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# DOES GOD EXIST?

End of the year

# JOY



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to convince mankind  
that God is real and  
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# End of the year JOY



It has always interested me that a large number of our family celebrations occur at the end of the year. Thanksgiving, Christmas, and even Halloween take place as winter is coming on and the year draws to a close. All of these events are family oriented. Even the

most jaded adult has a hard time not smiling at a three-year-old going out to a Halloween party in a costume. Thanksgiving and Christmas have traditionally been family times. Such songs as “I’ll Be Home for Christmas” reflect the nostalgia that we all have as we remember happy times with family members extending back to our childhood.

We live in hard times. All of us have been affected to some degree by everything that is going on in the world—terrorist violence, economic problems, oil spills, and other disasters are always at the top of our list. Throughout Bible history there were hard times. The whole history of the nation of Israel has to do with one calamity after another. Jesus came into the world in the flesh at a time when God’s people were in slavery and political oppression of a magnitude that we have a hard time comprehending. Man’s inhumanity to man is nothing new, and selfishness, greed, corruption, immorality, arrogance, pride, and a willingness to abuse other human beings have always been around.

An interesting fact about this history is that God has always instituted times of feasting and rejoicing as an integral part of the struggles in life. When the nation of Israel prepared to leave the Egyptian captivity there was a feast instituted to commemorate that historical event. The Passover celebration continues even to the present time in the Jewish culture. One part of the Old Law was a variety of feasts, fasts, and family celebrations to commemorate things that had happened in the past—both good and bad. When Jesus came to the end of His life on earth, He instituted the “Lord’s Supper” at a dinner in which He gave final instructions to His disciples (Matthew 26:26–29). Again, this feast is carried on by Christians as an integral part of their worship to God. All of us are familiar with biblical stories in which feasts and celebrations commemorated what had happened—for better or

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for worse. The parable of the prodigal son in Luke 15:11–24 shows us a positive view where a great feast was prepared at the return of a son who was lost. A remembrance of Jephthah’s daughter in Judges 11:30–40 indicates a remembrance of an unfortunate oath made by a father and its consequences. Notice that many of these events were not commanded by God, but had a significant effect upon the faith of those who participated in them.

There are those who have negative views of all of our holidays. Some feel that Thanksgiving celebrates an invasion of a peaceful people by dominating violent invaders from another culture. Some feel that Halloween has pagan roots that recall a violent, abusive time when people followed mystic, destructive, pagan beliefs instead of following God. Some feel that Christmas is a corruption of pagan activities at the winter solstice, while still others view it as an extension of Catholic militarism in wars from the time of the Crusades. As our culture becomes more diverse and Christianity in its most general sense becomes a minority religion in America, these ancient customs become less known and less applicable.

Atheists and agnostics use the seasons as clubs against the validity of the Bible, and point out the pagan roots of much of what is done by various Christian denominations. Many school curricula have sections in the history units that portray negative views of these holidays. Our suggestion is that this is a wonderful opportunity for Christians to educate the world about what the Bible says and what it does not say.

At Halloween we can call attention to the fact that from its inception Christianity urged people to stay away from pagan worship activities. We are told in 1 John 4:1 to “test the spirits to see whether they are from God.” In the Old Testament there were severe penalties for engaging in witchcraft or human sacrifice. At Thanksgiving we can show that the Christian system emphasized thanksgiving as a major part of the Christian lifestyle. Passages like 1 Timothy 2:1 and 4:3–4 are just some of literally dozens of admonitions to Christians to be thankful people. Christmas is a wonderful time to show that “The Christmas Spirit” that everyone wants to have is what Christianity is all about. Love, peace, giving, caring, and praising God are not once-a-year activities for those who believe what the Bible has to say. What better time to spread that message than when people are participating in activities that move their thoughts in that direction.

Christians are not to be grumpy old men and women who sit around complaining about everything they see, hear, feel, and experience. Let us look for the good in what is around us, and spread joy 24/7/365 to our friends and neighbors. Look for the joy of each season and use it as a wonderful chance to share with others the glorious gospel message of the resurrection, life, and teachings of Jesus Christ.

—John N. Clayton



# THE SUPERIORITY OF THE CHRISTIAN WORLD VIEW



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We live in a culture that is beset with competing world views. Intellectuals argue about these views, and our children are taught competing world views not only at school, but on television and even in their music. In simple terms, a world view is our understanding of how the world works. James W. Sire, author of *The Universe Next Door*, a textbook on world views, defines world view as “a

set of presuppositions which we hold about the basic makeup of our world.”

There are several things that must be included in a good world view:

1. Is it true? Is there evidence to support its validity?
2. Is it consistent with reality?
3. Does it work?
4. Does it answer the hard questions that people care about? What is its position on the value of a human being? What does it tell us about what happens at death? What does it tell us about reality?
5. Does it make us better than if we did not hold it?

There is a variety of world views outside of the Christian world view that are supported by leading philosophers, theologians, and politicians. In general, they can be lumped into the following categories.

**NATURALISM**—those who hold to this view maintain that we can only function by what can be measured. Science is held as the most important operator in life and our goal in life is to pass along our genes to those who live in the future. The value of a human being is basically held to be \$2.35—the market value of the elements that make up our bodies. Those who hold to naturalism will generally maintain that justice is a product of our imagination and that there is no such thing as evil.

**POSTMODERNISM**—the most fundamental concept of most teachings of postmodernism is that there is no absolute truth. One interesting challenge to those who hold this view is to ask, is it absolutely true that there is no such thing as absolute truth? That question is not just fun and games, it points out the esoteric nature of the view. Viewing life as being totally relativistic means that every person has the option of doing whatever he wishes in every situation. While this may be appealing in a selfish kind of way, the inability of this view to apply to all situations, especially those of hardship and unavoidable suffering, should be obvious.

**PANTHEISM**—this is primarily a religious view that maintains that life is an illusion. It is the basis of Hinduism and Buddhism and is polytheistic in nature, with the view that discipline and enlightenment are all that comprises life.

**ISLAM**—this is, of course, a religious view which maintains that God is a distant, arbitrary entity, and salvation is earned by man with that goal being all there is to man’s purpose and experience in life.

**DETERMINISM**—this view says that everything is caused (by God in most cases) including evil. Man’s existence is considered to be directed and controlled by forces and entities beyond his control so that all experience is mechanically and robotically determined.

While we have tried to point out some of the superficial problems in these world views, it is not our intent here to go deeply into any of them. It is also not our purpose to approach them by getting into scientific evidence in specific terms. Science answers some questions such as “where,” “when,” and “how many,” but science does not answer the questions of “why” or “what is the right thing to do?”



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## **THE CHRISTIAN WORLD VIEW —**

1. The world is real. There is no attempt in the Christian world view to avoid reality or to suggest that pain and suffering are not real. Science can only exist in a real world, and measurements of the consequences of actions and of pain can be reproduced and recorded.

