

DOES GOD EXIST?

**First Quarter 2025
Volume 52 Number 1**

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

WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM GENESIS 1

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In the beginning God (*elohim*) created the heavens and the earth (Genesis 1:1). In the beginning was the Word (*logos*), and the Word was with God (*theos*), and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it (John 1:1–5). The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him (Colossians 1:15–16).

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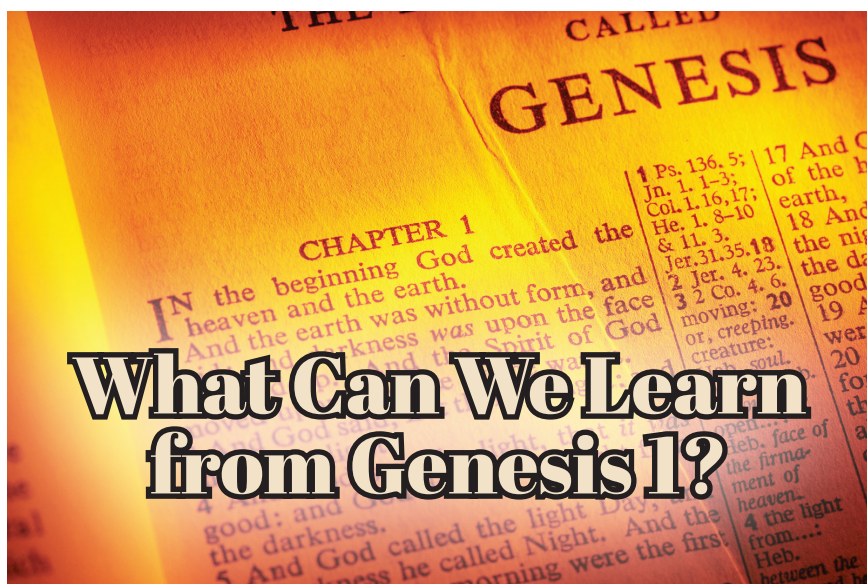
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The most fundamental message of this periodical and the **Does God Exist?** ministry is that science and faith in God and the Bible are symbiotic. That simply means that they are friends and not enemies. The dictionary defines “science” as “knowledge.” If there is knowledge and the Bible is God’s inspired Word, there can be no conflict between them. There is no more explicit example of the compatibility of science and faith than Genesis 1. If there is a conflict between science and Genesis 1, we have misunderstood either the scientific evidence or what the Bible says.

In a discussion like this, we need to understand we are talking about what the Bible actually says, not someone’s opinion of what it says. We are also talking about scientific evidence, not what philosophers or theologians might attribute to science. Here are some things we learn from Genesis 1 that are supported by factual scientific evidence:

1. THERE WAS A BEGINNING.

The Hebrew word *reshith*, translated as “beginning” in Genesis 1:1, means “first in time or place.” The message is that the cosmos is not eternal. Hebrews 11:3 tells us “... the universe was formed at God’s command, so that what is seen was NOT made out of what is visible” (emphasis mine). This verse also indicates that God is distinct from his creation. The pantheistic teaching of some religions that says that God exists only in the creation itself is not part of the biblical narrative. Time, space, and matter/energy are created entities that had a beginning. Quantum mechanics clarifies that time is a created thing and that space and matter/energy had a particular start.

2. THE CREATION WAS NOT MADE OF PRE-EXISTING MATERIAL.

The laws of physics, such as the second law of thermodynamics, clearly show that matter/energy is not eternal, so there could be no pre-existing material that produced the cosmos as we see it.

3. THE CREATION WAS GOOD.

In Genesis 1:21, 25, and 31, we read about God saying, “It is good.” From a biblical standpoint, we learn that the Earth and all that was created on the Earth were in balance. Verse 31 says, “It is VERY good.” The more scientists study the ecological structure of life on our planet, the more we learn that all of life is in balance, and whenever things are messed up in any environment, humans made the mess. In its original form, it was perfect — VERY good (emphasis added).

4. GOD IS DISTINCT FROM HIS CREATION.

The biblical concept of creation, as seen in Genesis 1, is that the



Creator is distinct from the creation. The pantheistic beliefs of many religions state that god and the creation are all one body. That means rocks, soil, and water are all a part of “god” and thus should be wor-

shipped. From a scientific standpoint, objects such as rocks, water, and air are all independent of any theological nature. Storms are not because a god became angry; volcanoes are not because a goddess jealously protects the rocks. The idolatry of ancient pagan cultures derived from the oneness they saw between gods and nature. This idolatry led to horrors like human sacrifices to placate the gods and goddesses.

5. THE CREATION INVOLVED THREE DISTINCT AGENTS.

From a scientific perspective, we know that creating time, space, and matter/energy involved multiple agents. String theory tells us that there are many dimensions to the creation process. Dark energy and quantum gravity make it clear that the creation is still being molded and shaped. Genesis 1:1 uses the plural Hebrew word *elohim*. Throughout the Bible, the term “godhead” refers to the Father, Son,

and Holy Spirit. John 1:3 and Colossians 1:16 tell us that Christ was involved in the creation. The terms “Spirit” or “Holy Spirit” are always used with an action verb. In Genesis 1:2, we read that the Spirit of God was active over the waters, and scientific evidence shows that life began and was catalyzed in a marine environment. The action of Christ in the creation produced color and beauty, which we see throughout the Earth.

