

DOES GOD EXIST?

March/April 2008

Volume 35 • Number 2

*Strange Does Not Equal
Supernatural or Atheism*

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

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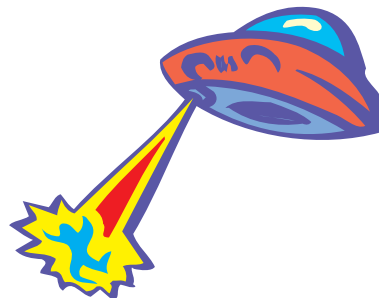
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Strange Does Not Equal Supernatural or Atheism

The picture on the cover of this issue of our bimonthly is a pretty amazing picture. For those who study weather and especially for those who study lightning, the picture would be of scientific interest. For those who have never seen an electrical storm from an aircraft at 39,000 feet, the picture may be almost mystical. There is an old argument against the existence of God that is called "The God of the Gaps Argument." The argument maintains that God is something people invented when they did not understand something they observed. The belief is that they explained what they did not understand by claiming it was a miracle of God. Some might believe that the picture has some kind of connection to a direct imprint of the hand of God, but everything you see is all natural weather phenomena.

To some extent the God of the gaps allegation is true. There have been many cases throughout the history of man when something was believed to be supernatural and later was found to have a fairly easy physical explanation. Well past the tenth century, comets were believed to be an omen of disaster sent by the gods. Volcanos have been explained in many cultures as acts of gods or goddesses. Throughout the ages people have attributed various events (lightning, dust devils, etc.) to gods or goddesses. There is an old adage that Truth is stranger than fiction, and while there is no limit to how many strange things we can observe in the world around us, the biblical view of God as the creator should not and cannot be compromised by either the strange things we see, or the attempts of mankind to explain them.

Alien Proposals. One of the applications of strange observations has been to propose that these things are evidences of extraterrestrial visitations to our planet. My experience has been that many people want to prove the existence of alien visitations because they view it as a way to find a better way of life. If some alien population can whisk us off to a new planet free of all of the problems we have on this planet, then we will have improved our existence without having to do anything or live in any



particular way. For many people, the hope of aliens is a hope that they can reach eternal life without having to obey God's commands and live in a responsible way.

The problem with this situation is that every time something unusual is found, an alien is claimed to be the cause of it. Crop circles, Stonehenge, medicine wheels, the Easter Island statues, and endless claims of strange apparitions in the sky have all been used as proofs that aliens are regularly and systematically controlling the destiny of mankind individually and collectively. The fact of the matter is that archeological studies of things like Stonehenge and medicine wheels have given us solid evidence that the native peoples living in these areas constructed these wonderful edifices with a purpose and with amazing technology for the time. In our "News and Notes" section in the September/October 2007 issue we had a report on new findings at Stonehenge which make it clear that local people had a logical purpose for this great monument, and that it is not necessary to postulate aliens to set the huge stones in place at just the right position.

Homeopathic Cures. Webster defines homeopathy as "the theory or system of curing diseases with very minute doses of medicine which in a healthy person and in large doses would produce a condition like that of the disease treated." (*Webster's New Universal Unabridged Dictionary, Second Edition*). Homeopathic practitioners use everything from electricity to fungus to bring cures to people, and in recent years the treatments have become more and more strange. I have a device I purchased at a yard sale many years ago called "Renulife" that was originally sold for \$25.00 in 1937. The booklet that comes with this device claims that since electric fields are found in nature, anything that ails you can be cured by getting the right electric field around the part of your body that is dysfunctional. The device has probes and claims it is designed for everything from hemorrhoids to baldness to cancer.



The device generates a very large voltage—in excess of 50,000 volts. The voltage is applied to a glass tube where a mysterious purple glow may be observed. The baldness probe, which is shaped like a rake, is supposed to be drawn across the scalp to stimulate hair growth, and as it does so a small spark dances across the scalp. There is no pain or danger because the current flow is very small. I have done this demonstration hundreds of times for my classes and alas, I still do not have any hair growth in the areas that have been treated. What does happen is that a phenomenon known as corona or St. Elmo's fire occurs. The air around the high voltage probe is ionized by the

50,000 volts, and the nitrogen in the air gives off an eerie purple glow. It is harmless, but also of no therapeutic value.

Other devices and chemicals produce equally bizarre effects, but they too offer no help or healing to those who use them. Just because there is something happening that is interesting, or that we do not understand does not mean it is good or offers any advantage. Magnets, life lights, touch therapy, and even prayer therapy do not produce miraculous cures to our ailments. They may offer other benefits, but being strange or unusual does not make them a help in our healing and may keep us from seeking help that would cure us of our diseases. We mentioned in "News and Notes," July/August 2007, that there was a lawsuit from a family whose loved one died. They were told that he had a miraculous cure from a faith healer and did not seek medical help for a cancer. This is a serious issue.



Quantum Mechanics. Webster defines quantum mechanics as "a mathematical theory in physics which starts with the assumption that energy is not infinitely divisible and deals with atomic structure and phenomena by the methods of quantum theory." Quantum theory is simply the explanation that energy is radiated in units or quanta, not in continuous waves. Quantum mechanics is simply the science of the very small—of electrons, protons, neutrons, neutrinos, quarks, mesons, etc.

Not all of the rules of classical physics can be applied to things inside the nucleus of an atom. Sometimes a mathematical theory can predict something that might be true in theory, but in reality never happens. Quantum mechanics does not apply to galaxies, stars, planets, cars, or human bodies directly. It is an interesting and useful tool at the microscopic level, but most of it is still in the embryonic stage. If something is predicted by the mathematics of quantum theory, it needs to be tested. If it cannot be tested in any way, then it is not science.

Is quantum mechanics strange? Certainly it is. Does it conflict with the Bible? Absolutely not! The Bible starts with the cosmos (heaved up things from the Hebrew word *shamayim*) and the earth (*erets* in Hebrew). Genesis 1:1 says there was a beginning to these two realms that man can understand. This statement is incontestable. Some theorists are attempting to understand how the process that produced the building blocks of the heaven and the earth came about and quantum mechanics may be helpful in some of that understanding. If someone gets some understanding of the process, it will be a wonderful accomplishment, but the complexity and the

incredibly intricate nature of the process will testify to the fact that a personal intelligence was involved in structuring space, time, and energy so that it could happen. Quantum mechanics and cosmology are not a threat to faith; they are simply ways of making our faith more informed and broader in its scope and application.

The Strangeness of the Human Brain. I can remember when the first reports of the effects of LSD and marijuana began to circulate among college students. I was a student at Indiana University during those years, and the stories were bizarre and strange indeed. I had a minor in psychology, and many classes were devoted to showing us how magnificent and strange the brain was. Over the years we have seen increasing attention to learning disorders, the effect of chemicals on the brain, clairvoyance, ESP, mind control, astral projection, and any number of other brain-related claims.