2. The physical cosmos was created out of nothing. All of the physical world we see had a beginning. This is supported by all obser-

vations science is able to make and all physical laws that we are able to demonstrate. Studies in quantum mechanics and modern physics are telling us more about the mechanisms and processes that brought the physical universe into existence and verify that the physical universe is real and not eternal.

3. The physical creation was good. Matter/energy is a positive thing that has the potential for enormous good. All of science is based on the assumption that this is true. Desiring to understand and improve one's situation comes from a world view that says the creation is good and can be understood in a way that will benefit those living in that physical creation. That which is not good does not come from the physical creation but is the product of sentient beings.

4. There exists an unseen spiritual reality which is not limited to or defined by the physical reality. The creation of time, space, and energy must come from an entity outside of these quantities. In addition to being external to the physical universe this quantity demonstrates love, intelligence, purpose, and design in all that the Creator does.

5. Humans have a spiritual aspect to their nature. Man is created in the image of this Creator, but because humans are housed in a physical body they have this spiritual capacity to a limited extent.

6. Evil does exist and is the result of choice by free moral agents including man who was created with a free will. Imagine what would happen if evil did not exist as many other world views maintain. Slavery would have to be considered as a good thing, or the natural result of "survival of the fittest" with no negative connotations. War which brings pain to all of the physical creation could not be opposed because there is no negative value that can be attached to it. Cruelty and abuse have to be accepted as good or unavoidable because there is nothing that is evil. Mankind's inhumanity to his fellow man is rooted in one way or another to world views that deny or rationalize all evil.



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The Bible has always portrayed humans in the framework of a full recognition of the existence of evil as something distinct and alien to God, and something about which human beings must make a choice. In Deuteronomy 30:15–19 (NKJV) God says “I have set before you today life and good, death and evil. ... I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commandments, His statutes, and His judgments that you may live and multiply;



and the LORD your God will bless you ... . But if your heart turns away so you do not hear, and are drawn away and worship other gods [world views] ... you shall surely perish; ... I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life ... .”

In the New Testament we see teachings and parables over and over that portray man’s need to choose between good and evil and how God deals with the choices. In the parable of the prodigal son we see a beautiful picture of a son making a bad choice, accepting evil over good. The story drives home the point that he did not know how much his father loved him and that the father continued to seek the son even in his rebellious mindset.

7. Christianity’s response to suffering must include compassion and service. World views that deny the existence of evil or that man has any role to play in the consequences of evil do not have to address any response their followers need to make in any situation. That may be appealing to some, but it does not work. It also does not make the world a better place or offer any solution to an individual



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who is suffering the consequences of evil. In Matthew 9:35–38 we are told that Jesus went about addressing the pain and suffering that was a part of the world in which He lived. Verse 36 says, “But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.” As Jesus prepared to leave the earth He washed His disciples’ feet and then said to them that they were to do to one another what He had just done to them (John 13:4–15). Christianity is the only system on earth that commands its followers to do good to their enemies and to give to those in need no matter what their circumstance in life might be.

## **DOES CHRISTIANITY QUALIFY AS A GOOD WORLD VIEW?**

Let us go back to what makes a world view good:

1. Is it true? Is there evidence to support its validity?

The **Does God Exist?** ministry and this journal are dedicated to providing evidence that Christianity is true. For 42 years we have been bringing people’s attention to the evidence. This has nothing to do with us, our scholarship, or our knowledge. We have brought people who are scholars and who have done academic, and more importantly, practical work in every aspect of life to the attention of our readers and listeners. The positive effect of the Christian world view cannot be denied by any honest, practical, open-minded human being. Organized religion

and hypocritical humans may have failed, but what Jesus taught and the practical good it has brought to this planet is undeniable.

2. Is it consistent with reality?

The older you get and the more experience you have, the more you will be convinced that what Jesus taught and did were real and need to be applied to the reality of our lives. The use of parables by Christ was a deliberate attempt to bring mankind face to face with the reality of what He taught about every day life.

3. Does it work?

Atheists and skeptics do not like to hear people testify, but the fact is that there are literally millions of people who have testified as to how the Christian system has changed their lives and brought solutions to them and those they love. Attempts to explain these away ring hollow when the change in their lives is obvious.

4. Does it answer the hard questions that people care about? What is its position on the value of a human being? What does it tell us about what happens at death? What does it tell us about reality?

People criticize Christianity by arguing from ignorance. The idea is that since we cannot die and then come back and report on what happens when we die that somehow this invalidates the concept of heaven and hell. However, it does answer the question, whether you like the answer or not. There are other world views that also offer explanations, so one has to compare them and see what makes sense. The promise of reincarnation or of a harem of black-eyed virgins does not compare positively with the description of heaven given in the Bible. Revelation 20–22 deals with the question of what happens when we die, and offers great hope and consolation to those who are struggling with bad things in this life.

5. Does it make us better than if we did not hold it?

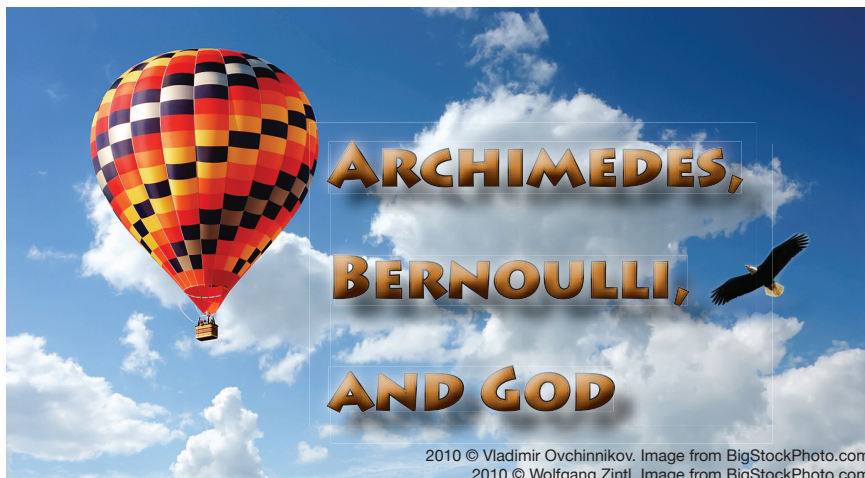
As one who lived an atheist world view for many years, and who saw the effect of that view on friends and family I can testify as to how much better I am as a person than I was before I became a Christian.



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You may not think much of me, but if you had met me before I became a Christian you would have thought even less of me. I am a changed person, and there are countless others like me who are changed from what we were to something infinitely better.

—JNC



One of the major arguments for the existence of God is the incredible intelligence designed into everything we see in the world around us. Those who dispute this kind of evidence generally have two objections. The first is that pain, suffering, tragedy, violence, etc., seem to be failures in design at best or malicious use of design at the worst. We have talked about that objection in this journal in the past pointing out that those who make this complaint assume there is no purpose in our existence and that the role of free will is not considered in such views.