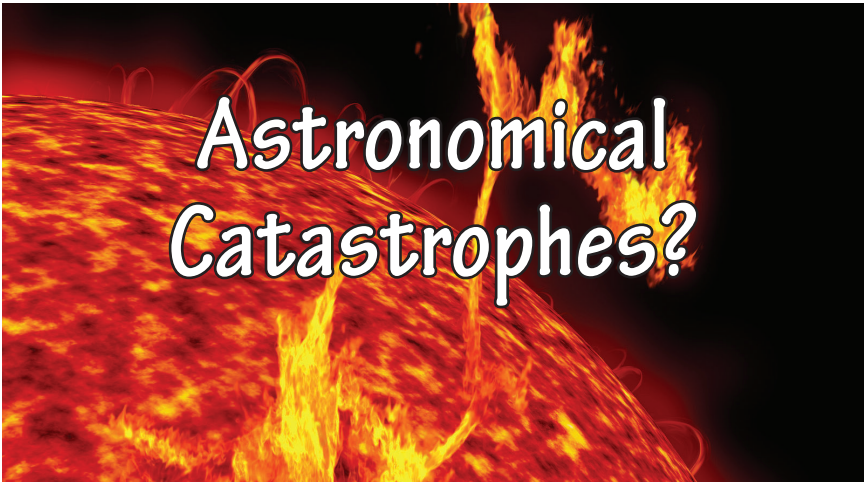
Professor Henry F. (Fritz) Schaefer, one of the most distinguished physical scientists in the world, made this observation about the creation: “When I make a new discovery or gain a new understanding of the creation, my response is always ‘so that is how God did it.’” Who has not marveled at the beauty under the ocean, in the Grand Canyon, or in a place like Yosemite?

Genesis 1 challenges us to look at the world around us. The more we scientifically understand the complexity of creation, the more we appreciate Romans 1:20, which tells us we can know there is a God through the things he has made. In Acts 17:15–28, Paul challenges the Greek intellectuals on the Areopagus. In his address to them, he describes the nature of God in a way that parallels Genesis 1. We find Genesis 1 laying the foundation for understanding the presence and purpose of humans in the creation. Because God created us in his image, we are uniquely able to understand the creation and serve God as we take care of it.

—John N. Clayton

Reference: Schaefer, III, Henry F. *Science and Christianity: Conflict or Coherence?* Watkinsville, Georgia: The Apollos Trust, © 2003.





Astronomical Catastrophes?

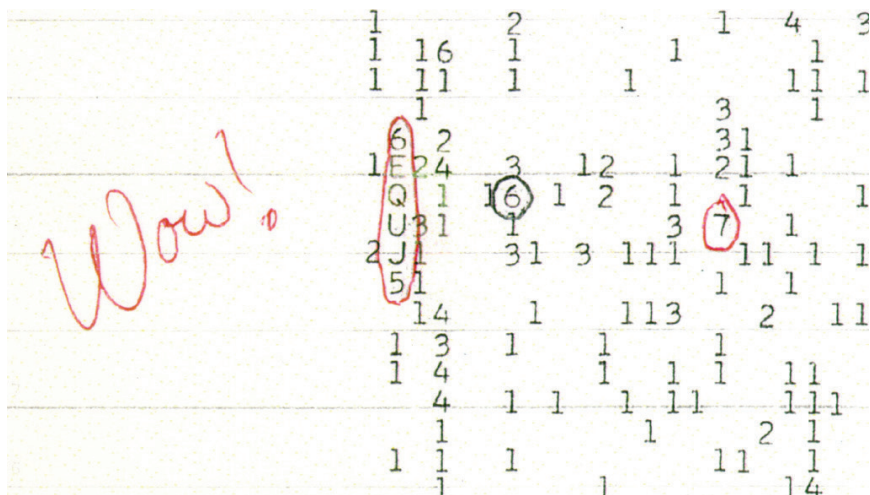
The media often fills a void in natural disasters on Earth with headlines about possible astronomical catastrophes. A recent example was a headline in *USA Today* stating that a “Rare but extreme solar event could disrupt life on Earth.”

The article tells us that a solar superflare would fry communication satellites and produce electric currents strong enough to paralyze the power grid. The article tells us that in 1859, a violent solar storm knocked out the telegraph network in large parts of northern Europe and North America. It said if a solar superflare happened today, it would knock out phone services, GPS, credit card authorization, and weather and climate monitoring. The *USA Today* report was based on the peer-reviewed journal *Science*, a publication of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

So, what is the danger of a solar superflare to you and me? The answer to that question is “virtually none.” The point is that solar superflares occur in stars like our Sun roughly once every 10,000 years. The flare in 1859 was not a solar superflare but merely a flare for which the nascent electric industry was unprepared. Today, such a flare would not significantly affect today’s telegraph or phone service.

The lack of possible astronomical catastrophes shows the intelligence and design built into our planet and solar system. A G-2-type star, like our Sun, has infrequent occurrences of solar superflare. Other spectral classes of stars can have solar superflares every 1000 years. That means the occurrence of life on a planet around another star is highly unlikely, if not impossible. In his 1956 CBS television program “Our Mister Sun,” the late Dr. Frank Baxter said, “The more we know of the creation, the closer we get to the Creator.” The lack of solar superflares is another example of the truth of his statement.

—JNC



Alien Civilizations in Space?

On August 15, 1977, astronomer Jerry Ehman looked at a printout of signals received by the “Big Ear” radio telescope at Ohio State University. He saw a signal that astronomers associated with Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence (SETI) had suggested would be a natural calling frequency for alien civilizations. Ehman circled the signal and used a red pen to write “Wow!” in the margin. The signal has never been seen again, and its origin remains unexplained.

Astrobiologist Abél Mendez at the University of Puerto Rico at Arecibo Observatory discovered a cosmic hydrogen cloud that can emit light like a laser. Scientists have built hydrogen masers and seen a few in space, but this was the first one at this frequency.

