

DOES GOD EXIST?

Third Quarter 2022
Volume 49 Number 3

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



**MIRACLES, PRAYER,
AND PURPOSE IN GOD'S WORD**

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In the beginning
God created the
heavens and the
earth.
— Genesis 1:1

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So God created
mankind in his image.
— Genesis 1:27

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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.



MIRACLES, PRAYER, AND PURPOSE IN GOD'S WORD

A stumbling block for Christians, atheists, and agnostics is the question of how and if God acts in the affairs of humans. For some Christians, God is a bandage to fix every ill. They assume that passages like Matthew 7:7, which says, “Ask, and it will be given you ...” is a credit card where God fulfills every request. When God does not answer a sincere needed request, people start to doubt God. For example, atheists point to the horrors of the war in Ukraine continuing despite millions of people begging God to stop it. They say that is clear proof that God does not exist. One of the main atheist arguments to support their denial of God’s existence is the question of human suffering and why God would allow it.

A major answer to the question of suffering is understanding how God acts and why. The Bible makes it clear that a war between good and evil is going on. If God forced his will by destroying evil,



that would only prove he is a more powerful being. It would not prove that good is superior to evil in every way. The book of Job, the temptation of Christ by Satan, the crucifixion and resurrection, and the entire book of Revelation make it clear that the war continues and that humans are the vehicles through which this war is being waged. The atheist response is to claim that evil does not exist, which most people cannot accept.

With the war between good and evil in mind, what is the purpose of prayer and miracles? A study of the

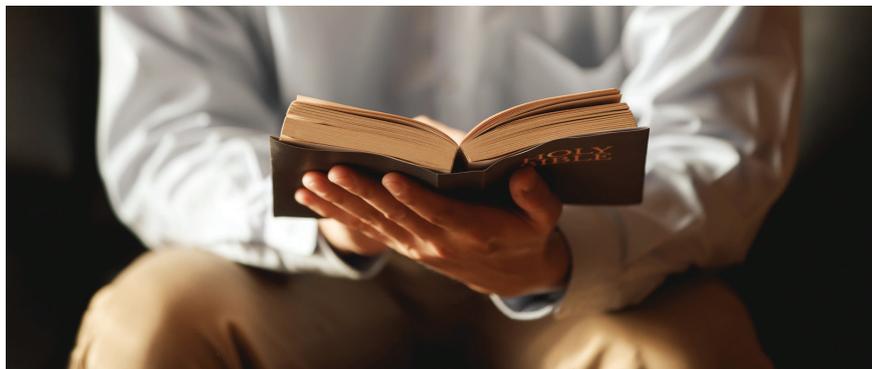
miracles of Jesus reveals that they always had a purpose. Jesus dealt with only a small percentage of the myriad of needs that existed, but each miracle reached a different audience and addressed a different human need. In the early church, miracles were a tool to identify who spoke for God and who was promoting fake news. There were many charlatans in the first century, just as there are today (see Acts 8:9–11, 18–19; 19:13–16). Until the Bible was available as a testimony to the gospel, there was no easy way to tell who spoke for God and who was a con artist. The ability to perform miracles solved this issue.

Today, we have those who desire miracles to serve their own selfish purpose. They do not view the Bible as the one trustworthy source of information from God. They ignore passages like 2 Timothy 3:16–17 that clearly tell us that we can obtain completeness (perfection) by following God’s Word. In 1 Corinthians 13, Paul points out that miraculous abilities would not be needed when “that which is complete comes” (verse 10). The context and the passage in 2 Timothy indicate that this refers to God’s Word. We no longer need a miracle of raising someone from the dead to prove that a person is speaking for God. We have God’s Word, the Bible. Miracles of the kind performed by Jesus and the apostles simply do not happen today because they are no longer needed. But, God can do anything he wants, and asking for a merciful solution to a situation is not wrong. However, denying God’s existence because he does not do what we ask is an unfortunate action.



So does God act today, or did he just wind up the universe and let it go, leaving us on our own? The Bible gives examples of situations where God acted, not by sending a miracle to solve the problem, but by managing human affairs to reach the desired objective. For example, when Jesus was crucified, why did he not use “twelve legions of angels” (Matthew 26:53) and blast his opponents into oblivion? He said he could do that, but when Peter pulled out a sword and cut off the ear of the high priest’s servant, Jesus condemned that action and healed the man’s ear.

In Genesis 37–45, we see the story of Joseph, who, due to human bad judgment, was thrown in a pit and sold into slavery by his brothers. Joseph eventually had the opportunity to get even with his



brothers for doing that horrible thing. Joseph was in a position to have them put to death, or at least put in prison. Instead, in Genesis 45:4–5, we see Joseph understanding how God works when he tells his cowering brothers, “I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you ... to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance.” God did not force Joseph’s brothers to do what they did but used their actions to accomplish his will.

Romans 8:28 tells us that “all things work together for good to those who love God.” God is alive and well on planet Earth today and works through us to accomplish his purpose. Likewise, Philippians 4:6–7 tells us, “Do not worry about anything, but under all circumstances, by prayer and entreaty joined with thanksgiving make your requests known to God and the peace of God which is deeper than all knowledge shall guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus.” Notice that this passage does not promise a physical answer to our requests. Instead, God promised to give us peace and guard our hearts and thoughts. Several times in my life, I have witnessed the death of someone I loved, and in virtually every case, for them to leave this “vale of tears” and be free of the pain and suffering was a great blessing.