The second objection to evidence for design and purpose in the creation is that it is not so well designed and that arguing for a designer is really just a God-of-the-gaps argument. They insist that the gaps in our knowledge will eventually be filled as new discoveries are made which explain how the apparent design features happened. In other words, when the gaps are filled, God will not be needed. There are many weaknesses in this view, but the main problem is it assumes that if I understand how something works this somehow proves that God had nothing to do with it.

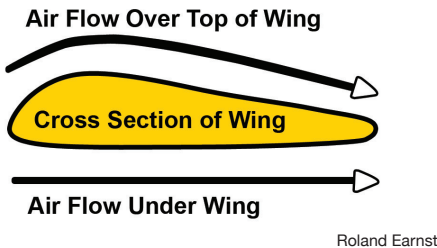
An example of incredible design which we now understand pretty well is how birds fly. In the early days of human history, anything that flew was viewed as miraculous in nature. Clouds seemed to be like birds in many ways, but you could kill a bird and it would not fly and you could not do that to a cloud. People observed that things like dandelion seeds seemed to fly at the whim of the winds, but obviously birds were not like that either.

The ancient Greek scientist Archimedes (c. 287–212 B.C.) discovered a scientific principle which helped explain much of the mystery. Archimedes discovered a cause and effect principle which is usually stated like this: “Any object placed in a fluid is buoyed up by a force equal to the weight of the fluid displaced.” Suppose you weigh 100



pounds and you jump into a bathtub full of water and cause 25 pounds of water to be spilled on the floor. If you could weigh yourself in the water you would weigh 75 pounds. If your body could displace 125 pounds of water you would float, actually displacing only the 100 pounds necessary to offset your weight. Air has weight. If a hot air balloon floats in the air and if the balloon, basket, and passenger weigh 1,000 pounds, that means the balloon has displaced 1,000 pounds of air. Clouds float because they too displace air. The air gets thinner as you go up, so there is a limit as to how high a cloud will go. Dandelion seeds are close to the density of air, so they too have enough buoyant force to be airborne. Birds are not less dense than air, so the mystery of how birds fly was delayed until 1738 when Daniel Bernoulli discovered another important law of physics.

Take two books that are about the same size and place them side by side one inch apart on a table. Lay a piece of thin paper across the top of the books so you have a tunnel. Blow through the tunnel. What does the paper do? The paper collapses into the tunnel. Bernoulli's



principle says that when a fluid moves rapidly in one direction, it exerts minimum pressure at right angles to the direction it is moving. A bird's wing is shaped to take advantage of Bernoulli's law. Along the top of the wing the distance is greater than along the bottom, so the air has to

move faster generating a lower pressure on top of the wing. The higher pressure under the wing lifts the wing, and the bird.

In simplified terms, we now know how birds fly. The principles discovered by Archimedes and Bernoulli also explain how jelly fish float, how flying fish fly, and a variety of other things that were once mysteries.

Romans 1:19–20 tells us that we can know there is a God “through the things he has made.” These laws are designed in such a way that it took mankind centuries to understand them. They are specially suited for the materials and agents operational on the earth. They are not a chance process of some physical action on unprepared materials. Every law of physics and chemistry that exists makes the earth uniquely suited for life. It is difficult to propose a workable chance explanation of how life could come into existence. It is also difficult to explain how life could have evolved by chance processes to successfully function in the physical world. To explain both of these things by chance is virtually impossible.

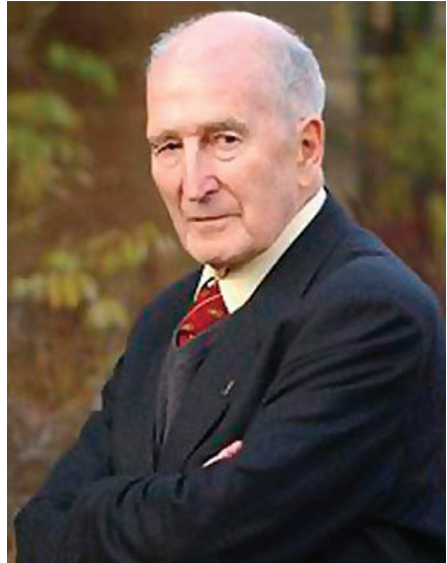
—JNC

# FOLLOW THE ARGUMENT WHEREVER IT LEADS

By **Graham A. Fisher**

Editor's Note: Graham Fisher of Buckinghamshire, England, published the following article in the *Christian Worker* (July 2010), which he edits. He gave us permission to share this insightful story of the man who was known as "the world's leading atheist."

On Thursday, 8th April 2010 a man died whom I knew. Well, I didn't really know him, in any meaningful sense of the word "know", and he definitely didn't know me at all, nevertheless I knew him in a very weak sense of the word "knew". He was one of the professors at the university I attended and he achieved international fame in his field. Since at Keele, my university, had what they called a "Foundation Year" before you began your degree studies proper, all departments and all professors lectured in the basic course entitled "A History of Western Civilisation." This began with astronomy, then on to geology, biology, and so on.



Dr. Antony Flew

Photo: John Lawrence, telegraph.co.uk, April 13, 2010

It was their attempt to broaden your education and we were forced to study subjects we never had before and in areas not our field. Students of the arts had to take sciences and vice versa and I think it was probably the best thing that ever happened to me educationally. It was a superb course. And this professor gave me, and over 250 others, several lectures over the process of the series of lessons and that's how I knew him—and why he didn't know me. I was only one amongst 250. I also attended quite a few debates he held with other professors on campus, and since we all lived on campus, staff and students alike, you would see him buzzing around just like everybody else. Even those who were not his students felt he was one of their professors, joined mystically to them in a camaraderie which transcended the academic and the narrower confines of subjects or departments.

Anyway, he died in April aged 87, and I felt very sad and not a little blue about it. In some daft way a small piece of “me” had gone and I wish it hadn’t. I wish he’d lived a little longer. He was a very decent man, a kindly man, a man who valued truth and was prepared to follow it fearlessly, as he saw it. His name was Antony Flew and he taught Philosophy. But Antony was an atheist. And not just an atheist, he was the leading academic atheist in this country, and one of the leading atheists in the world in his heyday. He was an international figure in the world of philosophy and his atheism stemmed solely from philosophical argument. He was an evangelical atheist, though not “in your face” like Richard Dawkins. Dawkins’s atheism comes not from any attachment to philosophy but rather from his field of biological science, so they come at it from completely different angles. Flew was a believer in evolution, of course, because the only alternative to that theory extant at the moment is creation by God—which atheistic evolutionists cannot admit and still be atheists.