There is no question but that our brains are incredible devices. There is also no question but that we do not understand much about the brain even in spite of all the research that has been going on for the past 50 years. Because of the complexity of the brain, it is easy for tricks and frauds to be propagated on the general public. This can come from religious charlatans as well as from irreligious ones. The fact is that, as careful experiments are done on the human brain, it becomes increasingly obvious that the brain is a wonderful computer that can do an amazing number of things. We know that it can be affected by drugs from both outside the body and from within the body. Comparisons of chimp brains and human brains make it obvious that our brains and our genes are not what make us as humans unique. Just because a chimp's genome is 99.2 percent, the same as a human, does not mean that a chimp is 99.2 percent human. What is amazing researchers is how different we are from apes and all other life when our genome is not much different at all. That is a most strange situation.

The bottom line is that what really distinguishes man is not his brain or his body or anything that has to do with his physical makeup. What sets man apart from all other living things is our spiritual makeup. Our brain is wonderful and does many strange things, but our soul is more important and gives us our real identity. We are created in the image of God, and our soul is what really sets us apart as humans. Like all these other things, the wonder and beauty and design of the creation around us should motivate us to continue praising our God. We are “wonderfully and fearfully made” (Psalm 139:14) and that strangeness speaks eloquently of the wisdom, majesty, and power of God.

—John N. Clayton



Misunderstanding Radiation

One of the by-products of the evolution/creation controversy is that people on both sides of the debate come away with misconceptions about the science involved. When that happens questions relating to the integrity of the Bible are raised and belief in God as the creator is undermined. What we would like to do in this article is try to provide some understanding about what radiation does and what it does not do, and how it can be used and what limits it has.

Radiation Does Not Create Monsters

It may be *Spider-man*, *The Incredible Hulk*, or any number of monster movies that have given people the idea that radiation can turn a normal being into a monster, a being of super strength, or give an animal some new organ or function that no other living thing has. In recent months in discussions about the credibility of the biblical account, I have atheists contend that science has seen new organs develop in animals due to exposure to radiation in places like Chernobyl. The claim is that this explains major transitions in the evolutionary tree of life. This is an ignorant position and is not consistent with the effect that radiation has on living things.



When nuclear radiation strikes a living cell it ionizes material in the cell, meaning that it strips electrons from atoms within the cell. If the material that is ionized is in the DNA helix which controls the heredity of the cell, the baby produced from this DNA will have damage to whatever characteristic that section of the DNA controls. This is a destructive process, and nothing is added to the organism by such a change. If the characteristic that is affected is something undesirable and losing that characteristic would be helpful to the animal, the effect

might be beneficial but the process is still destructive. An example might be that an animal living in a snow covered environment might have radiation strike the DNA section that controls his hair color, knocking out the color and making the animal white. This might give the animal an advantage making it harder to see in the snow, but the process is still destructive.

Things like Spider-man and the Hulk are pure fantasy. Virtually all radiation-induced mutations are destructive to the organism. They are also irreversible, something which biologists call the Dollo's law. If you knock out a characteristic by radiation, then you cannot bring it back. This characteristic is what makes radiation useful in fighting cancer. If cancer cells are reproducing in an uncontrolled way, exposing them to radiation can damage the reproduction mechanisms of the cell, making the cancer stop. The problem is that healthy cells are also affected, so negative side effects result from the radiation treatment.

Animals cannot add organs or useful processes due to exposure to radiation. Evolutionary theories involve cells recombining characteristics and a variety of cellular processes. You cannot zap an animal into a radically different animal.

All Radiation Is Not The Same



The word radiation can include a wide range of particles and also includes some forms of light. Some materials give off an alpha particle, which consists of two protons and two neutrons. Some materials give off a beta particle, which is an electron. Some materials give off a very high energy form of light called a gamma ray. Even protons and neutrons can be radiation if they are emitted by a material to make it more stable. These different forms of radiation do not have the same capacity for destruction. An alpha particle can be stopped by a piece of cardboard.

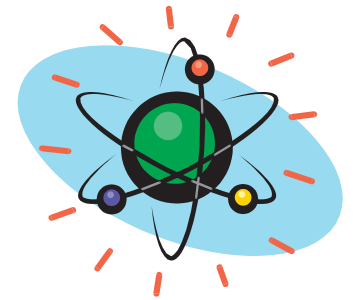
A brick will stop a beta particle, but it takes lead to stop a gamma ray. All of these radioactive particles can do damage to living tissue, and each one has certain uses to which they can be put which are dependent upon their properties.

Alpha particles are used in some smoke detectors. All kinds of radiation are used in industrial milling operations to control the thickness of materials as the milling operation takes place. In medicine these particles have different uses depending upon whether they are being used to treat a cancer, measure the function of an organ, or

trace the path of some vein or artery in the body. Some radiation like infrared keeps us warm. Some like radio waves are used for communication. Some like microwaves cook our food. The nature of radiation is such that it comes in many different forms and has many different uses.

Radiation is Not a Universal Fool Proof Dating Method

Many people do not understand that radiation dating is based on assumptions and is limited to certain time periods and materials. Virtually every element in the periodic chart has forms called isotopes that can give off radiation. We use some of these radioactive forms of materials for a variety of medical treatments and industrial uses. Radioactive iodine, for example, is used in measuring the activity of our thyroid. A material like this decays to an inert form in a relatively short period



of time. The time it takes for a radioactive material to shed half of its mass is called the half-life of the material. If you had 10 grams of radioactive (iodine-131) which has a half-life of 8 days, in 8 days only 5 grams would be left. In another 8 days 2.5 grams would be left. In 8 more days 1.25 grams would be left until eventually there would be so little left it could not be measured.

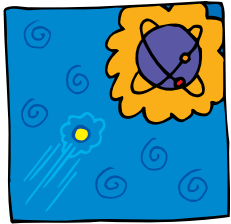
Carbon-14 has a half-life of roughly 5700 years. That means carbon-14 is only used for the dating of relatively young things—mostly things related to human habitation. When we measure the amount of carbon-14 in a dinosaur's bone, we find there is none there. The material is too old to have any carbon-14 left—and no one has ever dated a dinosaur using carbon-14.

Some radioactive materials like uranium decay very, very slowly. The radiation comes out so slowly it would take 4 billion years for half of the material to decay. There are some 600 different materials known to man that decay and produce radiation, and most of them decay very rapidly—in a matter of seconds or hours. Only a handful decay over long periods of time, and thus only a few can be used to date things of great antiquity. In some cases these things of great antiquity can be dated by some other method. Human documents may have a date written on them. Biological techniques like racemization which is based on the orientation of molecules in living tissue, and magnetic dating based on changes in the earth's magnetic field can be used to check the accuracy of radiation dating.

Can anything change the rate of decay of radioactive materials? High voltages have been shown to have an effect on some materials. It is more likely that errors can be introduced by contamination or leaching of the sample.