Things have happened in my life that I cannot attribute to luck or chance. I praise



God for those things and rejoice that God has blessed me with purpose and direction in my long life. I have not always enjoyed the things that have happened, but I have seen good come from each incident. The providence of God has blessed me, and the Bible has been the only thing I could count on 100% of the time. My faith has grown because of my study of God's Word and its truth. It has given me freedom

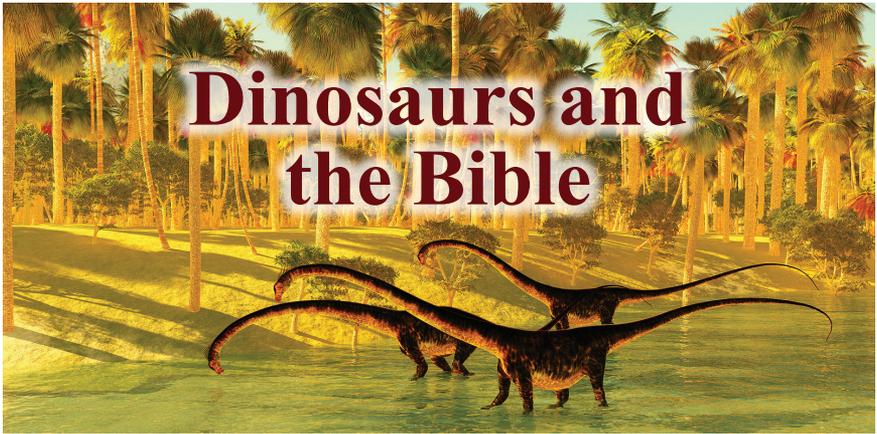


from human scams and distortion. I have learned not to trust humans no matter how many degrees they have behind their name or how eloquently they can speak. Instead, I rely on the Bible to guide my life's actions and purpose. Truly, "Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path" (Psalm 119:105).

—John N. Clayton



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We hear from both skeptics and biblical fundamentalists about taking the Bible literally. However, even those who claim to interpret the Bible literally often do not, resulting in some ridiculous errors. Furthermore, those misinterpretations cause faith challenges for better educated young people because they realize that some things people ascribe to the Bible are not logically or scientifically possible.

To interpret the Bible literally, you must take the whole Bible and not cherry-pick individual passages to support what you already believe. It also means looking at the original language and asking how those to whom it was written would have understood it. For example, when the first chapter of Genesis lists the animals God created, the Hebrew words refer to creatures the readers knew. *Behemah* (cattle) in verses 24 and 25 did not include dinosaurs, platypuses, giraffes, or elephants. People would have understood it to refer to the cattle the readers knew. *Remes* (creeping things) in the same verses would not have meant snakes and Komodo dragons but rather the smaller examples of livestock like goats and sheep the readers knew. In Genesis 9:1–3, *remes* is included as an animal God said would be food for the Israelites. We know that the Jews had food restrictions that would not have included snakes, worms, and dragons, so the meaning of *remes* is clear.

Where Do We Find Dinosaurs in the Bible?

Someone asks, “Where do we find dinosaurs mentioned in the Bible?” The answer to that question is “nowhere.” Those who attempt to include dinosaurs on Noah’s ark are not taking the Bible literally. When they do that, they provide fuel for those who say the Bible is a book of myths.

Why would the Bible mention dinosaurs? Consider how you would explain bacteria to a man with no microscope or how could a person living in the jungle make sense of an octopus? When an explorer



Platypus

brought a stuffed platypus back to England for the first time, people thought it was a fake. Millions of different plants and animals have lived on Earth, many of which still exist today. The purpose of the Genesis account is to say that God created everything, not to identify the millions of

species that have lived on Earth. Genesis mentions only the animals the Israelites could identify and name.

So from today's perspective, when did those animals exist? Some fundamentalists have suggested that we do not find dinosaurs mentioned in the Bible because they did not exist. They say that God miraculously created dinosaur fossils to give the appearance that the animals lived when they did not. That explanation makes God a liar trying to fool us into a false conclusion.



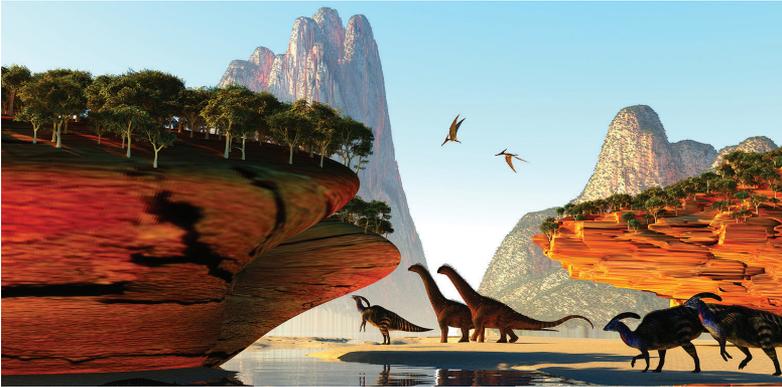
T. rex

Others suggest that dinosaurs were there but simply were not mentioned in the Bible. There is no evidence that animals like T. rex lived during Adam and Eve's time. The atmosphere and temperatures necessary for such an animal to survive would be detrimental to humans.

Why Did Dinosaurs Exist?

Since we do not find dinosaurs mentioned in the Bible, what was God's reason for creating these huge animals? God knew that humans would need an environment optimized for their survival. In Alaska today, the survival of various life forms depends on salmon bringing nutrients into an environment lacking those essentials. Like the salmon, the dinosaurs were the vehicles that provided resources needed for humans to exist and flourish later. The plant-eating dinosaurs consumed massive amounts of vegetation and excreted processed plant materials and seeds. They spread the vegetation and produced topsoil and critical elements necessary for human life. No animal living today could accomplish that task.

When Genesis 1:1 tells us that God created the heavens and the earth, the result would be a functioning universe and a dynamic planet where humans could eventually live. Earth was not a blob of molten rock or hydrocarbons but a functional planet, and dinosaurs were one of God’s tools to prepare it for humans. The big animals and plants helped create topsoil, coal, and a variety of trace elements human life would need. The oceans nurtured diatoms that produced the massive



amounts of hydrocarbons humans would need for oil and gas. We do not find bacteria, diatoms, or dinosaurs mentioned in the Bible because they are included in Genesis 1:1.