His background is interesting. Both his father and grandfather were Methodist ministers so he had a positively religious upbringing, which he came to reject in his late teens. I don’t know the story behind that but it was a good deal more than simple teenage rebellion. He was very bright indeed and he felt that religious claims, especially to the existence of God, simply didn’t stack up. Mind you, I would hazard a guess that his father, at least, was a believer in evolution—that being the so-called intellectual position in opposition to a belief in a young Earth created in six days by divine fiat, some 6,000 years ago, not millions of years ago. A belief in a biblical world which was created perfectly and then went wrong after Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden seemed somewhat naïve, and still seems somewhat naïve, to the intellectual classes. Therein stems the origin of his arguments against the notion as to the existence of God. He did not believe in a fall followed by a cursed world when God’s original perfection was ruined by sin. Obviously your starting point, call that your “world view,” will determine your conclusion no matter how fair

and balanced you try to be as you weigh up the evidence.

One of his favorite arguments went like this: Imagine a garden which was overgrown, full of weeds, thistles and the like, and therefore a complete mess. Now somebody comes along and claims that this garden is tended by a gardener who loves and cares for it. So you look at the mess and you ask,



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“Where is the evidence for the existence of this gardener? Have you ever seen him?” It has to be admitted that this gardener never appears, so he’s never been seen by anybody — but he exists, believers in the gardener maintain. So you say that if he does exist he’s an absent gardener and doesn’t care about the garden, or he’s the worst gardener ever. God, of course, is the gardener in this story. I doubt that Flew made up the joke based on his analogy, but whoever did must have known about it. You know the one? It goes like this: “A vicar was walking down a road and passing a house with a beautifully kept garden, wonderful flower beds, grass mown to perfection, you get the picture, and he saw the gardener working in it. He knew the man and that he wasn’t a believer or church-goer, so the vicar stopped, waved an expansive hand in the direction of the garden, and accosted him. ‘Bill, isn’t it wonderful what man and God



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working together can achieve?’ Bill thought for a moment and scratched his chin before replying, ‘I suppose you’d know about things like that vicar, but you should have seen it when God had it all to Himself.’” A believer in Adam would have known why there really is a gardener and why the garden now is in a mess.

However, professor Tony Flew didn’t just base his atheism on his gardener analogy. He maintained that the onus of proof in a belief belongs to the believer not the opponent. To sustain such a belief in say, fairies, elves, ghosts, deities, etc., it’s the believer who must prove his case not the disbeliever who must disprove it. Then he would argue that the proposition that “There is

a God” is not a proper proposition for investigation because there is nothing which a believer would ever accept which would count against his belief being true. In other words could we, as Christians, accept a situation where we would test the notion of there being a God and agree with the unbeliever that if such-and-such happens there is a God but if something else happens then there isn't?

Let me illustrate this by an all-too-common situation: somebody we love being involved in a very bad accident. When we pray to God for them we don't, can't, and won't specify what answer would count for there being a God or against there being a God. That's not on our agenda because we are not praying so we can test the notion that there is a God. If they recover, we praise God for His healing mercies; if they do not recover, we praise God for His wisdom and kindness in saving them from a situation where they would have no quality of life. In His wisdom, obviously it was the best for them—and while we wait anxiously for the answer we don't blame God for the wait. If they get better, we praise God for answered prayers in line with our wishes; if they don't, we bless God for His mercy.

The question that there might not even be a God, let alone one who cares what happens to our loved ones is not on the table—because we believe that there is a God though we've never seen Him. We talk to thin air when we pray and believe that there is One who hears us and answers us, though He doesn't ever speak directly to us or show Himself, yet despite this we believe in Him. To a believer there's no way that God can lose in this situation no matter what the outcome, so how can we maintain that there is a God and that this is not simply self-delusion? This was Flew's point. No matter what the outcome, we will see God's hand in it and won't ever consider the proposition that there isn't a God at all. That's why Flew maintained that God's existence is not a proper proposition to investigate because it cannot be falsified. It's just a faith system which is philosophically invalid. Those inside the system, as we are, believe our approach is perfectly valid. However, if we were trying to convince an unbeliever of the existence, love, and care of God, and if he had any grey matter between his ears, he wouldn't remotely consider an approach through prayer and claims of healing for our loved ones, as a valid test of the existence or otherwise of there being a God. His question would naturally be, if there is a God and He loves us so much as we maintain, why didn't He prevent the accident in the first place?

Of course, if it were just as Flew suggests, we would have to agree with him but this is not at all how we assess it. God is not a philosophical proposition, though His existence, or not, is what most philosophy students cut their philosophical teeth on. There is plenty of evidence for the existence of God and therefore why we should be on the inside and praying as we do. However, there is an end with

a twist in it to this story, which is why I'm sharing it with you, and why I was saddened and a little blue when I heard of Flew's death.

Tony Flew was a man genuinely on a quest for truth. I was saddened because had he started from a different premise, he could well have found the answer in Jesus, but sadly he didn't. Those of us who knew him, and are believers, were hoping against hope that he would. We were hoping he would live long enough finally to confess Jesus as Lord—but he didn't. What gave us this hope?

One of the principles he lived by, or operated under, came from Socrates, who said:

"We must follow the argument wherever it leads." In 2004, Professor Antony Flew, arch-atheist and scourge of Christian believers, published a book in which he renounced his atheism and declared that there has to be a God. Many former students were horrified. After all, they were atheists because he had taught them to be. They had spent a lifetime following his arguments and believed

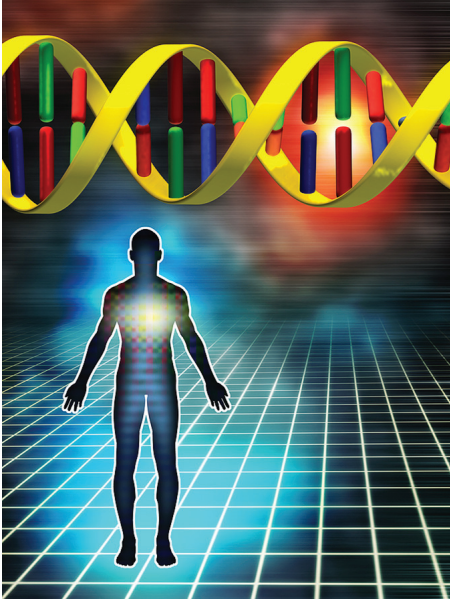


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them to be true. I can't overstate the position. If the Pope became a Protestant, or Osama bin Laden confessed "Jesus is Lord", or Richard Dawkins became a Young-Earth, Six-Day Creationist, the shock-waves could not have been bigger—really! In the end they handled it simply by ignoring it, condescendingly putting it down to the fact that he was now an old man in his 80s and obviously going senile. It saved them from having to face up to the truth by following where the argument leads.

