

July/August 2011

Volume 38 Number 4

DOES GOD EXIST?



WHY? DINOSAURS?

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

Does God Exist? Lectureships

Sep. 9–11 Lagrange, IN

260-562-3017

Sep. 18-23 Canyonlands Tour
has been cancelled

269-687-9426

*Call to confirm before going
to any of these programs.
Check our website for an
updated list of lectures.
www.doesgodexist.org*

- - - - -

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Genesis 1:1

Articles in this Issue:

Why Dinosaurs?	3
New Dinosaur Data and “Kinds”	8
Jonah and the Whale/Fish/?????	11

Guest Article:

Science and Religion Are Not Enemies	14
---	----

Special Features:

Nobel Scientists and God	20
Cynthia’s Corner	21
Book Reviews:	
Created to Be His Help Meet	22
The Ultimate Bible Quiz Book	23
Dandy Designs:	
The Most Complex Machine on Earth	24
More Design Features in Reproduction	25
Does God Exist?	
News and Notes	26
The Canyonlands Tour Has Been Cancelled	

The **Does God Exist?** program offers apologetic materials in several languages for all ages. We are designed to serve and help others. Our materials are available on a loan basis or at our cost. If you are not aware of our DVDs or video tapes, CDs or audio tapes, courses, books, teaching materials, materials for the blind, and on-line question/answer services, contact us for a catalog and information sheets or visit www.doesgodexist.tv.

Correspondence should be addressed to John Clayton
1555 Echo Valley Dr., Niles, MI 49120-8738
e-mail: jncdge@aol.com

Home phone: 269-687-9426 FAX: 269-687-9431

Does God Exist? websites: <http://www.doesgodexist.org>;
dandydesigns.org; scienceterrific.com; whypain.org;
doesgodexist.tv; and grandpajohn.tv

Send subscription requests, orders, or address changes to:
Does God Exist?, PO Box 2704, South Bend, IN 46680-2704
Phone: 574-514-1400 or by e-mail: marcusen@michiana.org

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

WHY DINOSAURS?

There is probably no area where we see more questions, more misconceptions, more erroneous teaching, or more interest on the part of children than the existence of the dinosaurs. Children are fascinated with dinosaurs, and adults seem to be bewildered by them. Periodically we have had articles about dinosaurs in this publication, and every time we do we get a pile of letters from people which demonstrate they are still confused about what we know about these interesting creatures and how they fit into the history of this planet. Certainly neither we nor anyone else knows all there is to know about dinosaurs, but there



are some facts that are clear. It is important to understand that dinosaurs are not a threat to a literal reading of the Bible nor are they a part of any claimed conflict between science and faith. In this article I would like to explore some of the common ques-

tions and misconceptions that exist about dinosaurs, and hopefully help parents, grandparents, teachers, and young people have a better understanding of what the facts are and what the Bible actually says about the “terrible lizards” of the past.

DINOSAURS DID EXIST. One method that has been taken by some religious people has been to deny that dinosaurs ever existed. There have been those who have claimed that dinosaurs were the inventions of devious scientists who had an agenda and manufactured fossils to back their agenda. Others have claimed that God created the earth already full grown complete with dinosaur fossils in the rocks to appear to be something they were not.

Your author has been on many fossil digs in which dinosaurs have been found. I have seen the bones, the skin sections, and the eggs

of dinosaurs in many different places. Today you can buy fossilized dinosaur eggs in a number of places, and with the right tools you can cut open the egg and see the baby dinosaur inside. Honest, seeking people have been involved in many of these finds. Evidence is found in so many places that it is ludicrous to maintain that all of this is some devious scheme to mislead innocent people.

To suggest that God faked the dinosaurs is a proposal that violates the nature of God. James 1:13 tells us that “God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone.” God does not fake history nor does He mislead us in any way. Some will quote 2 Thessalonians 2:11 which says “... God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie.” The context of this passage concerns the coming of Christ. Verses 9 and 10 tell us that the method that will be used is that Satan will have “... all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders, and in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing. ... because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.” Verse 12 tells us that those who are the target of this powerful delusion “... have delighted in wickedness.” It is nonsense to apply this to people who are studying what God has allowed us to read in the rocks to improve the availability of resources to our fellow man.