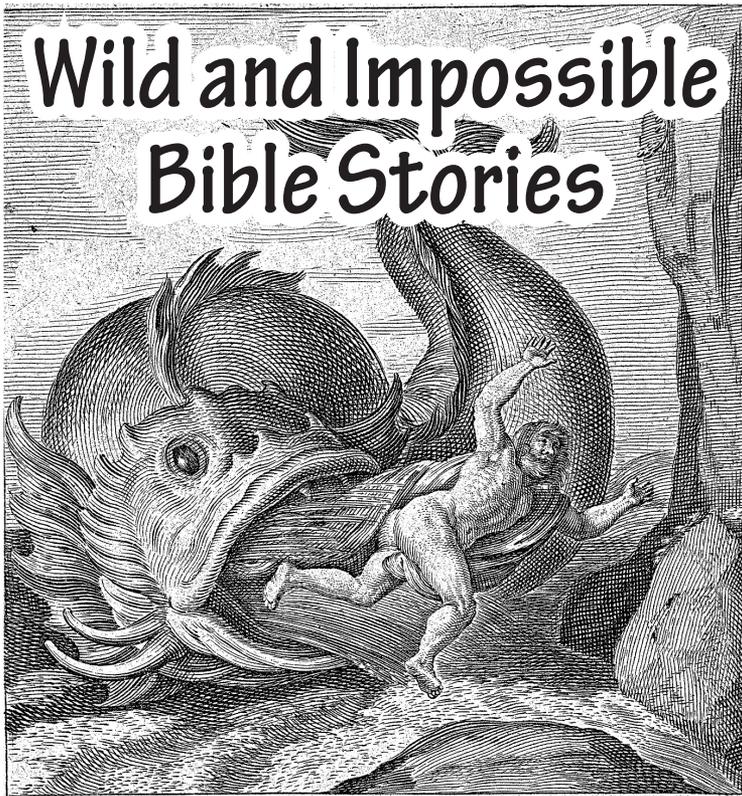
God could have zapped the hydrocarbons into existence, but if he had done it that way, humans could never have located them. God not only created the resources we would need, but he did it in a way that we could find them. He gave us the intelligence to study his methods to find the resources and obtain them for our use.



The wisdom of God in designing Earth to sustain human life is incredible. Every day, science finds clues about how the planet was designed and how things we might consider insignificant are critical to our existence.

—JNC

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I recently received an e-mail from a preacher struggling with his faith. One of his main stumbling blocks is believing what he calls “the wild and impossible Bible stories.” Here are some questions which challenged his faith:

- “I can’t believe a guy could live inside a whale for three days?”
- “I can’t believe that a guy could build a boat, put in two of every species of life on the planet, and sail around for a long time?”
- “I can’t believe God stopped the Earth from rotating to allow a battle to continue.”

These are the same challenges atheists have made against the Bible, but it is unusual for a preacher to raise these questions. So we need to make three points about these and other Bible stories.

1. Many times, people make invalid assumptions about Bible stories.

An example of that is the flood of Genesis 6–8. The point of the story is clear. Humans rebelled against God, and God caused/allowed a catastrophe to wipe out those who rejected him. The Bible does not say the waters were level over the Earth and flooded uninhabited places. Questions about where the waters came from or where they went after the flood are a problem only if you assume the waters were level over the entire globe. The flood had natural causes and not miraculous ones.

2. The occurrence of unusual phenomena does not discredit the biblical account.

For example, one of the “wild and impossible Bible stories” is found in Joshua 10:10–14, which says the Sun and Moon provided



light for Joshua and his army to defeat the Amorites. If you assume that the Earth stopped rotating, that would have disastrous consequences for the whole planet. The passage’s context shows that various unusual astronomical things were going on. Verse 11 tells of great stones falling and killing people, perhaps

hailstones. This is rare, but it can happen.

God could act to provide sunlight and moonlight to continue for the length of the battle. The Bible speaks in everyday, non-technical language describing this incident from the viewpoint of Joshua. Perhaps God provided a way to refract or reflect sunlight and moonlight to the battle scene. If only the Sun were involved, there would have been no need to mention the Moon in verse 12. Verse 14 tells us the event was most unusual and identifies it as God using a process.

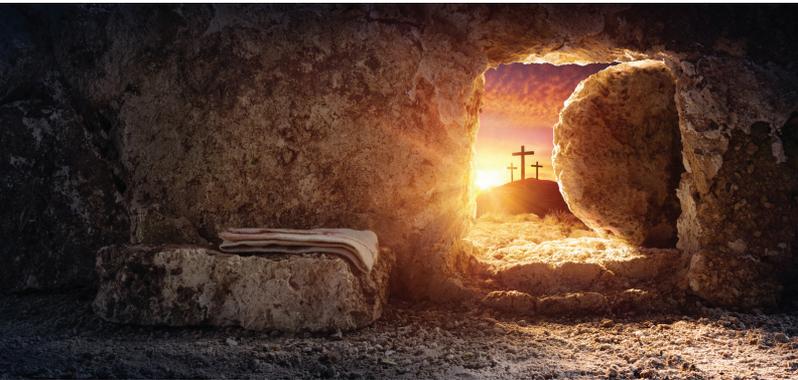


3. God is capable of performing miracles.

If you do not believe he can, then you have to reject the resurrection of Christ. A few stories from the Bible are identified as miracles. The story of Jonah is a miracle of God equivalent to raising Lazarus from the dead. The Bible does not say that a whale swallowed Jonah. Jonah 1:17 tells us, “Now the LORD had prepared a great fish to swallow Jonah.” That was a miracle, not a whale, shark, or plesiosaur.

Even if you reject all biblical miracles, not all Bible stories are miracles. A man killing another man with a stone and a sling is entirely possible and does not require a miracle. Rising from the dead after three days is not possible and has to be a miracle. You can reject it if you choose, but if God is God, he can perform miracles. That makes the resurrection of Christ a matter of faith. God acted miraculously in some biblical accounts, but in other cases, he used natural processes—even unusual ones. The so-called “wild and impossible Bible stories” are not a valid reason to discard the Bible as a collection of fairy tales.