Radiation Does Not Record History

One of the errors made by people on all sides of the evolution/creation controversy is the belief that radiation can tell us the history of what has happened in the past and when it happened. Some evolutionists have attempted to estimate the evolutionary change in organisms on the basis that radiation would change the genetic material in these organisms at a constant rate. This assumes that the level of radiation has not changed, and that no process like recombination has modified the process of change. Molecular clocks based on radiation and its effects on the genetic material of organisms are notoriously in error because of the assumptions upon which they are based. Background radiation can vary widely depending upon solar activity, supernovas, changes in the earth's magnetic field, and local additions of isotopes from a wide range of sources.



Creationists have attempted to use polonium halos as a means of denying fundamental geologic understandings about how rocks on the earth have formed and what their history has been. Granite has small amounts of the element of polonium in it—about 100 micrograms per metric ton. This radioactive material is produced when bismuth is struck by a neutron given off by uranium that is in the granite. The polonium gives off an alpha particle, gamma rays, and a lot of heat as it decays into lead with a half-life of 138 days. All of this energy will produce a ring in the granite called a polonium halo. Most of us have heard about the Russian spy Alexander Litvinenko who was poisoned by polonium in 2006. Litvinenko was killed by the alpha particles and the incident has little relationship to the halos except the cause is the same. Alpha particles are regular emission products in granite that has uranium in it.

The claim has been made by some creationists that this proves that the granite must have been produced quickly, not over a long period as geologists believe. The comparison is made that if water is frozen with an Alka-Seltzer bubble in it, it would have to be frozen quickly. That comparison is very poor, because the halo is not frozen into the rock. The halo is produced when the polonium decays. The polonium is produced when a neutron from uranium in the granite

strikes a bismuth atom producing the polonium. This could happen any time after the material was formed—even when it was a liquid. On top of this, there is a mountain of evidence that granite was formed very slowly. When a rock cools quickly like in the cooling of a lava, there are no visible large crystals, because the rock cooled too quickly for the crystals to form. In the laboratory we can demonstrate this very easily. If we allow the material to cool slowly, then small crystals begin to form and they grow with time. Granite does not cool quickly, and attempts to use polonium halos to prove that they do are most unfortunate.

Radiation is a natural part of the physical world in which we live. It can be used for many good things and can pose risks for us. We need to understand it and use it properly, both in addressing the problems mankind faces in the natural world and in understanding the past. When we properly understand science and when we look at what the Bible says—not at what people say it says—we will find that every shred of evidence available supports the Bible as God's word. It is accurate in every detail and useful in every aspect of our being.

—JNC

2008 Canyonlands Seminar

For the last 40 years, we have conducted a week-long program in the summer to train others to do what we are doing in our ministry. This has frequently involved a trip in the Grand Canyon and surrounding areas. Many have requested a trip that is more challenging physically, more recreational, and less academic in nature. This summer we are planning such a trip, directed by Alan Doty and Mark Story. Alan is one of the most informed people in the world on the Grand Canyon, and Mark operates Queenslander Tours, a Christian tour company that we have worked with many times over the years. The trip will begin in Flagstaff Sunday evening, August 17, and will go through Friday, August 22. It will involve hiking in the Grand Canyon, Bryce Canyon, Zion National Park, Meteor Crater, and Petrified Forest. There will be visits to Lowell Observatory and many other interesting locations. The cost will be \$697/person for two in a room or \$437/person for four in a room. This includes bus costs, admissions, and breakfasts, but does not include transportation to/from Flagstaff. A deposit of \$250 a person is due to Queenslander Tours by May 15. This will be a wonderful, active trip with a Christian atmosphere and solid information. John Clayton will not be on the trip, but will assist Alan and Mark with materials. For more information, contact Queenslander and Mark Story at 877-865-6711 (toll free) or e-mail Mark at Mark@QLTours.com.

Atheists Accelerate Challenges to Faith

We have had numerous articles in this journal concerning the aggressive attacks on belief in God and specifically on Christianity. These attacks have centered around Richard Dawkins, Sam Harris, and other authors who have written books and who have academic credentials that have made them attractive to some in the academic community. This has happened in spite of their incredibly poor understanding of what God is and what Jesus taught. (See our book review of Alister McGrath's book *The Dawkins Delusion*, November/December 2007.)

While the books and rebuttals continue to be cranked out and distributed among the adult population, atheists have mounted an aggressive campaign directed at young people. The number of atheist Web sites that have been added to the Web in the past year is staggering. Most of these sites have consisted of materials being copied from some other atheist sites, but the increase in the number of sites with numerous sites being on local college and university locations means that even the most inaccurate and uninformed materials get widespread distribution.

The other activity that is appearing with increased frequency on the Web is the attempt to recruit and organize atheists. One of these is the Rational Response Squad, which urges their followers to take the "blasphemy challenge which involves making a public denial of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit." Their stated goal is "beyond just 'curing theism'"... but to bring about "the end of Christianity."

As is true of most extreme positions like this one, the Rationalist Response Squad has gotten a great deal of media response. They have been on *Nightline* and have a weekly Webcast. Because the material targets young people and little to no response is being made by believers, it is having a considerable amount of success. We are pleased that some of the young people who have seen this material are writing us, but there are many young people who assume that no one can make a response to these challenges. Saying "there is no God," for example, is an incredibly ignorant statement, but if no one is providing evidence it will be accepted by people who are ignorant of what is available.

We urge teachers of all kinds from Bible school to public school teachers to encourage young people to look at both sides and consider all the evidence. The free correspondence course on our Web site (doesgodexist.org) is a good place to start. Other Web sites associated with the **Does God Exist?** ministry include: dandydesigns.org, whypain.org, and doesgodexist.tv. —Source: An open letter from Hugh Ross, "Reasons to Believe," March 2007.

THE EARTH SPEAKS
by Stan Little
Pocahontas, AR

The earth has no vocal cords but it speaks none-the-less. It has no personality but with a powerful voice it offers a beautifully clear testimony. The earth presents an honest and accurate witness of what has happened since the beginning when God "created the heavens and the earth." In vividly descriptive terminology its rocks, valleys, mountains, and oceans; what is in them, under them, and above them in the heavens accurately reveal a record of events. It is not written in words or phrases but in the verifiable languages of geology, paleontology, and astronomy. The message contains no deception or misdirection but simply "is what it is" and can say no more or less than what it declares! Like any CD on which we might record data, the only message that can be retrieved from the earth, is what has been recorded in the evidence it retains. And the record button has been in the on position for over four billion years. Either the unique testimony of the earth is true or God has filled the heavens and the earth with deception. The Bible tells us that God does not deceive us in any way. Titus 1:2 says: "[God] does not lie." Hebrews 6:18 adds: "It is impossible for God to lie."

Christians must be careful not to interpret the Bible in such a way that it disagrees with the physical testimony of the world which the apostle Paul in the letter to the Romans calls one of God's greatest witnesses of reality. Some Christians balk at the concept that God took so long a time to prepare the earth for man but look closely at Romans 1:20 "For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—His *eternal* power and divine nature—have been *clearly seen, being understood from what has been made*, so that men are without excuse." What is there in nature that communicates the "eternal" attribute of God? I would offer that; He took over four billion years to prepare the earth for the arrival of humanity. No, not eternal; but God seems to say through the earth: "You should get the general idea!"