THE TAXONOMIC CLASS OF DINOSAURS IS NOT A BIBLICAL ISSUE. The Bible consistently uses four groupings of animals in its listing of animal types. First Corinthians 15:39 tells us that they are (1) the flesh of fish, (2) the flesh of birds, (3) the flesh of beasts, and (4) the flesh of man. In Genesis 1 the same taxonomy is used. Verses 20–21 tell about the flesh of fish and birds. Verses 24 and 25 tell about the flesh of beasts. Verses 26–27 give us the flesh of man. In the flood account the same groups are used in Genesis 7:13–15 with the exception of fish, which would not be victims in a flood.

Modern biologists are having quite a struggle with the biological classification of dinosaurs. There is growing evidence that they may have been related to the modern birds, with warm blooded metabolism and feather evidence being found at least in some specimens. The word “dinosaur” literally means “terrible lizard” and a lizard would be in the fish category with a cold blooded metabolism and scales. It may be that some dinosaurs were ancestors of the birds and others were more fish-like in their body function. Whatever is found in the next 50 years, it will not be a biblical issue.

DINOSAURS HAD A PURPOSE. God has a purpose in everything He does, and the Bible tells us that nothing is done in vain (Isaiah 55:11). Dinosaurs had a purpose for existing, but many false impressions exist about what that purpose might have been. Some

have suggested that dinosaurs were the strong delusion mentioned earlier. Some have suggested that oil is “smashed dinosaurs.” Oil is produced by microscopic organisms called diatoms. As these creatures live out their lives they accumulate a drop of crude oil in their skeletal structure. When they die they settle to the floor of the ocean and are buried. Pressure squeezes out the oil drop and the skeletal material becomes diatomaceous earth. This may not be the only way oil is produced, but it is certainly a major way. Squashing dinosaurs like an orange to squeeze out oil is not a way to make oil.

Dinosaurs have been called the “gardeners of the Mesozoic” by some writers. Studies of the ecology of the age of the dinosaurs show that the earth at that time was much warmer than today and seems to have had a higher oxygen content. The plants of that day were not like the plants of today. They grew rapidly, did not have growth rings like the temperate climate plants that we know, and were massive in size. The plant-eating dinosaurs processed those plants, pruning them and placing them in anaerobic (oxygen free) conditions. This produced the massive amounts of coal seen in the earth. Like any ecosystem, there had to be balance and animals that prevented the plant-eating dinosaurs from overgrazing the plants were necessary—the predators. There also had to be animals that would clean up the dead, and animals like *Tyrannosaurus rex* were the vultures of that time. We are learning more and more about how the system functioned, but it is becoming obvious that this was the period when God prepared the resources that He knew man would need.



God could have zapped oil, gas, and coal into existence, but if He had done it that way, how would we have found these vital resources? We have learned how to read the record in the rocks, and this reading enables us to look for and find oil in unlikely places such as the north slopes of Alaska and in the Gulf of Mexico.

DINOSAURS ARE NOT MENTIONED IN SCRIPTURE.

One of the problems that religious people have with dinosaurs is that they are not mentioned specifically in scripture. In fact they do not fit the animals that are listed in the Bible. First, we need to understand that there is an economy of language in the Bible. Hebrew words are limited, and God tells us only what is necessary to understand what we are and what we need to do about our relationship with God. You

will not find amoeba, viruses, platypuses, echidnas, worms, euglena, penguins, and many other animals in the biblical account. Some 26 million different animals have existed in the earth's history and only a very few are mentioned in the Bible. The animals listed in the Genesis account are the animals that man was dependent upon. In Genesis 1 verses 24–25 the Hebrew *behemah* refers to cattle, and *remes* (translated “creatures that move along the ground” in NIV) refers to sheep and goats—animals the Jews could eat. (See Genesis 9:1–3 where the same groups are used for foods that man could eat.) The “fowl” of verses 20–21 would explain man's chickens and ducks. The “leviathan” of Job 41 refers to an animal of the deep ocean, not a dinosaur (see Psalm 74:13–14 and Isaiah 27:1). The “behemoth” of Job 40:15–24 refers to a large behemah and fits the description of a giant ground sloth perfectly. These are not dinosaurs.