—JNC



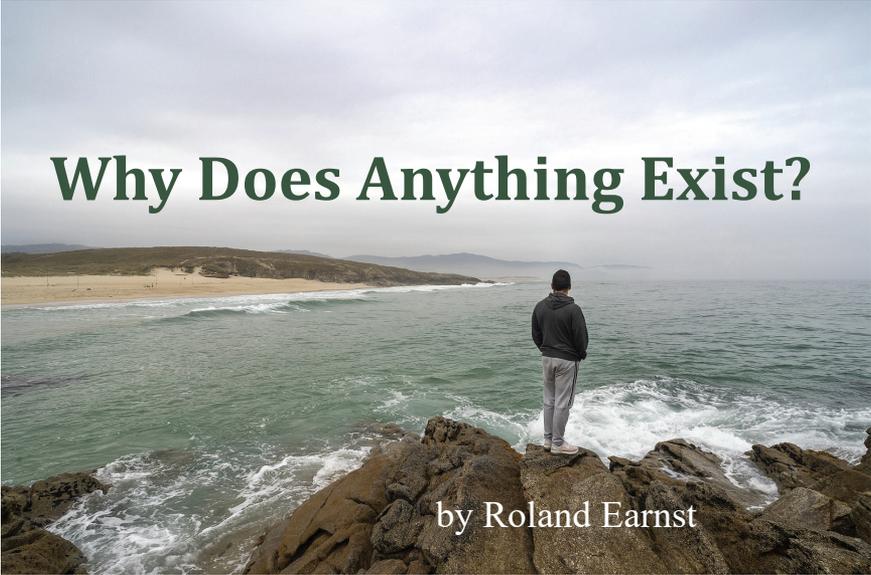
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A photograph of a person standing on a rocky shore, looking out at the ocean under a cloudy sky. The person is wearing a dark hoodie and light-colored pants. The ocean is a mix of green and blue, with white waves crashing against the rocks. In the background, there are low hills and a sandy beach.

Why Does Anything Exist?

by Roland Earnst

Why is there something rather than nothing? Most scientists today agree that the universe had a beginning. They disagree on how it began, but they largely accept the idea that it began to exist. However, another question many ask is, “Why does anything exist?” If there was nothing before the universe began, why are we here? If nothing existed before the universe began, it is difficult to explain why there is anything at all. Some scientists have tried redefining “nothing” to make it “something.”

Why Not the Gravity?

Sometimes they suggest that something is gravity. So, if gravity existed before there was anything, where did the gravity come from? What they are doing is to substitute gravity for God, but how can there be gravity without mass?

Isaac Newton described gravity as the attraction between objects that have mass. The more mass, the more gravity pulls them together. That was the accepted theory until Einstein devised a new idea. His theory defined gravity as a curvature in space-time, which is the accepted concept today. But, according to scientists, the cosmic creation event (usually referred to as the big bang) was also the beginning of space and time. So, where does gravity come from if there is no space-time or matter-energy? That still does not answer the question, “Why does anything exist?”

Of course, if science says that gravity existed before anything else, atheists argue that it is no different from saying that God existed before anything else. Who or what made God? Everything that

begins to exist must indeed have a cause. However, God is eternal. He did not begin to exist. God is the first cause, the unmade Maker, the necessarily existing uncaused Being. If God created time and space, he is outside of time and space. God existed before time, but even using the term “before” shows that we are limited to thinking in time terms. There is no before or after with God. He knows the future because he can see the entire time line of the cosmos, viewing it from the outside.

Back to the Question

So back to our original question, “Why does anything exist?” We can say that everything exists because God exists. God chose to create this fine-tuned universe of space, time, matter, and energy. We can summarize this with a simple logical statement known as a syllogism. If the first and second premises are correct, then the conclusion must be true.

Premise 1 — Everything that begins to exist must have a cause.

Premise 2 — The universe began to exist.

Conclusion — The universe has a cause.

Premise 1

Premise 1 seems to be obvious. If something did not exist and then came into existence, it must have a cause for its existence. For example, suppose you are driving down the street and notice an empty lot. Each time you drive by, there is nothing but grass growing there. You take a different route for a few months, but one day you drive down that same street, and there is a house on the lot. You would not conclude that the house appeared there without a cause.

You would logically conclude that some builders constructed that house for a reason—probably because someone wanted to live there. You could investigate to learn the identity of the occupants. You could even explore building methods to see how the house was constructed. However, you would surely not conclude that the house appeared out of nothing with no cause.

Premise 2

Looking at the second premise could be more challenging. Unlike the house, you were not around before the universe existed, so you

could assume it was always there. You might think it did not BEGIN to exist, so it does not need a cause! That was the approach of many “thinkers” from Aristotle to Einstein. When Einstein formulated the theory of special relativity in 1905, he was concerned that his formulas indicated that the universe was not in a steady state. It was either expanding or contracting, meaning it could not have always existed. To correct that “problem,” Einstein added a “fudge factor” to make it appear that the universe is unchanging. In other words, he just “made up” a number so that his equations would show that the universe was eternal. Other scientists realized that Einstein was cheating, and he later admitted it was the biggest mistake of his life.

Scientific experiments from the 1920s to the twenty-first century have confirmed the universe is expanding and even accelerating in its expansion. Since the universe is expanding, we can trace that expansion back to a point where the universe began as a “singularity.” The universe had a beginning! That was something that many scientists did not want to accept because of its religious implications. The universe has a cause, and science cannot determine that cause. British astronomer and atheist Fred Hoyle coined the derisive term “big bang” because his faith could not allow the concept of an ultimate Causer, or God. He used that term to make fun of the idea of a beginning. However, it has now become the popular term for the beginning.

The Conclusion

If premise 1 and premise 2 are both true, the conclusion must be true. The universe has a cause. The scientific consensus is that the

Jeremiah 23:23-24 — God is everywhere and sees everything.

Acts 17:28 — In God we live and move and have our being.

Psalms 90:4; 102:27; 2 Peter 3:8 — God is outside of time.

Proverbs 8:22-23; John 1:1-3; Revelation 1:8 — God existed before the universe and time began.

John 4:24 — God is a spirit.

1 John 4:8 and 16 — God is love.

big bang was the beginning of time and space as well as matter and energy. So, what does that tell us about the Cause? It tells us that the Cause has to be non-material and outside of time and space. That fits the biblical description of God.

Hoyle's derisive term for the beginning does not accurately describe what took place at the beginning. A big bang indicates some kind of explosion. Explosions are haphazard and chaotic, so I prefer to call it the cosmic creation event. Scientists have determined that the beginning could not have been chaotic but precisely tuned to create a life-supporting universe. The more we learn about the processes of creation, the more we see that if things had been even slightly different, we would not be here.