We sacrifice none of God's omnipotence to say that the earth is as ancient as its testimony indicates. If anything, we magnify God. It magnifies His power and authority to understand that He is so timeless, patient, and inexhaustibly imaginative in His creation. It should magnify our awe factor to understand the investment He has

made in the smallest details of creation; from the complex order of millions of molecules within a single strand of DNA to the way the earth's core produces a magnetic field that is calibrated in just the right way to protect all forms of life by deflecting the precise amount of solar radiation.

We have every reason to believe that, rather than merely offering a creative nod in our direction of the cosmos, every genus of every species was given the same creative physical investment that man received. The difference in humanity is not the physical but that we are made in the spiritual image of God. All the rest of creation was made before us and for us. The whole point of Genesis 1 as Moses records it is not about the creation of the earth or how long it took. The point is US! This planet, in fact, the entire universe was created as a habitat for us. It was designed to sustain us and even aesthetically to entertain us. This is the only real point of Genesis 1. However, the added witness of creation says: God took a long and careful time to prepare this habitat for man.

Some might be quick to brush aside or avoid this topic by expressing that it is not a salvation issue. While this is true in the direct sense, if left unanswered, the unnecessary dichotomy and unresolved questions in the hearts of unbelievers and even in the spirits of our own youth as they encounter these topics make it at the very least an indirect salvation issue as it can prevent and/or destroy faith.



Scientists and religious people may disagree but the Bible and science never disagree for God is the author of both. Let us be true to the Bible and accept the evidence the earth offers and find the obvious harmony that exists between them.

Mental Illness, The Church, and God

Rarely does a day go by when there is not some kind of a report of violence caused by an individual who is mentally ill. We have all witnessed the tragedy at Virginia Tech, and many of us have followed the trial of the wife of a Church of Christ minister who shot and killed her husband. Locally there are large numbers of similar situations that come about because someone was mentally ill. We also have seen people claim mental illness as a justification for an abusive act that damaged someone else.



Tim at age 20.
He is now 45 years old.

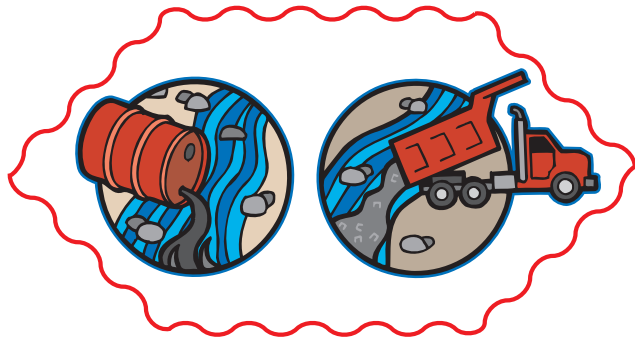
I do not write this article as one who has had no experience with genuine mental illness. Our son Timothy was born with a number of congenital problems—blindness, cerebral palsy, and a form of muscular dystrophy. When Tim became a teenager he became increasingly harder to manage and control, and ultimately ended up in a mental hospital run by the state. We were informed that he had schizophrenia and that his behavior was very much in accord with that mental illness. My only association with schizophrenia was what I had seen in movies where a schizophrenic was killing everyone in horrible ways. It did not seem possible that this is what was causing some of the bizarre behaviors that we were seeing in our son.

The reactions of Christians we knew to Tim's illness were very inconsistent. Many of them did not want to be around Tim, and in fact made it plain that they would rather he not come to social functions that we attended as a family. Even those who were close to us did not know how to take Tim. When he requested to be baptized and wanted to take a role in the Church there were serious concerns

expressed about whether these were things that ought to be done or not. Even in recent years the diagnosis of schizophrenia has been a problem for people in contact with Tim. In 2007 the people managing Tim's living arrangements wanted to move him to an apartment where his blindness could be managed better. The mother of one of the young men that Tim would be sharing the apartment with became very concerned when she learned that Tim had been diagnosed with schizophrenia. Even people who have handicapped children have a difficult time with the mental illness that might be present in someone else. What we would like to attempt in this article is to talk about this phenomenon and how Christians can respond to the challenges of mental illness.

Mental Illness Is Not Caused by God. There are many causes of mental illness. Our son Tim is an adopted child so we do not know all of the causes of his problems, but doctors believe it was probably measles in the birth mother early in the pregnancy. Experts on mental health tell us that illnesses like this usually cause some mental disturbances as well as the physical difficulties our son has. Brain tumors and brain injuries can also cause mental illness. It is a fact that various industrial wastes can cause mental illnesses. Lead can cause a variety of problems, mental illness being one of them. In recent years there have been strong suggestions that autism may be linked to industrial wastes. There is no question that this is a contributing factor.

Abuse can also be a cause of mental illness. Trauma is known to have caused mental illness in some patients. Chemical imbalances in the body caused by a variety of factors can be a cause of



mental illness. As you read through these suggestions, I would hope that you would realize that most of these things are caused by man and his injudicious acts both in terms of pollution and in the way people treat each other. Obviously there are many factors, but God is not the cause of these disturbances. In the biblical record there are cases like Job in which terrible problems come to a person because of the actions of Satan, but God is never the author of these problems. The Bible makes it clear that the nature of God makes it impossible for him to be the author of mental illness. James 1:13 says "Let no

man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God; for God cannot be tempted with evil, and He Himself tempteth no man."

When people say "I don't know why God did this to my loved one," they are making an error. God is not the source of any of the bad things that happen in our lives including mental illness.

Mental Illness Is Treatable. When Tim was diagnosed with schizophrenia, he was put on a drug called Mellaril to treat the disorder. It took some time for him to get adjusted to the drug, but he did so in a month or so and had no symptoms of schizophrenia for over 20 years. Eventually a doctor changed the medication and put Tim on a different drug. In a very short time some of Tim's schizophrenic symptoms returned and he ended up back in the mental hospital. This time it took about five days for a new drug regime to be established, and again the symptoms disappeared. When the symptoms returned they were mild and he was never a danger to anyone. He also knew what was happening, even though he is blind and retarded. He was hearing voices and knew this was not right. It took a while for his care givers to take him seriously, but eventually he was able to return to the schedule and environment he had been in before the drugs were changed.

People who are mentally ill and their families learn how the medications affect them and what they need to retain their normal role in life. The danger is when social pressure or ignorance causes someone to not take their medications and to be in denial of their illness. This is just like diabetes. My wife has been an insulin-dependent diabetic for over 60 years. She takes three shots a day and we are approaching our 50th wedding anniversary in which we will celebrate a very long and happy marriage. Both my wife and I know how to manage diabetes. If she decided to stop taking her regular insulin shots, she would get into trouble very quickly. Part of the management program is to understand what is needed and sticking to it in a very disciplined way. The same is true of mental illness as well.



Even in biblical times there were people who struggled with mental issues. Although they did not have the tools we have today to treat these disturbances, they used what they had and coped with the problem. Saul's mental problems with David's success was treated by the music that David brought to him. No one should feel there is something wrong or anti-biblical about getting medical help for mental problems.