If Mendez’s discovery turns out to be correct, it can complicate things for the SETI researchers looking for alien civilizations in space. Those folks would like to find a source for some of the things attributed to God. By explaining away claims of action by God, they feel they can discredit the Bible and eliminate God from the picture.

We have pointed out that the Bible is silent on life elsewhere in the creation, but if there is, God created it. Rejecting God because they can find an explanation rooted in alien civilizations is a step of faith for these people. However, explaining life on Earth as seeded by alien life is not logical. It does not explain the origin of the alien life. Over and over, attempts to find signals from aliens have proven unsuccessful, and this is just one more.

—JNC

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Life on Mars in Fiction and Fact

Our fascination with Mars goes back to American sci-fi, with *War of the Worlds*, written by H. G. Wells and published in 1898. It was recreated as a radio drama by Orson Welles on Halloween 1938, causing panic in America. In 1950, Ray Bradbury released a novel called *The Martian Chronicles*, which ended with the Earth destroyed by nuclear war. In 2005, Steven Spielberg directed a movie based on the Wells novel starring Tom Cruise. In 2015, *The Martian* was a science fiction movie starring Matt Damon. We have now scientifically investigated the red planet, resolving the question of life on Mars.

NASA's Curiosity Rover measurements from four Gale crater sites show that there is no life on Mars and that there has never been life on Mars' surface. The ratios of carbon and oxygen isotopes indicate that no biosphere existed on the planet. Rock samples show extreme

rates of evaporation and carbon flowing into the atmosphere like bubbles from a pressurized soda can.

Scientists previously made measurements on Mars in ice that forms and melts there with some



degree of regularity. For the first time, science has isotopic readings from rock samples. One can argue that there has been life on Mars in the distant past preserved many feet below ground, but there is no evidence to back up that theory.

The more we learn from scientific data gathered in space, the more we realize how extraordinary life is on Earth. Mars is NOT our twin planet, nor is any planet in our solar system. Travel to an-



other star and another solar system would not be within human capacity at any time during the lives of those living today. Humans may destroy Earth by nuclear war, but Bradbury's story of *The Martian Chronicles* does not accurately predict how that might happen.

The Bible says God created time, space, matter-energy, and life. It does not tell us when or how many steps were involved in making the planet on which we live. The Bible does tell us how to live and avoid the things that can destroy this planet. Albert Einstein purportedly said that if World War III used nuclear war, World War IV

would be fought with sticks and stones. Moving to Mars is not an option. We can avoid wars by following the words of Jesus Christ in Matthew 5–7.

—JNC



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THE RELIGION OF SCIENTISM

We get a lot of mail from skeptics and atheists who state that “religion is the opiate of the masses” and that they have no religion. Karl Marx made this statement, but it is not accurate. *Britannica* defines religion as “a human being’s relation to that which they regard as holy, sacred, absolute, spiritual, divine, or worthy of special reverence.” That applies to the religion of scientism, which says that science is the only source of knowledge.

Many people hold to a human system of belief. Scientist Stephen Hawking made science fit the definition of scientism. Hawking wrote that “scientists have become the bearers of the torch of discovery.” As a science teacher and a person trained in the physical sciences, I understand that science has taught us many wonderful things, but it does not have all the answers.

You can learn many things outside of what science can measure or discover. Why did the universe come into being? What is the meaning of human existence? What happens after we die? What is the basis for morality? Why is there something instead of nothing? How did gravity come into existence? These are all questions science cannot answer. John C. Lennox, in his book, *God and Stephen Hawking*, points out that what is going on in our academic world today is not science versus religion but rather theism versus atheism. Many have adopted the religion of scientism.

The dictionary defines science as knowledge. Wikipedia defines scientism as “the belief that science and the scientific method are the best or only way to render truth about the world and reality.” We may be amazed by what science can do, but science cannot answer many essential questions.

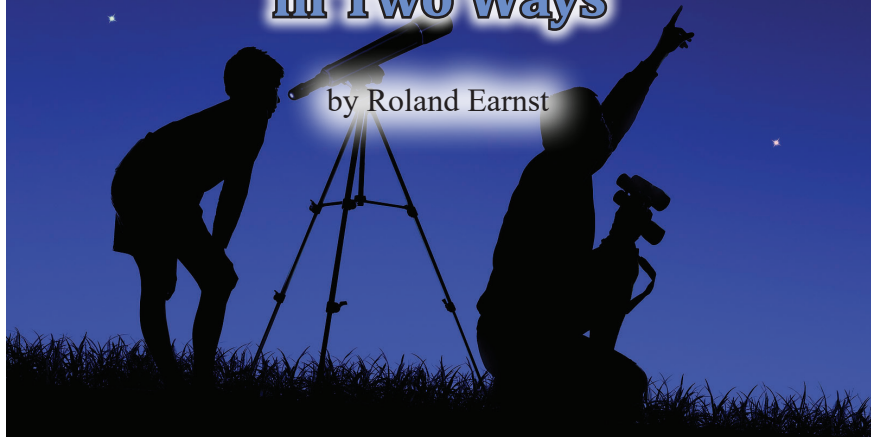
Science has given us many ways to kill one another. War has affected us all, and science offers no answer for how to stop it. In contrast, the teachings of Jesus Christ tell us how to stop war. Read Matthew 5–7 and ask yourself what the world would be like if everyone accepted and applied those teachings. Now, consider what the world will be like if we continue to allow greed, selfishness, and political ambition to control all of humanity.

Those who reject God and Christ’s teachings will embrace some other human belief system. Will we allow atheism and the religion of scientism to govern our future, or will we accept the message of Jesus Christ?