Because the universe was created by a process, scientists can study that process and follow it back in time. They can detect the residual cosmic background microwave radiation left over from the creation event. Astronomers can look back in time to see some of the earliest stars. Chemists can analyze the elements in the stars by examining the radiation spectrum. We can know how the elements originated in the stars as we study atomic reactions. For example, life is built around the carbon atom, but for a long time, it was a mystery how carbon atoms could have formed. Atheist Fred Hoyle solved the mystery and was shocked by what he found. He saw the fine-tuning required to create the carbon atom, and he expressed it this way:

“Some super-calculating intellect must have designed the properties of the carbon atom, otherwise the chance of my finding such an atom through the blind forces of nature would be utterly minuscule. A common sense interpretation of the facts suggests that a superintellect has monkeyed with physics, as well as with chemistry and biology, and that there are no blind forces worth speaking about in nature. The numbers one calculates from the facts seem to me so overwhelming as to put this conclusion almost beyond question.”

— Fred Hoyle

Tracing the Process

Science can trace the process of creation back to almost the beginning. However, they hit a roadblock just before they reach the starting point. Because of specific limitations, it is thus far impossible to go back to the precise moment when the universe began. But, of course, science cannot go back to before the universe began. Science can only study secondary causation. They can see the processes that lead to the universe we live in. They cannot study primary causation. Could God be the primary cause operating behind the secondary causation we can see? Science cannot say. The best science can do is to suspend judgment. Personal beliefs are not science.

Science today has set limitations on itself, confining its study to the physical realm. To go beyond that would be considered metaphysics or theology. However, some scientists do not hesitate to make theological statements. An example is the late Carl Sagan opening the old *Cosmos* series on PBS television with the statement, “The cosmos is all there is or was or ever will be.” That is not a scientific statement. It is a materialistic, atheistic theological statement beyond what science can measure and examine. Biologist Richard Dawkins is also not afraid to venture beyond science into theology when he states in *River Out of Eden*, “The universe we observe has precisely the properties we should expect if there is, at bottom, no design, no purpose, no evil, no good, nothing but blind, pitiless indifference.”

Scientists such as Sagan and Dawkins contribute to the war between science and theology, and specifically science and the Bible. They fail to acknowledge they are making faith statements. Both science and theology deal with the fundamental human desire to know. We are naturally curious because God made us that way. Science began with Christian believers who sought to learn more about God through his creation. A desire to learn more about God through the things he has made motivated men like Roger Bacon, Copernicus, Kepler, Galileo, Newton, and others to create what we call “science.”

Faith in a loving and orderly Creator opened the door to a realization that the universe is orderly and not the chaotic product of the many gods of the ancient Greeks and Romans. Theology and theologians developed many of the methods that science uses today. Also, it was theologians who recognized that only natural causation is open to



our direct study. They knew by faith that God was the ultimate cause of the universe. But since God is not a physical being, we can only study the secondary causation. Even though we recognize that God is the only possible cause of the universe, all we can do is discover how he did it and marvel at the precision fine-tuning of the cosmos. When we say that God “zapped” these things into existence without a process, we deny God’s engineering and architectural skills. We can know there is a God by the things he has made (Romans 1:20).

Some Final Thoughts

Since God is outside of time, he can hear the prayers of millions of people all over the world at the same time. There I go using that “time” word again. We cannot think outside of time because we cannot live outside of time. If we could, for just a moment (another time word), step outside of history’s time line and see it from God’s perspective, we could understand why God allows things to happen. We could understand the things that make us ask, “Why doesn’t God stop that from happening?” We could see the conclusion of all things. We would know that because of God’s wisdom, justice, and love, the conclusion is good.

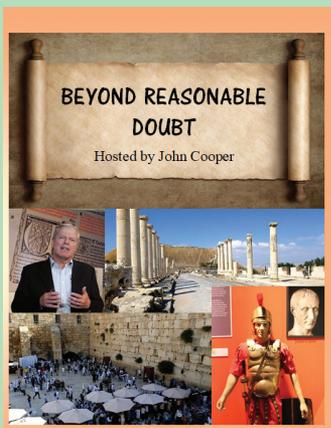
Today, well-known scientists use books and TV programs to proclaim atheism, materialism, and scientism. At the same time, prominent and often highly-paid religious teachers debunk science and tell people to take off their “science glasses” and put on “Bible glasses.” It is time to call a truce in the war between science and faith. Although the Bible is scientifically accurate beyond its time, it is not a science book. Although nature can tell us much about God, only the Bible can tell us everything we need to know about the Creator of the universe and how to have a relationship with him. Good science and good theology go hand-in-hand.



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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.

Antony Hewish
(1924-2021)

British Astronomer

Nobel prize in 1974 for the discovery of Pulsars

Graduate of Cambridge University

Professor of Radio Astronomy

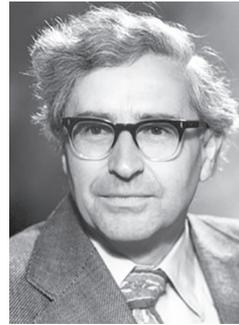
at Cavendish Labs from 1971-1989

Received numerous science awards

and honorary degrees from six universities

Was a Fellow of several scientific societies in Europe

“The ghostly presence of virtual particles defies rational common sense and is non-intuitive for those unacquainted with physics. Religious belief in God, and the Christian belief that God became man around two thousand years ago, may seem strange to common-sense thinking. But when the most elementary physical things behave in this way, we should be prepared to accept that the deepest aspects of our existence go beyond our common-sense intuitions.”



Antony Hewish

Source: *Questions of Truth: Fifty-one Responses to Questions about God, Science, and Belief* by Nicholas Beale and John Polkinghorne.

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Cynthia's Corner

EVIDENCE FOR GOD IN HIS WORD



Is the Holy Bible a man-made religious book? Or is it the only book ever written over many centuries by many writers sharing a common theme and message and whose writings are prophetically, historically, and scientifically consistently accurate and true? The biblical writers clearly state that “all scripture is God-breathed” (2 Timothy 3:16), and the writers “spoke from God by the Holy Spirit” (2 Peter 1:20–21). The accuracy of the Bible has been proven true over many centuries of examination by skeptics and scholars.

Many areas in the biblical writings show God’s inspiration. I would like to focus on three main areas that show God’s authorship. The first one is history. Even though the Bible is not a history book, those historical references have always proven accurate whenever they mention dates, times, people, places, or events. Archaeology and historians have confirmed the Bible’s historical facts.