Christians Need to Be Involved in Reaching Out to the Mentally Ill. The Gospel Commission is “Go preach the gospel to every creature” (Mark 16:15). There is nothing in this commission that gives the qualifications of the person who is to be taught. The Christian system as taught in the Bible demands that we help



and support those who are feeble-minded (weak)—see 1 Thessalonians 5:14. The Church has a long way to go in reaching out to the mentally ill by providing the love, acceptance, and support that they need. Let us not neglect this aspect of the work of the Lord. —JNC

The Quiet Sermon

A member of a certain church, who previously had been attending services regularly, stopped going. After a few weeks, an elder decided to visit him.

It was a chilly evening. The elder found the man at home alone, sitting before a blazing fire. Guessing the reason for his elder’s visit, the man welcomed him, led him to a comfortable chair near the fireplace and waited.

The elder made himself at home, but said nothing. In the grave silence, he contemplated the dance of the flames around the burning logs. After some minutes, the elder took the fire tongs, carefully picked up a brightly burning ember and placed it to one side of the hearth all alone. Then he sat back in his chair, still silent. The host watched all this in quiet contemplation. As the one lone ember’s flame flickered and diminished, there was a momentary glow and then its fire was no more. Soon it was cold and dead.

Not a word had been spoken since the initial greeting. The elder glanced at his watch and realized it was time to leave. He slowly stood up, picked up the cold, dead ember and placed it back in the middle of the fire, immediately it began to glow once more with the light and warmth of the burning coals around it. As the elder reached the door to leave, his host said with a tear running down his cheek, “Thank you so much for your visit and especially for the fiery sermon. I shall be back with my brethren next Sunday.”—Anonymous

Nobel Scientists and God

Editor’s Note: One of the things that has come out of the battle between extremists in the evolution/creation controversy has been a flow of literature from atheists claiming that good scientists and intelligent, educated people do not believe in God. This is simply not true. Tihomir Dimitrov has compiled an e-book on <http://nobelists.net> of quotations of Nobel Prize winning scientists. In each issue of this journal we hope to quote statements from some of these.

Charles Townes—Inventor of the laser who received a Nobel Prize in 1964 for his work in quantum electronics

Dr. Townes received his Ph.D. in physics from California Institute of Technology and was involved in research at Columbia, MIT, and the University of California.

“I strongly believe in the existence of God, based on intuition, observations, logic, and also scientific knowledge.”

“Science, with its experiments and logic, tries to understand the order or structure of the universe. Religion, with its theological inspiration and reflection, tries to understand the purpose or meaning of the universe. These two are cross-related. Purpose implies structure, and structure ought to be interpretable in terms of purpose. At least this is the way I see it. I am a physicist. I also consider myself a Christian. As I try to understand the nature of our universe in these two modes of thinking, I see many commonalities and crossovers between science and religion. It seems logical that in the long run the two will even converge.”

“Science wants to know the mechanism of the universe, religion—the meaning. The two cannot be separated.”

“We scientists work on the basis of a fundamental assumption regarding reason in nature and reason in the human mind, an assumption that is held as a cardinal principle of faith. Yet this faith is so automatically and generally accepted that we hardly recognize it as an essential basis of science.”

“As a religious person, I strongly sense the presence and actions of a creative Being far beyond myself and yet always personal and close by.”

“In fact, it seems to me, a revelation can be viewed as a sudden discovery of understanding of man and man’s relation to his universe, to God, and his relation to other men.”



Understanding the Creation Evolution Controversy

by Eric Ashby, Ph.D., ACW Press, Ozark, AL 36360,
2005, ISBN 1-932124-56-X, \$11.95, paperback, 111 pages

This is a very unusual book which attempts to offer some help to the reader in resolving the creation/evolution controversy. Of the 111 pages in the book, 26 deal with the origin of man and 4 pages deal with the origin of life. Dr. Ashby is a chemist with multiple awards from chemical societies and recognition from major universities, including Stanford, Auburn, Notre Dame, and Loyola. His credentials are impressive and the book radiates his expertise in chemistry.

The book begins with a quick review of cosmology, showing briefly that the cosmos is not 6,000 years old and that the big bang and the anthropic principle show strong evidence for the existence of God. The discussion of the origin of man reviews errors in evolutionary theory in the past and focuses on those attributes of man which better fit man’s nature as a being created in God’s image than a chance product of natural selection.

The strength of the book is in Ashby’s discussion of the role of chance in the origin of life. Ashby quotes Charles Darwin saying, “If it could be demonstrated that any complex organ existed which could not possibly have formed by numerous successive, slight modifications, my theory would absolutely break down.” Ashby does just that in a detailed chemical analysis with probabilities attached to biochemical processes. This discussion is detailed and complex, but within the reach of most college and high school students.

We recommend this book highly for anyone wanting to see how impossible atheist assumptions about the chance formation of life are. It is not a general apologetic book, but very useful in dealing with the origin of life.

Misquoting Truth

by Timothy Paul Jones, IVP Books, 2007,
ISBN 978-0-8308-3447-1, paperback, 175 pages

The flow of books attacking Christianity, the Bible, and belief in God has climbed steadily through the years. In recent years, books like these have been able to make appearances in the New York Times best seller list. One of the main figures in attacks on Jesus and the Bible is Dr. Bart Ehrman. In 2003 he wrote a book titled *Lost Christianities: The Battles for Scripture and the Faiths We Never Knew*, and in 2005 he wrote *Misquoting Jesus: The Story Behind Who Changed the Bible and Why*. Ehrman is chair of the Department of Religious Studies at the University of North Carolina. With his credentials, he has gotten a lot of attention from the media and in 2006 *Misquoting Jesus* was a best seller.

Ehrman’s basic theory is that Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John did not write the gospels and that all New Testament manuscripts are so full of errors that it is not possible to know what the authors really intended. *Misquoting Truth* is a response to Ehrman’s material. Timothy Paul Jones is a professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He is also senior pastor of the First Baptist Church of Rolling Hills, Tulsa, Oklahoma. Dr. Jones has a strong academic background, but what makes this book especially useful is the style of writing. Dr. Jones is kind, easy to understand, and regularly has side bars in each chapter that say things like “Think it out,” “Look it up,” “Fact Sheet,” and “Know More.” These sections direct the reader to not just accept at face value what has been said, but actually check it out.

The book has two parts: “Why the Texts Can Be Trusted” divided into four chapters and “Why the Lost Christianities Were Lost” also divided into four chapters. This last section goes into how biblical books were chosen and why we rely upon the writers of our Bible and not other authors who lived at the same time. The first section deals with Ehrman’s claims that the documents have been victimized by copyist errors and lost manuscripts.

This is an excellent book. We recommend it highly. Even if someone has not read Ehrman’s attack on the Bible, the book will be useful. It has a subject index, a name index, and a scripture index and is well documented. It can be used as a reference source or just to build your faith and confidence in the Bible.