—JNC

God Reveals Himself in Two Ways

by Roland Earnst



“The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork” (Psalm 19:1 KJV). That is how the psalm begins with a Hebrew parallelism, repeating the same thought in slightly different words. The word translated “firmament” is sometimes translated as “sky.” The Hebrew word means “expanse.” As we look up at night, we see beyond what we usually call the “sky” and observe the “expanse.” We see God’s glory and handiwork in the things he has made (See Romans 1:20). But an essential truth in Psalm 19 is easily overlooked. It tells us that God reveals Himself in two ways.

In that first verse, David uses the Hebrew word *El* for God. The ancient Middle Eastern people used that word to refer to a generic “god.” The Jews used it to refer to the Creator. Read the first six verses of that psalm, and you will see the psalmist says that twenty-

four hours a day, visible physical creation reveals knowledge of God and speaks of him without using words. He says that this natural revelation of the Creator is always available to everyone worldwide.

Something changes in verse 7 when David



begins to speak of God's law—his divine revelation. In that verse, the word for God becomes *Yahweh*. The psalmist no longer uses the generic term but the personal name revealed to Moses (See Genesis 3:14). In the following verses, David speaks of how God's law revives the soul, imparts wisdom, brings enlightenment, and is greatly to be desired. God reveals himself in two ways.

The point is that God is clearly revealed in his creation, but only in his written word can we fully know his will and plan for us. The cosmos, physics, chemistry, biology, and life all point us to *El*, an intelligent Creator. However, to fully know *Yahweh* the "I Am," we turn to the written word. Some people refuse to accept the evidence of God in creation and call themselves atheists or, at best, agnostics.

Others recognize that the creation indicates a Creator and adopt a theistic view but go no further.

The point is that we need to recognize that God reveals himself in two ways. Go beyond the generic and lame concept of "the old man in the sky." Recognize that God has revealed himself in the Bible and most clearly in

Jesus Christ. The Creator loves us, and he conquered death by dying for us (see John 1:1 – 14 and the rest of the gospels). Our lives can only be complete when we accept God's natural and written revelations.



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Fine Tuning the Universe

by Roland Earnst

I recently attempted to bake some pumpkin bread. It was a disaster because I failed to use the proper proportion of one ingredient. When baking any pastry, having all the right ingredients in the right proportions is essential. Equally important is having the correct oven temperature for the right amount of time. Every factor must be just right. This is a simple illustration of fine-tuning the recipe. Far more complicated than baking any pastry is fine-tuning the universe.

Scientists have realized that the universe requires fine-tuning to make the existence of complex life possible. The number of factors that require fine-tuning is vast, but five significant ones are these:

GRAVITATIONAL FORCE CONSTANT —pulls us toward Earth. More than that, it holds the planet together and makes it round. It also keeps the Moon in orbit around the Earth and the planets in orbit around the Sun. It holds together the Milky Way and all other galaxies. This force has to be strong enough to form stars and planets, but if it were too strong, stars would quickly burn up, and no planets would form.

ELECTROMAGNETIC FORCE CONSTANT —holds atoms together. It must be just right for chemical bonds to form, creating the molecules that makeup everything, including our bodies.

STRONG NUCLEAR FORCE CONSTANT —holds together the protons and neutrons in the nuclei of atoms. It must be just right to form stable atoms.

WEAK NUCLEAR FORCE CONSTANT —regulates radioactive decay and must be precisely correct to form stars like our Sun.

COSMOLOGICAL CONSTANT —controls the universe's expansion speed, balancing the attractive force of gravity with the repulsive force causing space to expand. It must be extremely precise to prevent the universe from flying apart or collapsing on itself.

A properly “baked” universe requires all these constants and many more parameters to be just right. The chance of all of them coming together by accident is beyond impossible. Fine-tuning the universe requires intelligent planning far beyond that of any human baker, and it could not have happened by accident. It is evidence of an intelligent creator God.



Nature's Repose

by Don Betts

It seems to be our Creator's way
To bring about each close of day
One more painting of the western sky.
His imagination, unlimited by time or space
Is one more example of His amazing grace.
His brush-strokes imply, good night, not goodbye



Dawn in the east, announced with golden light
Removes the gloom of ebon clouds at night,
And brings into focus another day made new
The gift of the Sun's golden rays at noon.
The tides rise and fall, teased by the Moon.
The heavens enshrined in a star-filled view.



The result of spring rain, and winter's snow
Refreshes hill 'n plain, and causes idle streams to flow.
A rainbow's arc, 'crossed a dark cloud's face
The flash of bright lightning, followed by thundering.
Nature's artwork, to remove doubt and wondering
Again, perfect pictures of God's ever-present grace.



Look to the ant, Scripture urges with good reason
Doing good in all you do, and in its proper season.
Use a' wise, your gift, in any and all weather.
Take notice of nature, on Earth and in the skies
To receive God's promise, His grandest prize
A home with Him in glory, forever and forever.





Romans 1:20 tells us that we can know God exists by the evidence we see in the things he has made. That includes the universe and all it contains, most of which we will never see. The evidence most visible to us consists of the plants and animals we encounter daily. But even in that area, our experience is limited. Those who study living things say that science has identified only ten percent of species.

Evidence that science has much to learn is that researchers discovered hundreds of new species in 2024. Scientists connected to the California Academy of Sciences described 138 new species, including fish. Those working with the Natural History Museum of London cataloged 190 new species last year. Other scientists working with the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, UK, described 149 new species of plants and 23 species of fungi, including a toadstool with teeth.