What convinced him? It was simple really. The discoveries of scientists during his lifetime, particularly in unravelling DNA, have revealed an amazingly complex world and universe. Even so-called simple life shows astonishingly complex systems at work. There is nothing simple about a simple organism. So complex and so intricate are the workings and design of nature that the possibility that these things came about by chance is simply nonsense, by whatever criteria you use to evaluate it. Flew followed the argument where it led and it led to a designer who designed the world—we call Him God. That's where the facts lead, if you follow them. It's precisely the argument





2010 © Andrea Danti. Image from BigStockPhoto.com

used by Paul in Romans 1, where he writes: “For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, ‘The righteous shall live by faith.’ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For *his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have*

*been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made.* So they are without excuse” (Romans 1:16–20, ESV, emphasis added). We can see God in the things that have been made, and that’s precisely what Flew saw and, bless his heart, he was big enough to come out and renounce a lifetime’s belief when faced with this undeniable truth. It’s God’s own argument to show evidence of His existence; it’s the biblical approach to the question and it’s the main approach made today by creationist organizations in their literature. This is one reason why I make such an effort to teach from this perspective.

If you know anything about this area of study, you will recognize it as the Intelligent Design (ID) argument. Unfortunately ID on its own does not lead to Jesus as Saviour or even to the God of the Bible. It just leads to a belief that there is a god who designed the universe, and no more. This “god” is just a mechanic, an engineer, who made things, made them work, and essentially now sits back and watches things unfold from there. He may have made the “garden” but he doesn’t tend it—Flew could still cling on to his gardener analogy. This god is a Deist god, not the loving, caring God we love, serve, and adore. You have to move on from the designer and ask why would He just opt out? Wouldn’t it be logical for Him to reveal Himself somehow to the creatures He made? How would we judge this and find out? And here is where the Bible comes in with the story of how He not only revealed Himself, He came down and joined in, in the form of Jesus of Nazareth, was killed and rose from the dead three days later,



thereby proving not only that there is a God but that He does care and interact and that He hates the mess the world has gotten into and wants to do something marvelous about it.

But you see, if you don't believe in Adam, the perfect world God designed and created, and the fall, followed by the curse, you logically can't be led to Jesus by the force of the argument, or rather by following where the argument leads. Because that's where it leads, and that's why when we pray we definitely can allow God's hand to be seen in the answers we receive, be it "Yes" or "No." Thus we, as believers learn to pray as Jesus did "Nevertheless Thy will not mine be done," and then rejoice and praise God in the outcome no matter which way it turns out.

Poor old Tony Flew. He died before he was able to follow the argument wherever it led. He ran out of time, or maybe he stopped looking because he thought he'd arrived at where it led. He stopped looking because he hadn't started from the Bible and the biblical starting point with Adam, Eve, and the fall. Consequently he was unable to finish the job. I had hoped he might and that the angels would now be rejoicing over a sinner who repented and, like the lost sheep, came back into the fold. Tony died adamantly stating that he believed in a Deist god, nothing at all like the God of the Bible, and that he didn't want to live for ever, indeed he didn't want anything "for ever." Well, I'm sorry but now he's actually got something for ever and it's not at all what he would have wanted, hoped for, or expected at death. It is something he could never handle philosophically for philosophers don't accept that the notion of Hell is a valid subject for discussion. It is unfalsifiable because there is nothing which believers would allow to count against it.

It has been said, "There will be no atheists in Hell." One second after death every atheist becomes a believer in God, and that Jesus is Lord. Our God is not just an intellectual exercise or a philosophical argument, as Professor Antony Flew sadly now knows, but can do nothing more at all about it.



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## *Some Thoughts on Love*

"To love at all is to be vulnerable. Love anything and your heart will certainly be wrung and possibly be broken. If you want to make sure of keeping it intact, you must give your heart to no one, not even to an animal. Wrap it carefully round with hobbies and little luxuries; avoid all entanglements; lock it up safe in the casket or coffin of your selfishness. But in that casket—safe, dark, motionless, airless—it will change. It will not be broken; it will become unbreakable, impenetrable, irredeemable. To love is to become vulnerable ... . The only place outside Heaven where you can be perfectly safe from all the dangers and perturbations of love is Hell."

C. S. Lewis in *The Four Loves*

"God is Love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him."

The Apostle John in 1 John 4:16 (NIV)

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

Jesus in John 13:34, 35 (NIV)

**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!



# 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 simply is 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.

## MAX PLANCK – NOBEL PRIZE IN PHYSICS FATHER OF MODERN PHYSICS AND FOUNDER OF QUANTUM MECHANICS

“Both religion and science need for their activities the belief in God, and moreover God stands for the former in the beginning, and for the latter at the end of the whole thinking. For the former, God represents the basis, for the latter — the crown of any reasoning concerning the world view.” “Religion represents a bond of man to God. It consists in reverent awe before a supernatural Might, to which human life is subordinated and which has in its power our welfare and misery. To remain in permanent contact with this Might and keep it all the time inclined to oneself, is the unending effort and highest goal of the believing man. Because only in such a way can one feel himself safe before expected and unexpected dangers, which threaten one in his life, and can take part in the highest happiness — inner psychological peace — which can be attained only by means of strong bond to God and unconditional trust to His omnipotence and willingness to help.”

“That God existed before there were human beings on Earth, that He holds the entire world, believers and nonbelievers, in His omnipotent hand for eternity, and that He will remain enthroned on a level inaccessible to human comprehension long after the Earth and everything that is on it has gone to ruins; those who profess this faith and who, inspired by it, in veneration and complete confidence, feel secure from the dangers of life under protection of the Almighty, only those may number themselves among the truly religious.”

“Yet in the whole of the universe there is no force that is either intelligent or eternal, and we must therefore assume that behind this force there is a conscious, intelligent Mind or Spirit. This is the very origin of all matter.” (Additional quotes are in our Jan/Feb 2008 issue,)

# Cynthia's Corner

## SPIRITUAL PERSPECTIVE

Often, how we respond to anyone or anything depends on our perspective. When I was recuperating from surgery recently, I endured a difficult weekend of pain, discomfort, stress, and finally, an explosive purge of seemingly everything inside me. It was not a pleasant experience to say the least. However, had I not gone through that, I would not have gotten better. That perspective was not realized, however, until after I had started feeling better.

Often, we cannot understand why we go through difficult times and, certainly, we cannot see any good in it until after the crisis has passed. Sometimes that takes a long time or we may never see it. But, as children of God, we must develop a spiritual perspective in life in order to be content in any and all situations as Paul was (Philippians 4:11, 12). We may never understand why we suffer or go through trials; but, in order to stay faithful to God through anything we encounter throughout our lifetimes, we must trust Him when He promises “that in ALL things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to HIS purpose” (Romans 8:28, NIV, emphasis added).



What does that mean? It does NOT mean that all things that happen are good in our life, but it DOES mean that everything we go through can become good for us if we keep trusting, loving, and obeying God.