The outdoor temperature can be estimated to within several degrees by timing the chirps of a cricket. It is done this way: count the number of chirps in a 15-second period, and add 37 to the total. The result will be very close to the actual Fahrenheit temperature. This formula, however, only works in warm weather.

HELPFUL RESOURCES ON THE RELIABILITY OF THE BIBLE

by Phillip Eichman

There have always been those who are skeptical of the Bible and its claims. Even Jesus encountered skeptical and unbelieving people in his ministry. Lately, however, it seems that it has become more common or even popular to question or openly attack the Bible and Christian beliefs.

One of the most recent of these was the television program on *The Lost Tomb of Jesus* and accompanying book entitled *The Jesus Family Tomb*. Based on some questionable archaeological findings, the claim is that the burial remains of Jesus and his family, including a wife and children, have been discovered and identified. Others include books and Web sites by atheists and secular humanists that question or ridicule Bible teachings, investigative reporting by the media that emphasizes the skeptical fringe of Bible scholarship, and fictional books, such as *The Da Vinci Code*, that contain fabricated scenarios, that lead to questions concerning Christian beliefs. In addition to these are others such as the Jesus Seminar, which denied the validity of all of the miracles and much of the teaching of Jesus as recorded in the New Testament, yet was covered extensively in publications such as *Time* and *Newsweek*, and the more recent coverage of the “Gospel of Thomas” by *National Geographic* and other publications.

Although it would seem that there is almost a constant stream of threats to the Christian faith from sources such as these, Christians should not feel intimidated or fearful. The Bible has been examined more extensively than almost any other document in history and yet the majority of these studies have confirmed the reliability and validity of the Bible and its teachings. Most Christians, however, do not have the training or the time to do extensive research on these topics. Fortunately, there are a number of resources available that were written by competent, conservative Bible scholars who hold the Bible in high regard and accept the integrity and validity of its claims.

Several of these resources will be briefly reviewed here. Anyone wanting to intelligently discuss these topics with others, or simply strengthen his or her own faith is encouraged to spend some time with books such as these.

One place to begin is *The New Testament Documents: Are They Reliable?* by F. F. Bruce. Before his death in 1990, Bruce was one of the most well-known and respected conservative Bible scholars in the world. This small book by Bruce was first published in 1943 and has gone through several revisions and updatings with the sixth

edition being published since 1981. Even though it is now more than 25 years since the last revision, this is still an excellent resource. It is clear, readable, and understandable. Bruce covered a variety of topics and his confidence in the reliability and trustworthiness of the New Testament is apparent throughout the book. Some of the topics include a discussion of various manuscripts, the canon of the New Testament, the Gospel accounts, miracles, writings of Paul and Luke, archaeology, and non-Christian sources.

Even though it does not deal directly with the reliability of the Bible, another excellent resource is *How We Got the Bible* by Neil R. Lightfoot, who has taught Bible at Abilene Christian University for many years. First published in 1963, the current third edition was revised and expanded in 2003. The earlier editions were well-done, but this latest edition is excellent. Lightfoot discusses how ancient books were made, various important manuscripts, versions, and translations, and other topics related to how the Bible came into existence. This information is especially helpful in understanding the discussion in some of the other books reviewed here.

There are also several other excellent resources for those who want to dig deeper into this area. *Is the New Testament Reliable?* by Paul Barnett is one example. Barnett covers some of the same material as Bruce, but also includes more recent information and scholarship that was not available at the time that Bruce was writing. Although the book contains a large amount of information, Barnett has written in a style that is easy to understand and interesting to read. The information is often presented in a manner similar to evidence in a court, and is summarized, or placed in tables for easy access. Barnett also anticipates and answers many questions that are raised by our contemporary, postmodern culture.

Somewhat of a companion volume to Bruce and Barnett is *The Old Testament Documents: Are They Reliable and Relevant?* by Walter C. Kaiser, Jr. Kaiser is an Old Testament scholar who obviously writes from a wealth of knowledge on the subject. It is also apparent from the book that his views are conservative and that he has a great trust and respect for this portion of the Bible. The contents of this book include chapters devoted to a discussion of the reliability of the canon, text, historical information, and message of the Old Testament. Kaiser also included a discussion of the relevancy of the Old Testament for us today.

Much of the book is very readable and easy to understand. There are some technical terms and detailed sections in the book that some readers may find difficult, but there is a glossary at the end to help the reader follow the discussion. On the whole it is a valuable resource and provides information on the Old Testament which is not easily found elsewhere.

In addition to these books, two others are worth mentioning. The first of these is *The Historical Reliability of the Gospels* by Craig Blomberg. This book covers material that is found in Bruce and Barnett but does so in a more lengthy and detailed manner. Blomberg has done extensive research and writing on the Gospels and has put a large amount of useful information into this book. Some of it is technical but most of the book is very readable and would be useful for anyone wanting more details on the reliability of the Gospel accounts.

Finally, *The Historical Jesus: Ancient Evidence for the Life of Christ* by Gary R. Habermas is another book that I would recommend. A number of books have been written in recent years in response to the assertions of the Jesus Seminar and others who question the historical information contained in the Gospel accounts. Many of these, however, are very technical and written more for other scholars than for the average reader. *The Historical Jesus* by Habermas, however, is very readable and easy to understand. It is well-written, and Habermas has demonstrated from many sources the validity and reliability of the Gospel accounts of the life of Jesus.

None of the books reviewed here are perfect. Each one contains portions that not everyone may agree upon, but all of them contain valuable information concerning the reliability of the Bible. Our acceptance of the Bible as God's inspired Word is certainly a matter of faith. It need not, however, be a "blind faith" because there is ample evidence that the Bible is in fact from God. Books like those reviewed here contain evidence such as this that can strengthen our faith in the Bible and give us confidence in knowing that the Bible is from God and that its claims can be taken seriously.

Books reviewed:

1. Barnett, Paul. *Is the New Testament Reliable?* Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2003.
2. Blomberg, Craig. *The Historical Reliability of the Gospels.* Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1987.
3. Bruce, F. F. *The New Testament Documents: Are They Reliable?* Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1981.
4. Habermas, Gary R. *The Historical Jesus: Ancient Evidence for the Life of Christ.* Joplin, MO: College Press, 1996.
5. Kaiser, Walter C., Jr. *The Old Testament Documents: Are They Reliable and Relevant?* Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2001.
6. Lightfoot, Neil. *How We Got the Bible.* Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2003.

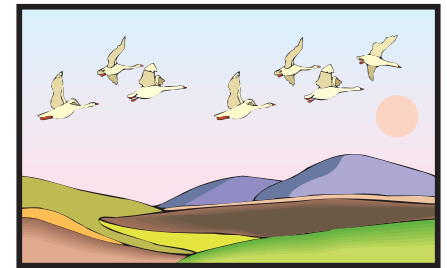
ADDRESS CHANGE? To remain on our mailing list, please give us both your old and new addresses with both zip codes at least six to eight weeks before the move, if at all possible. Thanks!



DANDY DESIGNS

How High Can They Fly?