The creation week deals with man and his domesticated animals. God is not trying to explain the millions of various forms of life that have existed on the earth, just those animals vital to man's existence. There is no way the people of Moses' day could have comprehended a dinosaur, or for that matter a platypus. Even in the twentieth century when a platypus was brought to the scientific world it was declared a hoax. It took a live specimen to convince scientific people that such an animal did exist. God's wisdom in an economy of language is clear, and we should not expect the details that we who live in the twenty-first century would like to have.

DINOSAURS DID NOT COEXIST WITH MAN. Many creationist lectures, sermons, books, films, and museums show children riding around happily on the back of a *Tyrannosaurus rex* who usually appears to be smiling. There is absolutely no evidence of any kind that humans and dinosaurs existed at the same time. There have been dozens of scams, fakes, and misunderstood finds which well-meaning people have promoted to justify what their church teaches. There are cave walls with pictures of strange creatures that look like dinosaurs. On those same walls are pictures of creatures with animal torsos and human heads and chests. There are pictures of mermaids throughout the world. Dragons are shown in many ancient drawings and in many ancient myths. In our modern world we see video games, movies, and modern art showing all kinds of fanciful creatures. Who can forget the strange creatures of *Avatar*? Man's imagination has always dreamed up fanciful creatures.

We have seen forged footprints, faked art work, and numerous claims



of modern-day, living dinosaurs that turned out to be a rotted whale or an oarfish. Some were from the imagination of a spooked human in an unfamiliar jungle who did not understand the creature he saw. The world of the dinosaurs would have been impossible for a human to survive. The temperatures, kinds of plants, composition of the atmosphere, and efficiency of the predators would have been prohibitive. The fact is that no human remains of any kind have been found in the same rocks with dinosaurs remains.

DINOSAURS ARE A PART OF THE PREHISTORY OF THE BIBLE. The main source of misunderstanding about dinosaurs and the geologic record of the history of the earth has been a failure to take the Bible literally. To take the Bible literally means to look at who wrote it, who they wrote it to, why they wrote it, and how the people who lived at the time and in the culture would have understood it. Genesis 1:1–3 is written as a setting for the author’s primary message. Denominational teachings have been that these verses are a summary of the rest of the book, but the passage is written in historic style with a sequence of events being described. “*Reshith Elohim bara shamayim erets*” are the Hebrew words translated “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.” *Elohim* is the Hebrew word for God used when the Israelites wanted to express God’s power and creative capacity. *Bara* is a word used only in reference to God’s creative action. It is never used in reference to something man can do. *Shamayim* refers to everything above us—all that we see in space. *Erets* is used in the original language to refer to the earth—everything we see on this planet. In simple words the message is that God created everything. We are not told how God did this. We are not told how long He took to do it. God created time; therefore He has no time limitations. The ancient Hebrews would have understood that everything they saw in their sky was the subject of the creative action of verse one—the sun, moon, stars, galaxies, planets, asteroids, nebulae, meteoroids, comets. In verses 14 through 19 there is a change in what these created objects could be used for. The word *bara* is not used in verses 14–19. God changed things so that there would be “lights in the expanse of the sky to separate day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark seasons and days and years, ...” (verse 14, NIV).

Simply stated, the objects are created in verse 1, their light reaches earth in verse 3, but they could not be used to mark “seasons and days and years” until verses 14–19. This is not someone’s opinion; that is what the Bible says if we take it literally. The earth of verse 1 (*erets*) was not a gelatinous mass of some sort. It was a functional working planet, but without some of the characteristics man knows and depends on. There is scientific evidence that it was a very warm, wet, cloud-shrouded, swampy environment. It was perfect for the

diatoms and plants that would produce the oil, gas, and coal man would need. The Bible does not tell us how all of this was produced, but the scientific evidence is that there was an ecosystem that God used to accomplish His ends in a natural way. The Bible confirms this by telling us that the earth was formless and dark, and indicates that “the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters” (verse 2, NIV). From a biblical standpoint we do not know how long this went on, or how quickly the changes took place. This is a prehistoric time and is simply a part of the process God used to prepare the earth and provide resources for man.