What is good for us? This is where our perspective and God's perspective often are NOT the same. Was Paul's thorn in the flesh (2 Corinthians 12:7) good for him? Because he had a spiritual perspective, he saw the good in it (2 Corinthians 1:9 and 12:7–10). A spiritual perspective is God's perspective. I think James 1:2–4; 1 Peter 1:6, 7; and 2 Corinthians 4:17, 18 all show us God's perspective that NOTHING in this world is more important than our eternal soul staying in a saved relationship with our Creator until we die. That is a spiritual perspective, and whatever it takes to maintain that perspective is spiritual maturity.

—Cynthia Clayton





## BOOK REVIEWS

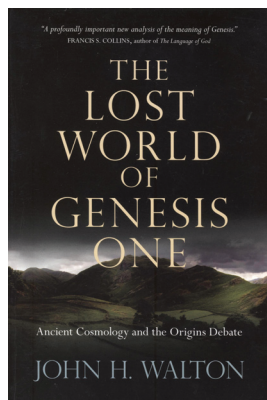
The books that are reviewed in the Book Review section are not available through us, but can be obtained from a local bookstore or through many online bookstores.

### The Lost World of Genesis One

by John H. Walton, IVP Academic Publishers, 2009, 192 pages,  
\$16.00 (paperback) ISBN-13: 978-0-8308-3704-5

John H. Walton is a professor of Old Testament at Wheaton College and has written many books on the subject. We are interested in this book, because it comes to the same conclusions that we have suggested in this journal, but from a different perspective. What is meant by, “We take the Bible literally”? Interpreting an English translation through the teachings of a denominational tradition is not taking the Bible literally. To take the Bible literally you have to look at who wrote it, to whom it was written, and how the people of that day would have understood it. Our approach has been to look at the Hebrew words used in Genesis and ask how the people of that day would have understood the words. We believe they would have understood the animals described in Genesis as the ones that they saw in front of them—their barnyard animals—and those close to them in the rivers and streams of their land. Animals like dinosaurs, which could have been part of God’s tools to prepare earth for humans, would not be what they would have understood those words to mean.

Walton comes to a similar conclusion by studying the culture and language of ancient Israel. The book is divided into 18 propositions starting with ancient cosmology and ancient science. The Genesis account is viewed as presenting functions, not accurate, modern science. The ancients saw the cosmos as a temple, and Genesis one is not an explanation of the material production of creation but of the establishment of the temple. It is a different and interesting approach, and those struggling with Genesis and the advances of modern sci-

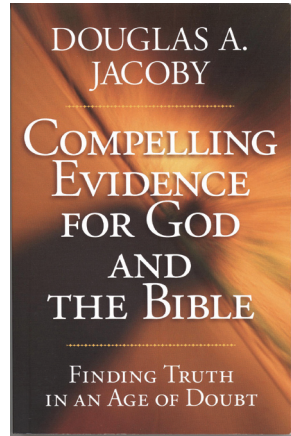


ence will find it useful and interesting—and challenging. It is not a book for young or immature readers.

### **Compelling Evidence for God and the Bible**

by Douglas A. Jacoby, Harvest House Publishers, 2010, 260 pages,  
\$13.99, (paperback) ISBN-13: 978-0-7369-2708-6

Many years ago while lecturing in London, England, I became a good friend of Douglas Jacoby. I was impressed with him, and encouraged him to use his enormous talent to be a power for God in apologetics. I am thrilled he has done that, and has far exceeded my feeble abilities in this area. In my opinion he is the strongest person in the church today in apologetics. Douglas has degrees in history from Duke University, theology from Harvard Divinity School, and ministry from Drew University. For several years he has lectured at universities in over 100 countries and debated people like Michael Shirmer, one of the educational community's best known atheists.



This book is divided into four parts. The first part deals with atheism and the fundamental evidence for the existence of God. Jacoby does a wonderful job of showing the intellectual impossibility of atheism. His discussion of the evidence for God's existence is very well done, but somewhat superficial since his strength is not in science and his discussion is mostly philosophical and theological. Part two deals with the Bible and its credibility and canonicity. The third part looks at Jesus Christ and the evidence that He was who He said He was—the Son of God and the one path to God. Part four deals with world religions and personal decisions about God and how to handle doubt. There are three appendices on how to study the Bible, the Trinity, and apparent contradictions in the Bible. Douglas and I use many of the same tools—the cosmological flow sheet, “Flatland” and many quotes from atheists. The weakness of the book is that it tackles such a huge range of issues that some subjects may need more discussion. For example, Jacoby states that there is no direct scientific evidence for the existence of God (page 18), but that statement depends upon the meaning of the word “direct evidence.” He explains how we DO make evidence count however, and does it well.

The strength of this book is that the author is very well read and uses solid philosophical arguments in his defense of God's existence. The book is not strong on science, but it is excellent in its intellectual handling of the objections of atheists to belief in God. It will be a great book to give to any student going to college, or to a college graduate who has lost faith while in college. We highly recommend this book.

# DANDY DESIGNS



## THE CHAMELEON: DESIGN EXTRAORDINAIRE

Chameleons are amazing animals incredibly designed to feed in a remarkable way. Chameleons eat bugs. They do so by shooting their tongues out of their body and snagging the bug. Some chameleons can extend their tongues twice their body length and can do so in .07 seconds. Most of us know that frogs do something similar to this, but the chameleon has some remarkable design features that allow it to function in ways different from frogs. Chameleons have legs that allow them to climb and grip limbs or twigs. They have a tail that can be wrapped around a limb or twig for leverage and balance. Their skin can change color to match the environment they are in, giving them a very high level of camouflage.

Two of the most remarkable characteristics of the chameleon are its eyes and brain. The eyes can either work together or independently. They are located in ball sockets that rotate and the animal can look two completely different directions at once, thus finding prey and avoiding enemies in a highly efficient way. When the chameleon finds prey, both eyes will point toward the prey giving the chameleon stereoscopic vision which allows it to judge distance accurately and capture its food. For the eyes to be able to function both independently and together is unlike almost all other forms of life.

Recently researchers at the University of South Florida reported another amazing design in the chameleon. It had been noticed that even in very cold weather the chameleon could function even though it is a cold-blooded reptile. Why did the cold not slow down its ability to catch prey? It turns out that the tongue is made of collagen which uncoils on the basis of momentum, not muscle strength. This means that no muscles have to be used to get the prey. Reeling the tongue back in was significantly slowed (up to 63 percent), but that is not an issue in catching the prey. This animal, remarkably designed to secure its prey in a variety of conditions, speaks of a designer that used unique materials and engineering.