We all know that long distance jets fly at very high elevations. There are good reasons to fly at 35,000 feet. The air is thinner so you have less drag and can go faster. You are flying above weather, so storms and bad weather are not an issue. There is less likelihood of a collision either with things like dust storms or with other local objects that might be in the lower atmosphere. For living things like birds the same advantages would be present as well as protection from predators, but the cold temperatures and lack of oxygen were thought to make flying at high elevations impossible. Our radar has evolved to the point where the newest radar can distinguish between birds, bats, insects, dust and even pollen. Imagine the surprise of radar technicians when they detected swans flying at 27,000 feet and bar-headed geese flying at just under 30,000 feet. It turns out that most birds fly at very high elevations. Songbirds typically fly at 6,000 feet. Most ducks fly between 10,000 and 15,000 feet. How can they do that?



Most mammals cannot breathe well enough to survive at elevations of 20,000 feet or more. Birds are able to breathe because they have a complex respiratory system that provides a continuous flow of oxygen through their lungs. They do not depend on a diaphragm pushing air in and out of their lungs. That means that the birds can survive in thinner air longer, even when exerting themselves heavily as they do in flight. The layering of feathers that birds have is so efficient as an insulator that the cold temperatures of the high elevations is no issue for them.

Once again we have an example of how God has created creatures to do incredible things in ways that benefit them and allow them to survive in places we would not think possible. It is as if we are still trying to answer all the questions that God asked Job in Job 39:26 "Does the hawk take flight by your wisdom and spread his wings toward the south?" The answer is clearly "no—it is a wisdom far beyond that of man." Data from *Discover*, November 2005, page 88.

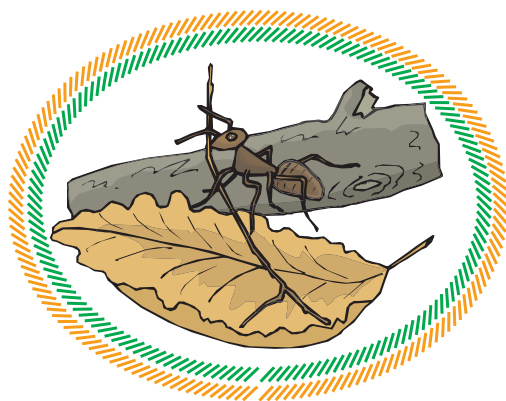
Bullhorns and Ants

One of the most interesting design features that we see in the world around us are the enormous number of symbiotic relationships that exist in nature. A symbiotic relationship is one in which two unrelated species live in such a way that both are benefitted by the relationship. In many cases both species would become extinct very quickly if the relationship did not exist. A good example of this is the symbiotic relationship between the bullhorn acacia plant of Central America and Mexico and a species of ant that lives in the horns of this plant.

The bullhorn acacia is a tree that has paired horns along its stems and trunk that are pointed at the ends. The ants hollow out these horns and live in them. If any animal disturbs the tree, the ants will swarm out and sting the intruder. In addition to that, if other plants sprout near the tree they will nip off the sprout so that no plant species competes with the bullhorn for nutrients or water. The ants take very good care of this tree.

The tree has sugar producing nectar glands and protein-rich growths on the tips of its leaflets. This secretion nourishes the ants, so the tree not only provides a place for the ants to live, but feeds them as well. This food would not be useful to most animals and insects, but it is perfect for this particular species of ants.

This is a classic example of symbiosis in which the two unrelated life forms are so dependent upon each other that neither would survive for long without the other.



Constructing a theory of how such relationships come about usually involves suggesting that the two forms were occasionally in contact with each other, and gradually became dependent upon each other. Suggesting that the perfect food the bullhorn makes for the ant was different in the past requires some unlikely major chemical manipulation and is unsupported by fossil evidence. The behavior of the ants that involves cutting off any plant that would compete with the bullhorn so it cannot grow makes assumptions about the ability of the ant to develop a rather advanced concept of agriculture. We would suggest that this as well as other symbiotic relationships that exist are a part of the design that we see in the world around us. Design that speaks of the creator that has provided for us in amazingly complex ways.



Prodigal Son in the Key of F

Feeling footloose and frisky, a featherbrained fellow forced his fond father to fork over his farthings. He flew far to foreign fields and frittered his fortune, feasting fabulously with faithless friends.

Finally, facing famine and fleeced by his fellows-in-folly, he found himself a feed flinger farmyard. Fairly famished, he feign would have filled his frame with foraged food from the fodder fragments.

“Phooey, my father’s flunkies fare fancier,” the frazzled fugitive fumed feverishly, frankly facing facts.

Frustrated by failure and filled with foreboding, he fled forthwith to his family. Falling at his father’s feet, he floundered forlornly, “Father, I have flunked and fruitlessly forfeited family favor.”

But the faithful father, forestalling further flinching, frantically flagged the flunkies to fetch forth the finest fatling and fix a feast.

The fugitive’s fraternal faultfinder frowned on the fickle forgiveness of former folderol. His fury flashed but fussing was futile.

The farsighted father figured, “Such filial fidelity is fine, but what forbids fervent festivity, let fun and frolic freely flow. Former failure is forgotten, folly forsaken. Forgiveness forms the foundation for future fortune.”

—via the Mattituck Christian, January 15, 2006

News and Notes

Does God Exist? Videos on the Web. Since 1972 we have had audio or video presentations of some kind available at our cost or on loan to anyone who wanted to watch them. We have always encouraged questions, and response has always been enormous in all the different formats we have used—16 mm films, filmstrips, VHS tapes, cassette tapes, CDs, and recently on DVDs. We now have all 24 of our **Does God Exist?** programs on the web. These programs can be watched on doesgodexist.tv. We also have them on [googlevideos](http://googlevideos.com), [youtube](http://youtube.com), and [godtube](http://godtube.com); but on our site they will be complete and without the extra things that [youtube](http://youtube.com) and [godtube](http://godtube.com) offer. Our other DVDs for children and on archeology will be added in the near future. If you have questions about this, feel free to contact us. Our technical expert here is Roland Earnst who is at re@grvine.com. If you need help in getting to our DVDs online, please feel free to contact Roland.

Dalai Lama Visit and God. In October, the United States government honored the Dalai Lama with the congressional gold medal, America's highest civilian award. The claim to fame of this reincarnated image of Avalokiteśvara is his plea for peace. It is a curious situation as his writings repeatedly emphasize that there is no such thing as a personal God. The brother of the Dalai Lama founded a 108-acre Tibetan Cultural Center in Bloomington, Indiana, the home of Indiana University, in 1979. This award was given by the same government that has opposed churches doing service work to the poor because "it promotes their religion." It seems that any religion except Christianity can be sanctioned and promoted by our government.

California Fires, Man, and God. The horrible fires in late October continue to be discussed in terms of cause. Arson is a part of the cause, but man's planting of non-native plants that burn easily have compounded the problem. Building houses in places known to be prone to natural disasters also is a part of the picture. The fires are not an act of God to torment humans. They are caused by man's refusal to intelligently manage a well-understood natural environment.

