magnetic fields and massive radiation. Their Goldilocks zone would be minimal and very close to the star. Orange K stars make up 13% of the stars in the Milky Way.



They have a modest Goldilocks zone but are fairly active with some radiation levels. Yellow G type stars, like our Sun, make up only 6% of the stars in the Milky Way. These stars have very large Goldilocks zones, and they are very quiet compared to K stars. Other critical factors include the size of the star, the location of the planet relative to the star, and the shielding a planet has for protection from the radiation of the star. Also, the stability of the star’s location in the Milky Way is another factor that goes into a life-supporting planetary system.

Our existence is not a product of chance. The more we learn about the Earth, the Sun, and the stars, the more we understand that the statement, “In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth” is a massive understatement of what God did to make a place for us to exist. Source: NASA @ <https://apod.nasa.gov/apod/ap200131.html>



**WHERE ARE THE CHRISTIANS?** Current statistics show that only 9% of all people in the world who call themselves “Christians” live in North America (the U.S. and Canada). So, where are the Christians? The home of 51% of the world’s Christians is in Africa and Latin America. Africa alone has 26%. Europe has 23%, Asia 16%, and Oceania 1%. Realize that these numbers only tell us people who claim the religious identity of “Christian.” That does not mean they attend any worship services.

When we correspond with our friends in Africa and South America, we find them talking about the stabilizing influence of Christ. They say that things are improving in their nations because of Christianity. As we look around in America, we see increasing violence and instability. Does anyone want to suggest a reason for that? Where are the Christians? Source: *Christianity Today*, January/February 2020, page 25



**MARRIAGE AND HEALTH.** God said, “It is not good that man should be alone” (Genesis 2:18), and he created woman, so the two of them would be one (Genesis 2:24). Paul further emphasized the relationship between man and woman in 1 Corinthians 7. As our society moves farther from belief in God and biblical teaching, marriage is being denigrated and avoided by a large percentage of our population. What many do not realize is that there is a connection between marriage and



health. Consider these study results indicating that personal health is related to a person’s marital state:

1. Unmarried men are about 58% more likely to have heart attacks than married men. Single women are about 60% more likely to have heart attacks than married women.
2. Studies of 19,000 married people showed a 20% lower probability of dying than unmarried people.
3. Cortisol levels are related to stress, and single people have higher cortisol levels than married individuals.
4. 83% of married people are still alive 15 years after coronary bypass surgery, while only 28% of single women with the same surgery are still alive.



Studies continue to show a connection between marriage and physical health as well as your emotional health. A good marriage benefits both partners. Source: *Focus on the Family*, February/March 2020, page 16.

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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