Source: *Scientific American*, May 2010, page 18, and online in the March 8, 2010 *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

Photo: 2010 © Cathy Keifer. Image from BigStockPhoto.com

# OUR SUN — FAR FROM AN AVERAGE

When I was a child I was told by my science teachers that the sun was “an average star.” To back up that description, it was pointed out that there were stars hotter than our sun and colder as well. There were stars that were bigger and smaller. Even in my college work when we plotted the luminosity of the stars against their temperature it was pointed out that our sun is pretty much in the center of the diagram and has a G2 spectral classification which is pretty much in the middle of the system-used to categorize stars. The Hubble Space Telescope has taught us much about the distribution of stars in space, and measurements of stars by instruments using different parts of the electromagnetic spectrum have added to our recognition that the sun is an extraordinary star. A recent issue of *Astronomy* magazine has a cover article titled “Is the Sun an Oddball Star.” In it many of the unusual attributes of the sun are listed and some of the problems astronomers are having finding similar stars are explained. Just a few of those attributes include the following:

**THE SUN IS A SINGLE STAR.** Most stars in the cosmos are binary or trinary stars—two or three stars orbiting one another. The distances that we are from those stars prevent us from telling that with our naked eyes, but a vast majority are not single stars.

**THE SUN IS STABLE.** Most stars have violent flares and star quakes that bathe their region of space with radiation that would be lethal to life. Some stars spin very rapidly producing great instability in their photospheres. Our sun is remarkably stable.

**THE SUN RADIATES THE PROPER WAVELENGTHS FOR LIFE.** Many biological processes depend upon particular wavelengths of light to function. Photosynthesis cannot operate with just any energy of light, and our sun radiates those wavelengths critical for photosynthesis to occur and does not radiate the high energy radiation that we see in many other stars.

**THE SUN'S TEMPERATURE IS CRITICAL.** For water-based life to occur, there has to be a critical distance that can be maintained from the star providing the energy. Our sun has a temperature that allows a large solar habitable zone where the earth can have an elliptical orbit and still support life. Being too close to a star produces massive instability in a planet, and most stars are too small for a solar habitable zone to be at great distances from them.

For a more complete listing and explanation of the unique features of our sun read the June 2010 issue of *Astronomy* magazine. The sun is an incredibly designed furnace, made of its own fuel, which still has 98 percent of the hydrogen fuel it had the day it was created.



# News and Notes

**SINGER'S HONESTY.** One of the leading atheists in the world is Peter Singer, the Ira W. DeCamp Professor of Bioethics at Princeton University. Singer has consistently maintained that the unfit in human society should be eradicated. In his view the mentally disadvantaged, physically handicapped, and mentally ill should be humanely put to death so they do not drain the resources of those who are fit. In an article he wrote in the *New York Times* ([opinionator.blog.nytimes.com](http://opinionator.blog.nytimes.com), June 6, 2010) he asks the question, "How good does life have to be, to make it reasonable to bring a child into the world?" He answers his own question by stating, "We spend most of our lives with unfulfilled desires, and the occasional satisfactions that are all most of us can achieve are insufficient to outweigh these prolonged negative states. ... If we could see our lives objectively, we would see that they are not something we should inflict on anyone."

A reader by the name of Andy Williams made this excellent comment regarding Singer's honesty, "... unlike many thinkers who refuse to take atheism to its logical conclusions, Peter Singer shows integrity and consistency in his work — which drives him to such radical, wrong conclusions. It is frustrating to try to get atheists to follow their world view to many of its logical conclusions — they would prefer half truth, bashing theists (most notably Christians) and asserting why they can have the same values as theists without any need for God or religion. But, Singer does not hide or equivocate. He does not dance around unpopular issues or try to dress up the bad ideas springing from an atheistic world view. We should pray for him but also be grateful that he's willing to be honest." Source: *Christianity Today*, August 2010, page 44, and [www.christianitytoday.com](http://www.christianitytoday.com).

**ATHEIST HUMAN MORALITY CLAIMS HIT.** For the past several years Harvard University's Dr. Marc Hauser has claimed that studies of cotton-top tamarin monkeys show all of the characteristics previously thought to be unique to humans. Hauser's goal was to explain morality in purely evolutionary terms, and he was considered by many to be a leader in the field of evolutionary psychology. Hauser claimed to have documented kindness, caring for others, and a moral code in the tamarins he studied. In August 2010, Harvard's Standing

Committee on Professional Conduct found Hauser guilty of “scientific misconduct.” Eric Felten writing in the *Wall Street Journal* says that Hauser cooked the books and, in the process, has brought the entire field into disrepute. Christopher Ryan writing in *Psychology Today* says, “Many of the most prominent voices in the field of evolutionary psychology are less scientists than political philosophers.” Man’s unique make-up as a being created in the image of God continues to have a wealth of support as far as evidence is concerned.

**OF APES AND PERSONHOOD.** If man evolved from an ape-like ancestor, or if you believe man is just another species of ape, then apes have the same rights that humans have. Spain has adopted this position using “The Great Ape Project” which, interestingly enough, is run by Peter Singer mentioned earlier in this column. Apes have been banned from scientific research in the United Kingdom, New Zealand, Australia, the Netherlands, Japan, Switzerland, Sweden, and Austria. When you throw out the biblical view of man as a being specially created in the image of God, then human value goes out the window as well. If you re-read the article in this section about Peter Singer you can see the connections between atheism and this view of man as being of no value. Singer says “I feel we should extend rights to a wide range of nonhuman animals. All creatures that can feel pain should have a basic moral status.” Let us emphasize that we do not support any living thing being exposed to pain, but the denial that humans have any special worth is a violation of the Bible, the evidence, and of common sense. Source: *Seed* magazine, December 2008, page 12.

**RADIOMETRIC DATING CONTROVERSY.** It is always interesting to see how a scientific discovery is interpreted by different groups. New data has shown that radioactive decay for some nuclei is not always the same. This has come from neutrino emissions from transmutation processes, and it shows that radiations vary with the time of the year. In the past, high voltages have been shown to affect nuclear decay. Some have suggested this invalidates radiometric dating, but the changes are much too small to suggest that. Since radiometric dating is only one of some 600 plus methods of dating it has no real relevance to the age of things. This is a sectarian issue based on denominational traditions and has nothing to do with science or the Bible, so it is not something that general readers need to be concerned about. However, saying that radiometric dating has been proven wrong is a vast overstatement. Source: *Science News*, November 22, 2008, has some discussion of this if you are interested.

**JUPITER COLLISION WAS AN ASTEROID.** One of the interesting discoveries about the solar system is that the Earth's stability is in part caused by the outer planets—Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune. These planets have very large gravitational fields and are strategically placed so that objects such as comets coming in along the ecliptic plane are caught and absorbed by these large planets. The Shoemaker-Levy Comet in 1994 was the first example science saw of this arrangement, but on July 23, 2009, another impact was observed with debris clearly visible through the month of August. Since no one saw it coming, there was speculation about what hit Jupiter. Researchers studying Hubble Space Telescope pictures of the impact have decided it was an asteroid strike, and not a comet. The bottom line is that the design of the solar system that allows life to exist on Earth is far more complex than anyone realized even a few years ago. Source: *Science News*, July 3, 2010, page 10.