New Planet Confirms Uniqueness of Earth. Astronomers continue to employ new techniques to look at planets orbiting stars other than our sun. As more and more planets are found, the diversity of these planets becomes more and more complex. New planets have been found with the density close to cork, with volumes three times the size of Jupiter, and orbits incredibly close to their stars and highly elliptical. The more extra solar planets we discover, the more obvious it becomes that our solar system is an incredibly unique system. Not only is the sun unusual in terms of its properties, but there do not seem to be any planets which have orbits and densities compared to our earth.

Lucy Visits U. S. Cities. Much is being made in the press about an exhibit of a specimen called Lucy that is being displayed in various cities around the country. The claim is that Lucy is a missing link and a proof of man's mechanical evolution from an ape-like common ancestor of modern apes and humans. The fact is that Lucy has a very small brain—425cc—less than an adult chimpanzee. She has a V-shaped mandible like a monkey—not a C-shaped mandible like a human or a box-shaped mandible like an ape. Her humerus-to-femur ratio is 1:1 like a monkey, not 2:1 like a human. In short, her makeup is very monkey-like. The discoverer of Lucy (Donald Johanson) has a theory the apes became erect and later evolved large brains to become human. Lucy's sacrum and hip may have been able to allow vertical posture, so she is of interest to those working with various evolutionary theories, but the claim that Lucy is a missing link is a profound exaggeration.

Gay Genetic Cause. There continues to be a great deal of misinformation in the media and on the Web about the causes of homosexual behavior. Recently an article appeared in the political columns of newspapers saying that being gay and being of a certain race were the same thing. Regardless of one's views on homosexuality, such statements are completely erroneous. At the most one's sexual orientation would be given a tendency by a genetic situation, but the fact is that humans are not robots driven by their genes in lifestyle choices. One's skin color is hardly in the same realm as the capacity to make lifestyle choices. There is an interesting related article in the *Saturday Evening Post* (September/October 2007, page 50) by John Nurnberger titled "Unraveling the Genetics of Alcoholism." This is a most useful discussion by an expert in the field of genetic causes and will be helpful to those interested in this subject area.

Atheists and Giving. One of the claims of atheists is that in all areas of life atheists do as well as believers in how they live and

what they do. A favorite subject in this area is the moral conduct of people in both groups, with atheists claiming that Christians are as immoral as atheists. That kind of claim is very hard to justify either way since what goes on behind every closed door is never known. A research group called the Barna Group has done a study on the giving of atheists compared to believers. The numbers are that the average believer gives \$1400 a year as opposed to \$200 a year by people who say they have no faith in God. The study also shows significant differences in service. Volunteering was ten percent less and serving poor or homeless people was 20 percent less among nonbelievers than among believers. Involvement in the community was 27 percent less, and even being a registered voter was 11 percent less. No one has room to gloat about the numbers. Our claim is that “survival of the fittest” as the basis of one’s moral code does not motivate one to altruism. This seems to be borne out by the numbers. Source: *Citizen*, September 2007, page 10.

More Evidence for Asteroid Hit. Evolutionary theories assume something called “uniformitarianism.” This is the assumption that no processes have ever operated on the earth in the past that are not operational today. The reason for this is that if global catastrophes wiped out most life in past eons, evolution would have to start over in its production of diversity, and the mechanisms of change in the world today would not allow that. The Bible claims that occasionally there have been disasters that have punctuated the history of the earth. These include the flood, the plagues in Egypt, and the events surrounding Jesus’ death. Some twenty years ago Louis Alverez proposed that the dinosaurs were wiped out by an asteroid collision with the earth, something obviously not taking place today and certainly of catastrophic proportions. More and more data is coming forth to support this view. Researchers at the Southwest Research Institute have reported studies on a group of asteroids known as the Baptistina family that provide evidence that some of their members were directed toward the earth. Other researchers at the University of California at Santa Barbara have shown similar evidence for a North American extinction from a comet. The data shows that some major astronomical changes have punctuated the earth’s history in the past. Sources: *Science News*, September 8, 2007, page 148; *Discover*, July 2007, page 11.

Chimps Vs. Tots. A recent study has shown a huge difference between two-year-old humans and adult chimps and orangutans. A piece of food was put into a tube and the experimenter took it out and ate it in front of the subject. Another piece of food was put in the tube and the tube was handed to the subject. The two-year-old

humans swiftly removed the food by following the example of the experimenter. Both the chimps and orangutans bit, scratched, and pummeled the tube in futile attempts to get the food out. Attempts to portray chimps and orangutans as hairy humans simply do not have the support of the evidence. Source: *Scientific American*, November 2007, page 36.

New OBE Experiments. Out-of-body experiences (OBE) have been used to attempt to promote all kinds of things, from new religions to ghost stories. In the past we have reported on OBE experiences that were triggered by drugs used in medical treatment and secreted by the patient in traumatic situations. Researchers have now been able to create OBE experiences by using video cameras placed elsewhere being attached so that each eye saw a different image and the subject’s chest was stroked at the same time. The subject reported being overcome by the strange sensation that they were where the cameras were rather than in their own bodies. It appears that the brain processing can be disoriented by conflicting signals, and that without the use of drugs an OBE can be experienced. These are brain responses and not some kind of supernatural cause. Source: *Scientific American*, November 2007, page 34.

Another Big Dinosaur. Researchers have announced the discovery of a plant eating dinosaur called *Gryposaurus monumentensis* near the Arizona-Utah border. The specimen is 30 feet long, ten feet tall, has huge jaws with over 800 teeth like the duckbill dinosaurs. As more and more of these huge plant-eating dinosaurs are found, it becomes increasingly obvious that the preparation of the earth for man was an incredibly large operation. The dinosaurs and the plants they ate were part of the ecosystem that prepared soil and other natural resources for man, and the size of this preparation machine was incredibly large. Source: *Houston Chronicle*, October 4, 2007, page A11.

Water Still a Mystery. We have frequently had articles in this bulletin on the wonderful properties of water. Its ability to dissolve, to freeze from the top down, and to exist as a gas, liquid, and solid within a narrow temperature range are all vital to the existence of life. Oxygen with its unusual orbital configuration of electrons and hydrogen with its simple makeup allow for a polar molecule with a very strange array of properties. In *Natural History* (November 2007, page 32) is a wonderful article showing how science still does not understand the strange molecular workings of water. It is a wonderful treatment of a substance most of us think is ordinary and take for granted. It also shows how well designed our planet is at even the molecular level.

This journal is a part of a program of service titled **Does God Exist?** The purpose of the program is to provide thinking, seeking people with scientific evidence that God does exist and that the Bible is His Word. It is our conviction that all men can logically and rationally believe in God. In addition to this bimonthly journal, the Does God Exist? program offers DVDs and video tapes, CDs and audio tapes, courses, books, and other materials. These materials are offered on a loan basis or at our cost. We also are more than willing to correspond with you and answer any specific question(s) you might have. If you would like further information on borrowing or purchasing these materials, we would be glad to send it to you. Check the boxes below to describe what you would like and mail it to us. We will get it right out to you.

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City _____ State _____ Zip _____