The creatures discovered and described in 2024 include a vegetarian piranha in Brazil and a moth species in Madagascar that gets nourished by drinking the tears of sleeping birds. Four new snake

species and four previously unknown rat species became known last year. Botanists working in Indonesia identified five new species of orchids.

How many more animal, plant, and fungus species will scientists identify this year? We do not know, but since science has identified only ten percent of species, the job is far from complete. Knowing that we have seen only a tiny portion of God's creation in space and even on Earth, the evidence for God in the things he has made is massive.



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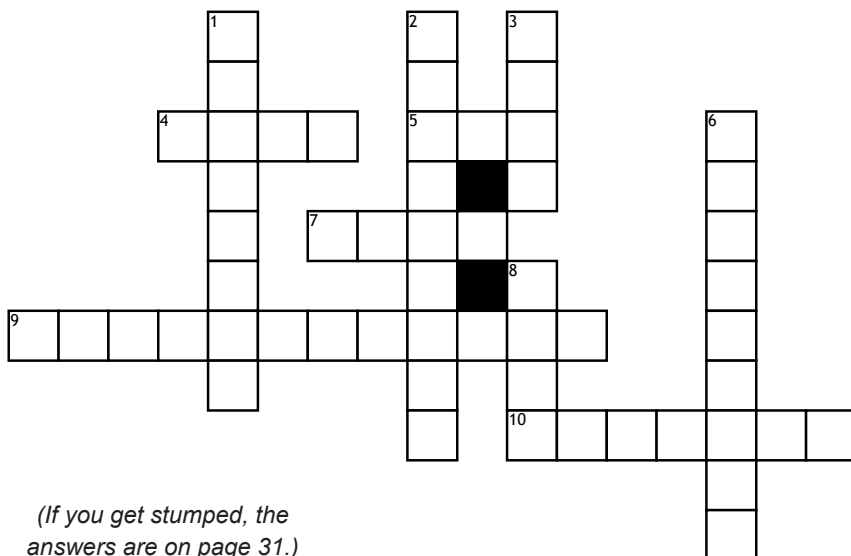
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please give us both your old and new addresses
with both zip codes at least six to eight weeks
before the move, if at all possible. Thanks!



Does God Exist?

1st Quarter 2025 Crossword

Solve this puzzle based on the articles on pages 3–17



(If you get stumped, the answers are on page 31.)

Across

- [4] In Genesis 1:37 , God said the creation was _____ good.
- [5] If there is alien life in space, _____ made it.
- [7] The universe is _____ tuned.
- [9] The _____ constant controls the universe's expansion rate.
- [10] Science has identified only 10 percent of _____.

Down

- [1] God reveals himself in scripture and _____.
- [2] Genesis 1:1 says there was a _____.
- [3] We know there is a God by the things he has _____.
- [6] _____ says that science is the only source of knowledge.
- [8] There is no evidence of life on _____.

**Visit the Clayton Museum
of Ancient History at
York University, York, Neb.**



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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.

Arno Allan Penzias
(1933 – 2024)

American physicist and radio astronomer.

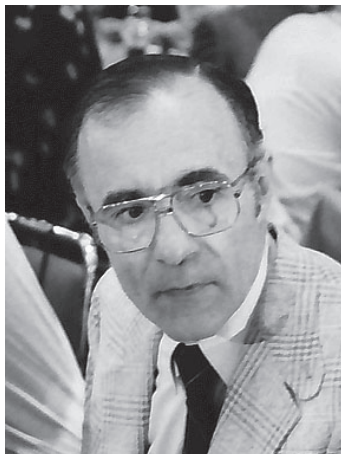
Along with Robert Woodrow Wilson,
he discovered the cosmic microwave back-
ground radiation, for which he shared the
Nobel Prize in Physics in 1978.

His PhD in physics was from Columbia.

His work led to the acceptance of the
“Big Bang” theory of cosmology.

Penzias wrote in Malcolm W. Brown's article in *The New York Times* for March 12, 1978 and is quoted in John C. Lennox's book *God and Stephen Hawking*, page 97, the following:

“The best data we have
(concerning the Big Bang)
are exactly what I would have
predicted, had I nothing to go
on but the five books of Moses,
the Psalms and the Bible as a
whole.”



Visit the Clayton Museum
of Ancient History at
York University, York, Neb.



Cynthia's Corner

What We Learn from Genesis 1



As a woman reading Genesis 1, I am intrigued by the implications of verses 27–28: “So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, ‘Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it.’” In Genesis 2:18, God said, “It is not good for man to be alone. I will make a helper [help meet] suitable for him.”

In reality, man could not do alone what God told them to do in Genesis 1. “Help meet” means to provide for what man, on his own, could not do. Galatians 3:28 tells us that as Christians, “there is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.” It took until the establishment of the church for people to come to an understanding of the equality of all humans, which was in God’s plan from the beginning.

I am thankful to be living in a time when society is seeing the error of treating women in a different way than God intended. Genesis 1 has taught us of the plan of God. The evils of polygamy, prostitution, ownership/enslavement, and the suppression of women and their rights have become apparent to everyone. Those religions or politics that treat women as possessions or enslaved people and take away their rights are failing as women express the equality and abilities that God blessed them with from the beginning. Men and women are equal in God’s sight.

—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.