Once the earth and heavens are established in a way that man and his animals could survive in them, we see more specific descriptions of God’s functioning, and once again in verses 21 and 27 we see *bara* used to indicate God’s miraculous actions. When the creation week ends in Genesis 2:3, we see God resting from “all his work which God created (*bara*) and made (*asah*)” (KJV).

The role of the dinosaurs in the history of the earth is still being studied by science. We can believe (1) that dinosaurs never lived, (2) that they were a part of the creation week and are simply not mentioned, (3) that they existed after the creation week and are not mentioned, or (4) that they are a part of the prehistory of the earth in Genesis 1:1–3. I would suggest the most consistent position and the one supported by the evidence is that they existed before the week, during the prehistory of Genesis 1:1–3.

Much remains to be learned about dinosaurs, their role in the history of the earth, and the meanings and implications of the Genesis account. The future will produce greater clarity, and I am convinced it will provide greater confidence in the integrity of the biblical record. The more we know of the creation, the closer we get to the Creator. Knowing we are created in the image of a God who has the power and wisdom to do what God has done to provide for His creation should motivate us to follow His will and serve Him in a way that brings honor and respect to His name.

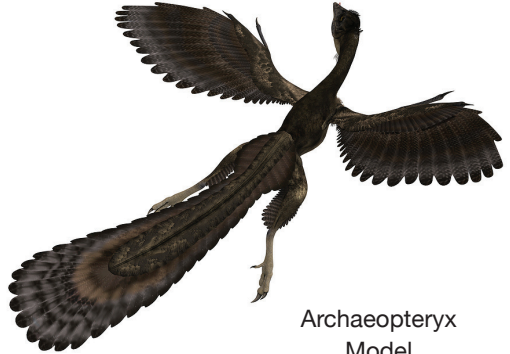
—John N. Clayton

NEW DINOSAUR DATA AND “KINDS”

One of the ongoing debates in the scientific community for many years has been the relationship of modern birds and the dinosaurs of the past. In 1870, Thomas Henry Huxley wrote a treatise *Further Evidence of the Affinity between the Dinosaurian Reptiles and Birds*. Huxley was studying a dinosaur named *Compsognathus* and *Archaeopteryx* which was a bird discovered in 1861. The two were about the

same size and there seemed to be very little difference between the bone structures of the two. For the next 140 years scientific debates would go on about whether the two were related. The word “dinosaur” is from Greek words for “terrible/fearful lizard” and that suggested a cold-blooded, slow, plodding creature. Birds are warm-blooded and anything but slow. The dinosaurs known in Huxley’s time did not have wishbones, fused clavicles, or air pockets in their bones which are typical of modern birds.

In the 1960s new evidence began to deny some of the views of dinosaurs. Fused clavicles were found in some dinosaurs, and *Deinonychus* and *Velociraptor* bones were found to contain air pockets. In 1996 in China a fossil was found of a dinosaur that had a bird-like skull, a long tail, and impressions of feathers.



Archaeopteryx
Model

The specimen was named *Sinosauropteryx* and was just the first of a large number of specimens that have been found with feathers. A fossil named *Confuciusornis* has now predated *Archaeopteryx* and is the first form to have a beak and tail vertebrae that would support feathers.

One final note needs to be made about this evidence. Feathers can serve a variety of purposes. We know about the use of feathers in flight where the feathers overlap and are hooked together to provide a wind collector. Feathers can also be used to strain bugs out of the air. They can be used to shelter from rain, for insulation against heat or cold, and for display in attracting a mate. Pigments have recently been found in some feathers so we know the colors of some of these ancient animals, and some of them must have been incredibly beautiful. For those interested in reading more on this subject we would recommend an article titled “Dinosaur’s Living Descendants” in *Smithsonian*, December 2010, page 54.

For those who believe the Bible to be true, this flood of new information is not only fascinating, but encouraging. One important point to remember when studying the Hebrew texts of the Bible is that there is an economy of language in the biblical account. There are said to be some 35 million volumes of scientific material in the Library of Congress on the creation of the earth. That 35 million volumes of scientific material is covered in 31 verses of Genesis 1 and the first three verses of Genesis 2. Of the 26 million or so different forms of

life that have existed on this planet, only a very few are discussed in scripture.