**CIRCUMCISION AND HIV.** Critics of the Bible have long picked on the circumcision command as a myth and a vestige of cruel, impractical pagan cultures that was just regurgitated by the Bible writers. They said it was just further proof that the Bible was only the work of man. In *Science News* (January 3, 2009, page 14) there is a comparison made between areas of Africa where 100 percent of the males have been circumcised and those places where the percentages are smaller, going down to near zero percent. Those comparisons are made with HIV infection rates, and the results are startling. Scientists on the scene say that circumcision reduces the chances of getting HIV by at least 50 percent. Following God's rules for sexual conduct would reduce those chances to zero percent, but the advantages of circumcision are very clear. God had a medical reason for the circumcision covenant with Abraham in Genesis 17 as well as the spiritual covenant.

**MISLEADING ALCOHOL CLAIMS.** There has been a number of articles in a variety of newspapers and magazines suggesting that moderate drinking causes a lower risk for myocardial infarction (coronary disease) and related issues. In an article published in the *Journal Watch General Medicine* (December 18, 2008) Dr. Richard Saitz points out that the benefits cited do not apply to the general public. They are confined to people with "unhealthful behaviors" which include smoking, lack of exercise, poor diet, etc. There are so many health hazards associated with alcohol, that encouraging people to drink for health reasons is ludicrous. The flavonoids in the wine, not the alcohol, provide the benefits. Eating grapes or drinking unfermented grape juice would give more healthful benefits. We suspect the distillers are the source of the myth that drinking will improve your health.

**GLOBAL WARMING—ON MARS.** Data on Mars has come from the Viking orbiters of the late 1970s, the Mars Global Surveyor of the 1999–2000 period, and recent probes to Mars. Air temperatures have increased as much as 4<sup>0</sup> C at the south pole of Mars, but there is a general warming taking place with average temperatures increasing nearly a degree during the observation period. Changes in Mars' albedo (light reflected from the surface) of as much as 10 percent have been recorded. This change is probably due to dust storms. Solar changes are also a possible cause. The major point here is that global warming is not just human caused, and the natural causes are highly complex. Mankind certainly is a catalyst in all of this, but oversimplifications on all sides make the picture fuzzy at best. Source: *Science News*, April 7, 2007, page 214 and NASA News on their Web site.

**ARTIFICIAL LIFE CREATED?** Dr Craig Venter claims that he has made artificial life. Venter has been called “the world’s greatest scientific provocateur” and he has had his own company which was involved in mapping the human genome. What Venter did was to take the DNA of a bacteria that infects goats called *Mycoplasma mycoides* and put fragments of its DNA into yeast which makes a synthetic copy of the original DNA. This artificial DNA is then put into a bacterium which grows and divides creating two daughter cells one of which has the artificial DNA. The other bacterium are killed allowing the one with the synthetic DNA to multiply. This is claimed to be artificial life. It is not the creation of life. Actually it is like taking various parts of cars from different models and assembling them into a new car and saying we created a car. We did not create anything, we just re-arranged the parts. The process is actually quite dangerous, because you have no idea of what the new life form will be able to do. It is not creation of life in any sense of the word. Source: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-1279988/Artificial-life-created-Craig-Venter--wipe-humanity.html>.

**MORMON HISTORY.** In the May 2010 issue of *Salt Lake City Messenger* there is an excellent article by Sandra Tanner titled “Joseph Smith—The Early Years.” This heavily documented review of the life of Joseph Smith is very helpful for those who have family members who are being approached by Mormons. It outlines three areas of influence that helped to shape Joseph Smith’s teachings: his religious environment, the Smith family and magic, and contemporary attitudes about the American Indians. You can get a copy from Utah Lighthouse Ministry, P.O. Box 1884, Salt Lake City, UT 84110-1884, phone 801-485-0312, or e-mail [newsletter@utlm.org](mailto:newsletter@utlm.org). You can also read it on their Web site [www.utlm.org/newsletters/no114.htm](http://www.utlm.org/newsletters/no114.htm).



**CHRISTOPHER HITCHENS HAS CANCER.** Christopher Hitchens, the radical atheist and author of the *New York Times* bestselling book *God is Not Great*, has terminal cancer. Hitchens is not only an unbeliever, but he has stated very bluntly that “religion poisons everything.” He does not just believe that faith in God is foolish, but he believes it is one of the greatest evils and dangers to mankind.

An Associated Press news release of August 14, 2010, said, “Christopher Hitchens tells *The Atlantic* he knows he is dying from cancer of the esophagus, but that has not changed his view that all religion is pure fiction. ‘Religion is manmade,’ he declares. ‘All gods found so far have been manmade.’” The news release went on to say further that, “Several groups have organized a day of prayer for Hitchens, which is something he says he is okay with, as long as the contributors abide by one condition: ‘I take it kindly on the assumption that people are praying for my recovery,’ he adds.”

My first thought, as a Christian, was to pray for Hitchens to come to faith in God and accept Christ as his Savior. I thought it was interesting that he thinks it is okay for people to pray for his recovery, but not to pray that he would come to faith in God. After all, if there is no God, what good would it do to pray to God for his healing? Then I realized he is probably thinking that Christians would be praying for him to die. If that’s the case, it just goes to show how little he understands about true Christians.

The thought of praying for him to die should not occur to any Christian who has the true attitude of Christ. It is disturbing to find that there are people who are supposedly Christians posting death wishes for Hitchens in written and video form on the internet. True Christians would be praying for Hitchens’ life to be lengthened so that he might have an opportunity to come to faith in God and accept and obey Jesus. True Christians would pray for his physical healing, of course, but even more we would pray for his spiritual healing and wholeness, because that is infinitely more important than physical healing. Nothing brings more joy to a Christian than seeing a person who has rejected God repent and surrender to the God who loves him. In fact, the Bible tells us that nothing brings more joy to God and the angels in heaven than a sinner who comes to repentance (Luke 15:7).

As Christians, we are all sinners saved by grace, the favor God has bestowed upon us and that we did not deserve. God’s grace is not limited. He has enough to extend to all who will accept the grace He has to give them. It is not possible to know whether Christopher Hitchens will still be alive by the time this publication reaches you. However, we hope that you will always follow the instructions and example of Jesus who said, “Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you” (Matthew 5:44).

—Roland Earnst



Thank you for helping us to guide  
those who are wisely seeking the King.  
May the Lord bless you in 2011.

*Roland Earnst, Glynn Langston,  
Linda Glover, Karl Marcussen,  
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Signed—Karl H. Marcussen, Managing Editor, Oct. 8, 2010

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