Secondly, the Bible is not a science book, but God has revealed many details about the creation and how it works in the pages of the Bible. Sometimes it has taken scientists many centuries to understand and verify what God said in his Word about the world. For example, the Bible says that the Earth “hangs on nothing” (Job 26:7), which science now knows refers to our stability in space from the Sun’s gravity. Likewise, the Bible describes ocean currents and boundaries (Proverbs 8:27–29) and how land masses were not divided early in Earth’s history (Genesis 1:9). Only God could have known this when Old Testament writers wrote it! There are various other examples.

The third area which shows divine inspiration is the prophecies contained in the Bible. The Old Testament prophets of God accurately foretold future events regarding the nation of Israel and its leaders. The prophets foretold the means of death of some rulers and accurately predicted Israel’s eventual downfall and captivity by the Babylonians, Persians, Medes, and Greeks (Daniel 8:20–22). The Old Testament also accurately predicted many events in the life of Christ and many details of his life and death centuries beforehand! The gospels in the New Testament often say, “this happened to fulfill the scriptures.” Only God could accurately predict future human events, sometimes centuries earlier, with no errors! The Bible proves itself to be God’s Word.

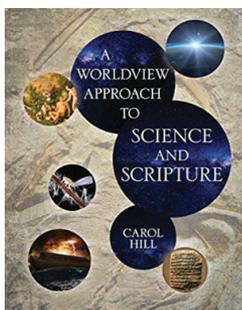
—Cynthia Clayton



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.

A Worldview Approach to Science and Scripture

by Carol Hill, Kregel Academic, © 2019,
230 pages, \$20.73 (hard cover), ISBN-13: 978-0825446146



Carol Hill, a geologist and professor at the University of New Mexico, has been featured on NOVA and National Geographic's Naked Science program and is a fellow of the American Scientific Affiliation. She has an impressive knowledge of science, the Hebrew language, and the Bible.

If you are looking for a different approach to the science and faith issue, this book has that. It is the culmination of 20 years of work by Dr. Hill and contains numerous pictures and charts.

Hill treats the Worldview approach as an alternative to Young-Earth Creationists, Progressive Creationists, Evolutionary Creationists, and those who believe in a historical Adam. She is a firm believer in God, Christ, and the Bible. However, she asserts that the Bible deals with the Jewish history and that other “non-Adamite” and “non-Israelite” people lived on Earth before and after Adam and Eve.

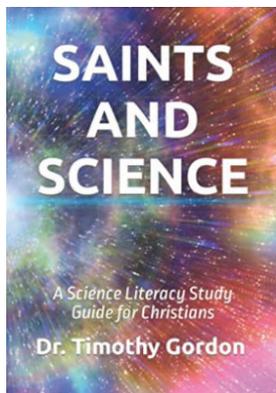
Hill refers to Mesopotamian concepts of numbers and history. The days of Genesis, the Garden of Eden, Noah and the Flood, and Adam and Eve are all topics treated in depth using scientific theories and the meaning of the Hebrew words in the Bible. In addition, she uses an academic treatment of theistic evolution to support the biblical account in a way that explains genetic evidence and anthropological discoveries.

This book deals in great detail with the biblical record and the meaning of Hebrew words. It is a scholarly book that will appeal to academics but will be beyond the educational background of most of us (including your reviewer). Nevertheless, understanding Hill's Worldview approach will be worthwhile because it may be the main view of academics in the future.

Saints and Science

by Timothy Gordon, Intermountain Institute
for Religion Science and Culture, © 2022,
304 pages, \$14.99 (paperback), ISBN-13: 979-8467983905

If you are looking for a gold mine of information about science and faith, this is it. Dr. Gordon is a retired Navy Commander with 30 years of military service and a doctorate in Christian apologetics. The depth of this book makes it very useful for a 14-week study by advanced students in college and professional group classes. As an aid to the non-scholars, each chapter has “questions to consider,” a crossword, and a word search section.



- Week 1: Science as Inquiry—The Nature of Science, What It Is and Is Not
- Week 2: Logic, Arguments, and the Scientific Method
- Week 3: Pseudoscience, Hoaxes, and Tests for Truth
- Week 4: Introduction to Science and Faith and Their Relationship
- Week 5: The History of Science: Church, Copernicus, and Galileo
- Week 6: The Philosophy of Science: God, Miracles, and Causation
- Week 7: The Biblical Doctrine of Creation
- Week 8: Darwin, Evolution, and History of Theistic Evolution
- Week 9: Fundamentalism, History, and Arguments for Young Earth Creationism
- Week 10: History and Arguments for Old Earth Creationism
- Week 11: Natural Theology, History, and Arguments from Design
- Week 12: Biblical and Scientific Perspectives on Evil
- Week 13: Climate Change, Technology, and False Worldviews
- Week 14: Past, Present, and Future Challenges

It is heavily documented with references to books, websites, and other resources. There are also 60 pages of appendices with curriculum material, an extensive reading list, and a collection of scriptures dealing with biblical creation. Although it is too advanced for most church congregation members, it would be a tremendous help to preachers and youth workers. We highly recommend it.

For documents and archives of this journal plus
booklets and more: www.doesgodexist.org

DANDY DESIGNS

MUSICAL TREE

It is the tallest species of spruce and one of the tallest species of trees in the world. These trees are commonly used as tonewood for various musical instruments. The Sitka spruce (*Picea sitchensis*) lives to be very old and outrageously tall.



Sitka spruce trees grow along the western coast of North America from Sitka, Alaska, to northern California. The tallest specimen is 315 feet tall (96 m) and resides in Olympic National Park, Washington. Old trees may not have branches lower than 98–131 feet (30–40 m). They have thin scaly bark, and their needles are arranged spirally along the twig.

Sitka spruce is the most important timber species in Alaska. The wood is valuable for use as turbine blades for wind-driven electrical generators and masts for sailboats as well as musical instruments. Sitka spruces are also a critical component of the health of the ecosystem. Sitka spruce forests provide habitat for a large variety of mammals, birds, reptiles, and amphibians. The forests foster hiding places, thermal cover, and a natural snow screen. Many species would be in jeopardy of habitat loss without the towering trees and vast forest canopy.

Because Sitka spruce is fast-growing, it is a top choice for reforestation efforts. When the tree is reintroduced to regions, it has massive effects on other organisms. Sitka spruce trees remind us that healthy, plentiful forests are part of God's design for the Earth. The tree's structure and wood type create excellent acoustic properties for use in guitars, violins, and pianos. Sitka spruces are beautiful trees that give us beautiful forests and help us create beautiful music.