Millennium Madness

by Timothy Gordon

Intermountain Institute for Religion, Science, and Culture, © 2024

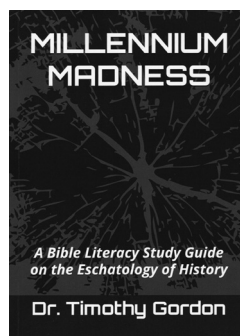
\$14.99 (paperback), 241 pages, ISBN-13: 9798335766531

Dr. Tim Gordon holds a doctorate in Christian apologetics and Christian education and is the Academic Director for the Biblical Studies Center in Boise, Idaho. This book deals with eschatology — an area of theology concerned with death, judgment, and the soul's final destiny. There has been a terrible lack of teaching on eschatology in the church today. Meanwhile, a denominational error by many churches has led to political involvement and misdirected use of finances for theme parks and alliances with modern Israel, wasting money and contradicting the teachings of Jesus Christ.

This 15-lesson book is designed for self-study or Bible class teaching on eschatology. Each lesson deals with a different topic: millennialism, dispensational premillennialism, historic millennialism, postmillennialism, amillennialism, eschatology, prophecy, apocalyptic terms and issues, Christian Zionism, the rapture and Antichrist, the great tribulation and battle of Armageddon, the kingdom of God and reign of Christ, Revelation 20:1–3, the binding of Satan, and Revelation 20:4–6.

As you read this list, you may recognize some terminology denominational teachers use. Gordon's method of dealing with this subject is to give critical scriptures on each one, list the points we need to consider, and then have 10 questions for discussion that leave a space for the student to write notes on that question. Each subject has a crossword puzzle and a word search puzzle.

This is a study that every Bible student should be involved in and that congregations of New Testament Christians need to include in their teaching programs. We highly recommend this study book.



Why Aren't Christians More Like Jesus?

by Michael J. Clemens

Keledei Publications, © 2024,

\$15.00 (paperback), 203 pages, ISBN-13: 978-1958139493

Someone asked a prominent agnostic of the 20th century what he thought about Christianity, and his response was, "I don't know. I've never seen it tried." Much of the material written by atheists, agnostics, and skeptics attacks the fact many who claim to be Christians have embraced human activity and called it "Christianity." Michael J. Clemens has written an excellent book that tackles this issue.

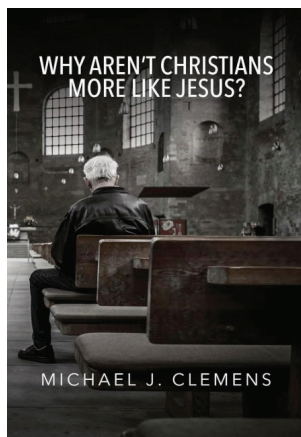
The big question is whether believers are "churchgoers" or "authentic Christ-followers." Clemens begins by showing that while churches may emphasize "orthodoxy," which is correct beliefs, they are not emphasizing "orthopraxy," which is the right practice. He takes the term "Churchianity" and shows that many of us think that going to worship once a week and putting a few dollars in the collection plate gives us a ticket to heaven. He points out that Jesus repeatedly used the phrase "follow me" and condemned those in his day who gave a legalized set of rules to follow as the requirement for salvation.

Clemens points out something we have all seen. A new convert is on fire for the Lord, but after a time, the enthusiasm fades, and they become part of the Sunday morning-only group. He asks whether your congregation is helping its members become more Christlike. He says churchgoing is not enough. Following Jesus is what matters.

Clemens points out what has gotten us to where we are and how to get out of it. He makes specific suggestions for church leaders and suggests how we church members can work on our love for God, our prayer life, and our thinking differently (repentance).

In our ministry, which shows that science is a friend of faith, we have received copious amounts of mail from young people who have left the church because they saw no difference between the lives of churchgoers and non-church people. When asked about their religion, 40% of young Americans say "none" because they see no value in Christianity, which they see as just going to church on Sunday morning.

Why Aren't Christians More Like Jesus is an excellent apologetic book, and we highly recommend it. We pray this is the beginning of a change in America's religious fabric.



DANDY DESIGNS

Blind Cavefish Find Food



How is bat guano controlled in caves, and how do blind cavefish (cave fish) find food? Like all natural balances, there is a relationship between these two questions.

With vast numbers of bats in caves, their droppings could fill the caves over many years if there were no natural ways to reduce the volume. Dr. Josh Gross at the University of Cincinnati has discovered that blind cavefish actually eat bat guano. It provides food for the fish, which would otherwise have nothing to eat.

What the fish get from the guano depends on what kind of bats live in the cave. Fruit bats will have some sugar in their guano, and bats that eat insects will have some protein in theirs. The next question is, how do the fish find the guano to nourish them? The answer is that the fish have taste buds under their chin and on top of their heads.

The fish avoid destructive bacteria in the guano because some of the taste buds can detect lactones in the bacteria that would taste bitter. These taste buds are called tuft cells, and in addition to harmful bacteria, they can detect dust mites and mold.

Everywhere we look in the natural world, even in the darkest caves, we see God's design and handiwork, even in how blind cavefish find food. Romans 1:20, "We can know there is a God through the things he has made," has special meaning when we see examples like this.

Eagle Eye Design



Eagles are some of the most amazing creatures in today's world and they have similar designs. Eagle eyes are incredible examples of design that are not easily explained by any chance hypothesis.

The human eye has two kinds of receptors in the retina—rods and cones. Rods are more sensitive and give vision in dim light. Cones provide us with color vision. We do not see color in dim light because only the rods are sensitive enough to function. Cones are concentrated in the center of our retina in an area called the macula to help us see fine details.

A typical section of the human eye has roughly 200,000 cones, while eagle eyes have over 400,000. That means an eagle can see fine details that humans cannot. The reason for this design is obvious—eagles are carnivores. They must have incredibly sensitive vision to see their prey while in flight. Experiments with pet eagles have shown they can see a rabbit in a field while flying 1,000 feet above the ground.

The problem with this sensitivity is how to keep direct sunlight from damaging the cones. To solve this problem, eagle eyes have an eyebrow ridge that shades the cones. All eagles have this feature and use it in hunting their prey.

Eagles are designed to be apex predators. They are the perfect carnivores with talons to grasp prey, wing feathers that allow fantastic flight abilities, and powerful wings to lift heavy prey. Eagles keep a balance in nature and are essential in the stability of life forms worldwide.

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).

THE ACCENTS OF THEIR MOTHERS: According to an article in *American Scientist* magazine, newborns cry in the accents of their mothers. They differ in their cries when they are first born, and this translates into speech later on. Doctors have told me babies react emotionally to sounds they have heard before birth. If a woman has been abused by her husband during pregnancy, the child will scream and move away from the husband after birth. A mother singing to the baby in her womb will find that those same songs will calm the child after birth.



Many years ago, as a graduate student at Indiana University, I attended a concert by the violinist Isaac Stern. During a break in his music, he introduced a tune he called a mystery melody. Stern was playing a piece while his mother was listening, and she asked him where he got that tune. He said he did not know. His mother told him, “I wrote it when I was carrying you and played it repeatedly, but I didn’t save it, and it was never published.” Stern played it to honor his mother.

Stories like this remind us that unborn babies are aware and react to what is happening in the outside world. Late-term babies will fight the intrusive medical hardware being used to do an abortion. Now, we know that newborns cry in the accents of their mothers.



ADDICTIONS ARE LINKED TO TRAUMA: Addiction treatments are often not successful because they fail to address the root causes. It is becoming more evident that various addictions are linked to trauma. More than 40% of people with opioid addiction report some type of childhood abuse or neglect. Other studies have shown that at least 85% of all people with an addiction have had at least one adverse childhood experience, and the risk increases with each additional experience. A substance abuse addiction shows up in 58% of people living with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

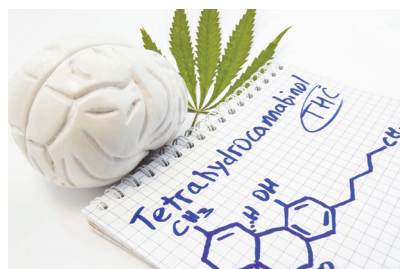
All of the drug therapies and socialization efforts cannot undo the past. Addictions are linked to trauma, and this is where authentic Christianity can make a difference. The biblical design of the nuclear family is the best tool for most of addiction's challenges. Ephesians 5:21–6:4 speaks of submitting to one another in the fear of God. Husbands should love their wives as Christ loved the church and love them as they love their own bodies. Wives are told to respect their husbands. Fathers are to bring up children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Colossians 3:21 warns fathers not to provoke their children to anger.

As people base their conduct on skepticism, atheism, and naturalism, we can expect addictions to increase.



EFFECTS OF THC ON THE HUMAN BRAIN: Studies have examined the effects of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) on the human brain. THC is the primary psychoactive chemical in marijuana (cannabis) plants. One study of teen health in Australia and New Zealand dealt with the effects of THC on depression and suicide. It showed that adolescents using cannabis were 2.5 times as likely to have depression and three times as likely to have suicidal ideas than those who did not use it.

A study of adult daily cannabis users showed they have five times the risk of psychosis compared to non-users. Canadian research has shown that emergency department visits for cannabis syndrome increased by a factor of 13 between 2014 and 2021. Science does not fully understand the effects of THC on the human brain, so users have become test subjects.



Marijuana growers have used selective methods to increase the THC content. In 1995, the total THC by weight of marijuana was around 4%. Today it is 20% or more. Concentrated cannabis products can have THC content as high as 95%. Teen exposure to THC can lead



to long-lasting problems with memory and learning, and teens are more likely to become addicted than adults. Very little research is available on the long-term effects of cannabis and THC.

ALCOHOL DAMAGES THE HUMAN BODY: Dr. Douglas Zipes is an internationally acclaimed cardiologist, professor, author, inventor, and authority on pacing and electrophysiology (heart rhythms). He pointed out the similarities between the medical data for alcohol and cigarettes. He wrote that no amount of alcohol is beneficial, and any amount of alcohol is harmful to your heart and other organs.

Alcohol (ethanol) as a drug is very destructive to humans. We all experience enormous pressure to drink at parties and celebrations. Drunkenness is often a joke in movies and television shows, and it is the punch line in many songs.

My personal experience has been that alcohol is a family destroyer. My younger brother drank until it killed him. I got in trouble as a chemistry teacher when I pointed out to my students that “intoxicated” refers to the toxic nature of alcohol.

Comparisons between today’s alcoholic beverages and the wine of Christ’s day show a sharp contrast. Distillation was not available in Jesus’ day, so the alcohol content was much lower, and alcohol served to make the water potable. Today, the higher alcohol concentrations lead to the destruction of families. Christians must take the lead in the long battle to at least moderate the consumption of alcohol and even eliminate it.



E-CIGARETTES AND TEEN VAPING: As America moves away from God, young people are desperately searching for a substitute for the peace that faith brings. Since they came on the market in 2007, e-cigarettes have created a teen vaping problem. When a person inhales vapor laced with nicotine, the drug is quickly absorbed through the blood vessels and can reach the brain in as little as 10 seconds. This rapid absorption means that addiction comes very quickly.

Roughly 2.8 million young people use tobacco products, according to The Food and Drug Administration and the Centers for Disease Control. One in four of those using e-cigarettes say they use them every day. Young people



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assume that vaping is safer than cigarettes, but frequently, the vapors contain other toxic chemicals.