ALBACORE TUNA



This fascinating fish species is one of the world's most widely distributed tunas. They live in tropical and temperate oceans from the equator to about 45 degrees latitude in both the northern and southern hemispheres. As a result, Albacore tuna (*Thunnus alalunga*) play an essential

role in the world's aquatic ecosystem.

A distinguishing trait of albacore tuna is their extremely long pectoral (side) fins, up to 30% of the fish's total length. In addition, their streamlined design allows them to swim at high speeds. They show dark blue and silver colors with some yellow on their fins. Schools of albacore tuna are common throughout all ocean waters and the Mediterranean Sea.

These tunas are predators of the open sea. Unlike other tunas, which eat mainly fish, the albacores prey on cephalopods such as squid. Their primary prey is a deep-water squid known as the odd bobtail (*Heteroteuthis dispar*). Albacores dive over 1300 feet (400 m) to search for food, and, in turn, they are a food source for sharks, rays, and larger tunas.

Albacore is one of the most common tuna species caught for human consumption. Not only do they provide food for people, but they also help create jobs. Sport anglers and commercial fisheries target the albacore, and packaging and distribution are important industries. A female albacore tuna will produce two to three million eggs per spawning. The eggs hatch in one or two days, and the fish can live for 11 to 12 years. However, albacore never rest because they must remain in constant motion for their gills to collect enough oxygen to meet their needs.

Albacore tuna play an integral role in the entire marine ecosystem. Regional management organizations and governments work to maintain the albacore's population and habitat so they can prosper. God commanded humans to have dominion over the fish of the sea, which is a great responsibility. Beautiful species like the albacore tuna give us plenty of reason to believe in a Master Designer.

See our videos at www.doesgodexist.tv

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. 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://www.facebook.com/evidence4god)).

ALCOHOL IS A MORE DESTRUCTIVE DRUG: The media and medical profession pay great attention to the damaging effects of illegal drugs, but alcohol is a more destructive drug. In 2019, alcohol directly caused the deaths of almost 79,000 people in the United States from illnesses and car crashes. In 2020, the first full year of the COVID pandemic, more than 99,000 people under age 65 died directly from the use of alcohol. That was a 25.5% increase and more lives than COVID claimed that year for those under 65.



There is a widespread belief among college students that you cannot have fun unless you drink. At the University of Notre Dame, Ted Mandell teaches a class called “Drunk on Film.” The subtitle of the course is “The Psychology of Storytelling with Alcohol and Its Effects on Alcohol Consumption.” Using film clips from movies and alcohol commercials, he helps students understand the problems with drinking and how advertisers and filmmakers seduce them into thinking that excessive alcohol consumption is normal and desirable. Instead, looking at the evidence should convince thinking people that alcohol is a very destructive drug.



DISEASE SPILL BACK FROM HUMANS TO ANIMALS: Many times animals pass diseases to humans. However, recent research by scientists at Georgetown University shows disease spillback from humans to animals. This discovery has implications for the spread of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. This virus has shown up in wild white-tailed deer populations in the United States and Canada.



Medical researchers are concerned that the virus may mutate in animal populations providing a reservoir of variants that can spread back to humans. We cannot blame God when a disease occurs in humans that was contracted by improper management of the animals that live around us.

The exotic animal trade has brought with it some extreme risks to humans. Not only can animals pass diseases to us, but disease spillback from humans to animals is possible and dangerous.



REPEATING THE CYCLE OF HISTORY: The value of knowing history is to avoid repeating it, but humans have been slow learners in that regard. The Bible tells us the history of Israel. From the golden calf to corrupt king after corrupt king, Israel repeatedly turns away from God, worships pagan gods, and embraces sinful and destructive practices. They follow the false gods of their neighbors, even to the point of human sacrifice. Over and over, God responds by removing his protection of Israel and allowing foreign nations to overtake them. When Israel returns to God, the covenant is restored until they again turn away, repeating the cycle of history.

So here we are in America today, repeating the cycle of history. Jesus shed his blood to make us one body free of all divisions and human fallacies. As in the past, God promises blessings when we obey his commands. America has prospered and been blessed in many ways, but today Americans are rebelling against God. We see our nation restricting the worship of God, endorsing the dissolution of marriage, killing babies before they are born, and murdering children in school. The church is all that stands against the complete rejection of God's commands. We can break the cycle of history by relying on God's word and following his instructions, individually and as a nation.



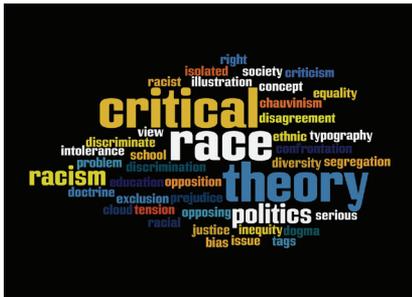
Visit: [Facebook.com/evidence4god](https://www.facebook.com/evidence4god)

TRANSGENDER EXPLOSION: What are the motivations for a gender change? Each case is different, and none of them is simple. For a male, the ability to dominate in female sports competition may be attractive. Others may have feelings of jealousy, inferiority, or distrust. That is especially true if they have experienced abuse. The breakdown of the family unit, the complete abandonment of morals, and the impact of the entertainment industry all contribute to the transgender explosion in America.

However, the transgender explosion is just another symptom of what happens when a culture discards God and his Word. Every past culture on this planet has gone through a similar path. After a period of growth and strength, humans start to rely on immorality, materialism, naturalism, and racism, and the culture eventually collapses. Only Christianity offers any hope that we will not follow the civilizations that have lived and died in the past.



CRITICAL RACE THEORY WON'T SOLVE THE PROBLEM: Critical Race Theory has become a hot issue today because one of America's significant failings has been how racial



issues have been handled. Unfortunately, politicians have waded into this struggle and have made “race” the lens through which we view everything. They seem to think they have the power to legislate a solution to this issue.

Critical Race Theory is an ideology that says people are either “oppressors” or the “oppressed,”

“good” or “bad,” based entirely on their race. The conflict over Critical Race Theory has resulted from its inclusion in the school curriculum at a very early age. However, teaching Critical Race Theory to first graders is not a solution to racial prejudice in America.