The 2023 Verkada Teen Vaping Survey of 2,650 Americans found that 61% of teenagers who vape consider themselves addicted. More than half (54%) of the teens expressed a desire to quit vaping. The Verkada survey also found that 9 out of 10 teachers reported vaping to be disruptive to learning environments. When users who vape do not have access to nicotine, they become agitated and sometimes belligerent, leading to school attendance problems and conflicts with parents. It is also an issue for the church as many teens who vape find it hard to participate in teen classes or activities.

In the New Testament, we find warnings about the dangers of the world, and vaping joins the list of world agents that bring addiction, heartbreak, conflict, and death.



THE CURSE OF INCARCERATION: The **Does God Exist?** ministry recently mailed out our 6,000th apologetics course to a person in prison. Over the years, we have presented our programs in prisons throughout the United States. I recently had a conversation with an inmate who said he was glad to be in jail, where he was learning things from other prisoners to help him not get caught when he gets out and resumes his life of crime. This shows that incarceration is not working.

The cost is massive to keep a person in jail for many years or even life. In Texas, a program called Christians Against Substance Abuse (CASA) has changed the lives of literally thousands of incarcerated men and women through education and counseling. Several chaplains in Texas prisons use the “New Life Behavior” curriculum.



Recently, two factors have made getting our life lesson materials to prisoners more challenging. The mail service is more expensive, and prisons have extreme requirements for delivery because many prisoners have received mail with hidden drugs.

Christians believe that every human being is created in the image of God and should be shown the “agape” kind of love that Jesus taught (see Matthew 5:43–44). Prisons should be places where people are rehabilitated, not tortured. Educating and rehabilitating humans would be far less expensive than our present system, where most prisoners are simply learning how to be smarter criminals to commit more crimes when released.



THE VALUE OF A DINOSAUR FOSSIL: In 2024, the record price for a fossilized dinosaur skeleton was \$44,600,000 paid for a *Stegosaurus* fossil nicknamed Apex. The buyer is loaning it to the American Museum of Natural History in Manhattan, which expects millions of visitors to come and see it. The previous record for a dinosaur fossil was \$31,800,000 paid in 2020 for a *Tyrannosaurus rex*



fossil named Stan, which is going to be displayed in Abu Dhabi. A *T-rex* fossil named Sue, on display in the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago, sold in 1997 for a mere \$8.3 million.

What is the value of a dinosaur fossil that can command such enormous prices? The buyer of Apex says it “offers a unique window into our planet’s distant past.” Are there religious or biblical connections to finding a dinosaur fossil? For some religious denominations, the answer may be negative. It is not easy to imagine how humans could exist with an animal of this size. As people look at this colossal dinosaur fossil they may be unable to accept the idea that humans and dinosaurs were contemporaries, and they would be right.

The Genesis account contains no Hebrew word that could be translated as “dinosaur” or *Stegosaurus*. Some people refer to “behemoth” in Job 40:15. The word *behemoth* is used 51 times in the Bible, including Genesis 1:24–25 and refers to cattle. *Stegosaurus* was not a cow! The term “leviathan” (Job 41:1 and Psalm 104:26) refers to a great water creature, but *Stegosaurus* was not a water creature. The “creation week” in Genesis clearly refers to animals that the people of Moses’ time were familiar with, and that would not have included dinosaurs.

Dinosaurs were creatures God used to prepare the Earth for humans. Imagine the volume of plant material a *Stegosaurus* would have eaten every day. Dinosaurs were instrumental in pruning the plants and spreading their seeds to provide the coal and mineral deposits humans would need. Like everything God does, the scale of what he did after Genesis 1:2 and before the creation week was massive. So, what is the value of a dinosaur fossil? We can join in the awe of seeing God’s plan as we look at dinosaur fossils like Apex, Stan, and Sue without feeling any doubt about the message of Genesis.



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IS PRAYER A WASTE OF TIME? We recently received an e-mail from a man saying, “I have quit praying. It is a waste of time. Nothing I ask for ever happens or comes.” Is prayer a waste of time?

As a Christian, I know the Bible says I should pray (John 16:24; Mark 11:24; Matthew 5:44; James 5:16). While studying this question, I gradually realized that prayer was never about physical needs. Jesus warned that problems would come (Matthew 24:4–13). Prayer



did not remove issues for Jesus or Paul. Jesus was still crucified, and Paul still had an affliction (2 Corinthians 12:7–9).

The Bible teaches that prayer is primarily about spiritual issues, not physical ones. That does not mean we should not talk with God about physical problems,

but the promises of what prayer will do are spiritual. James 1:5 tells Christians to pray for wisdom, not intelligence. James 5:13–14 says, “Is any among you afflicted? Let him pray” (KJV). The Greek word “afflicted” is *kakopatheo*, meaning to suffer evil. This is not about physical affliction but letting evil take over your life. The use of oil mentioned in the passage was not about medicinal value but a symbol of gladness or spiritual nourishment (see Deuteronomy 33:24; Psalm 23:5; and Job 29:6).

Colossians 3:2 tells Christians to “Set your mind on things above, not on things on this Earth.” Philippians 4:6–7 tells Christians that prayer will guard our hearts and minds, not skin and joints. Is prayer a waste of time? I have had atheist friends tell me they do not understand how I keep going with all the things that have happened in my life. They do not realize that prayer brings what this passage calls “the peace of God.” Peace does not come from things of this world. Realizing that you have a purpose for existence is a beautiful reward of being a Christian. My prayer for you is that you will find that peace.



ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD PUZZLE ON PAGE 18

ACROSS: 4-very; 5-God; 7-fine; 9-cosmological;
10-species

DOWN: 1-creation; 2-beginning; 3-made;
4-scientism; 8-Mars

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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