The Bible makes it clear that Christians must treat all people as equals and that we are all one. Therefore, the church must take the lead in educating its members about race while reaching out to the oppressed. Galatians 3:27–28 says, “For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, neither slave nor free, nor is there male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.” Changing the hearts of non-Christians is an uphill battle that can be won, but Critical Race Theory will not do it.



HAPPY THE ELEPHANT DENIED PERSONHOOD:

Atheists claim that humans are just animals, so animals should have the same rights as humans. On June 14, 2022, the New York Court of Appeals denied a claim by a Florida-based animal rights group called “The Nonhuman Rights Project.” The group had claimed that an elephant named “Happy” in the Bronx Zoo was in illegal custody and should be released because the elephant was equal to humans. After four years of litigation, Happy, the elephant, was denied personhood by the New York Court of Appeals.

If you deny that humans are created in the image of God, then any animal can be considered equal to humans. However, because we are in God’s image, humans have spiritual characteristics that animals do not have. For example, we can express creativity in art and music, feel guilt and sympathy, have a complete self-concept, appreciate beauty, and worship God.

The court’s chief judge wrote, “Happy, as a nonhuman animal, does not have a legally cognizable right to be at liberty under New York law.” She said that the legislature would have to decide to grant nonhuman animals the same legal rights as humans. The court’s decision was five to two, with the two jurists strongly dissenting. So, at least for now, Happy, the elephant, is denied personhood unless the legislature decides to change the law. Interestingly, the New York legislature denies personhood for a human baby up to the moment of birth.



SALT LOST ITS SAVOR: An atheist recently attacked the credibility of the Bible by quoting Matthew 5:13: “You are the salt



of the earth; but if the salt has lost its savor, how shall it be seasoned? It is good for nothing but to be cast out and trodden underfoot.” The atheist complained that Jesus was incredibly ignorant because salt cannot lose its “savor” no matter what happens to it. Reading the whole verse and un-

derstanding something about salt makes this attack an excellent example of ignorance about science and faith.

The salt in Jesus’ time came from the Dead Sea and contained a mixture of halite (sodium chloride or table salt), gypsum (calcium sulfate used in drywall), and other minerals. The halite part of Dead Sea salt was used for seasoning food or preserving meat, but the gypsum was used for footpaths. This is what Jesus referred to when he said, “the salt has lost its savor,” and his listeners would have understood that.



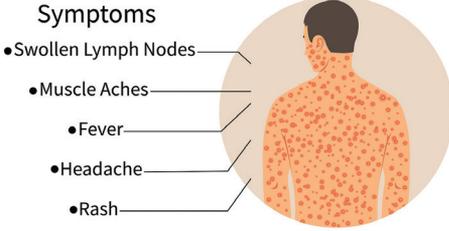
GAY LIFESTYLE AND MONKEYPOX: You cannot read the words of Jesus in Matthew 5–7 and not see that he taught against any violence or malice toward those who reject God and the biblical admonitions on how we should live. By the same token, you cannot read Romans 1:18–32 and not see a rejection of the destructive,

immoral behaviors that people practiced. It is true that LGBTQ and gay lifestyle choices are harmful, and one of the consequences of those lifestyles is a vast number of diseases.

In the past, we have seen HIV transmitted from animals to humans by animal/human sexual relationships and then spread by gay lifestyle

sexual practices. Now we are witnessing monkeypox cases on the rise. This virus related to smallpox was discovered in monkeys in 1958, with the first known human case in 1970. Medical researchers are now seeing cases in the western world, including the United States. The Centers for Disease Control, on May 23, 2022, revealed that most of the patients in the U.S. have been men who identified themselves as gay or bisexual. Although not actually an STD, monkeypox is connected to sexual contact. This shows again that God’s plan for marriage and sexual relationships is the best way to avoid the virus.

MONKEYPOX VIRUS



CARSON V. MAKIN DISCRIMINATION CASE:

On June 21, 2022, the U.S. Supreme Court handed down a rare decision supporting Christian institutions. The case was Carson v. Makin, in which the court decided that the state of Maine could not discriminate against schools with a religious affiliation. Maine had a tuition aid program for nonsectarian private schools but barred faith-based schools. The Supreme Court invalidated that rule.

This is a complicated issue. As a retired public school teacher, I know the problems created when tax money is divided, so public schools get less funding. The point is not whether tax money should go to



private schools but whether, if money is taken away from the public schools, who should get it. Parents who do not want their kids in public schools desire the option of having their tax money go to a school of their choice.

The problem is that public schools get poorer, and teacher quality goes down. The Carson v. Makin ruling is a victory for church-affiliated schools, but the problem for public education continues. The Supreme Court's decision is not over how to manage education but how to eliminate discrimination against Christianity.



THE UNIQUE BOND BETWEEN CHRISTIANS: When I was a promoter of atheism, one thing I envied the most was the unique bond between Christians. As an atheist embracing “survival of the fittest” as a way of life, I was always looking over my shoulder to see what might threaten my security. Coming from that



perspective, I was amazed to see Christians making themselves vulnerable. I envied the bond between Christians who were not related and had nothing to gain from those bonds. When Christians were together, they really enjoyed being together. The terms “brother” and “sister” were alien to me as an atheist.

I remember riding with my father several miles from home when a tire blew out. After my father called several work associates with no success, he called a family friend who was a Christian. That man came with a replacement and a jack to change the tire. My father was amazed that anyone would do that, and the Christian friend told my father, “That’s how Christians do things.” I am not sure if my father ever comprehended the importance of that statement and its testimony.

In the real world, few people have the strength and resolve to care about others sacrificially. Jesus demonstrated that in the extreme on the cross. Following his example, the unique bond between Christians can show love and care, reaching out to those who do not share their faith. The “bond of peace” and the love of brethren is not just a nice cliché but a vivid apologetic for the validity of the Christian life.



For documents and archives of this journal plus booklets and more: www.doesgodexist.org

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, CDs, courses, books, and other materials. These materials are offered on a loan basis or at our cost. We also are more than willing to correspond with you and answer any specific question(s) you might have. If you would like further information on borrowing or purchasing these materials, we would be glad to send it to you. Check the boxes below to describe what you would like and mail it to us. We will get it right out to you.

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