That being said, what we find is that what the Bible does say about the history of life on this planet is incredibly accurate. Christian fundamentalists have tried desperately to squeeze dinosaurs into the words used in Genesis and Job. Words like “behemoth” in Genesis 24 and Job 40:15 cannot be twisted to include dinosaurs because they refer to ungulates and there were animals living at the time those verses were written that fit the description very well. (There is a detailed study of these words in our booklet *God’s Revelation in His Rocks and His Word*, which can be read on our doesgodexist.org website.) The Hebrew word translated “kind” in the Genesis account is the word “min.” In 1 Corinthians 15:39 there is a direct definition which is used throughout the whole Bible.

All flesh is not the same flesh: but there is one kind of flesh of men; another flesh of beasts, another of fishes, and another of birds. (KJV)

In Genesis 1 the same four groupings are used. Verse 20a refers to the flesh of fish, and 20b to the flesh of birds. Verses 24 and 25 refers to the “beasts of the earth” and mentions cattle. Verse 26–27 refers to man and spells out man’s uniqueness. In the flood account of Genesis 6 and 7 the same groupings are used. We should point out that reptiles are not included, nor arthropods, worms, or bacteria. There is an economy of language, but the animals directly essential to man’s existence are all included. Someone might suggest that “creeping thing” in Genesis 1:24–25 would include these animals, but in Genesis 9:3 the same Hebrew word (*remes*) is used to describe an animal that the Hebrews could eat, and they could not eat reptiles. The word would refer to the smaller mammals that they were allowed to eat such as sheep or goats. It is the intent of both Genesis 1 and Genesis 6 to reveal the animals that man was dependent upon, not to discuss the 26 million forms of life that have lived.

If dinosaurs are birds (or visa versa), then they fall into the “flesh of birds” category that the Bible gives, and the Bible was correct in not assigning a separate taxon to them. This wider view of classification is becoming accepted in the scientific community as a form of cladism. When you look at the errors that the Bible writers could have made in how they assigned groupings to living things, it is incredible that they gave an explanation that made sense to the ignorant shepherds of Moses’ day and yet stand up well in light of the new discoveries of science in the twenty-first century.

—JNC

JONAH AND THE WHALE/FISH/????

When people start debating whether the Bible is the word of God or not, the question of things impossible to believe nearly always comes up. Can rational human beings living in the twenty-first century believe the Bible stories that we were taught as children? This is a valid area of concern, because credibility becomes an issue when dealing with a talking donkey, a world-wide flood, wrestling angels, the sun standing still, or the deaths of the first born in Egypt—just to mention a few Old Testament examples. Even more complex are the events in Jesus' life from the virgin birth to His miracles to the resurrection.

Perhaps one case most commonly discussed by atheists is the story of Jonah. Children in Bible classes have a song titled “Who Did Swallow Jonah?” and the answer that is given is “whale did.” Skeptics will be quick to point out that the largest whales are not carnivores, and that all whales have a mouth, throat and digestive system that would not allow an object as big as a human to be swallowed whole. In the past there have been apologists for the Bible who have tried to claim that there have been cases where someone was swallowed by a particular kind of sea creature and was found

alive after three days, but so far any attempt to confirm such a claim has failed, and most scientists would suggest it is an impossibility.

The problem here is both a translation problem and a theological problem. The translation problem is pretty ob-

vious to anyone who looks into the original language, or who reads different translations of the verses involved. In Jonah 1:17 and 2:10 the word in Hebrew used to describe the creature is *dagah* which is translated “fish.” In Matthew 12:40 the Greek word used is *ketos* which is best translated “sea monster” although the King James Ver-



sion translates it “whale.” The Greek word for fish is *ichthus* and is used five times by Matthew in reference to that which is eaten by man. Matthew chooses to use the word *ketos* in describing the Jonah story. Jonah 1:17 specifically tells us that this sea monster was prepared for this specific purpose. Arguing that the fish was a whale shark *Rhincodon*, or trying to suggest that there is some creature in the sea we do not know about yet that could do this is a fallacious approach to this question.

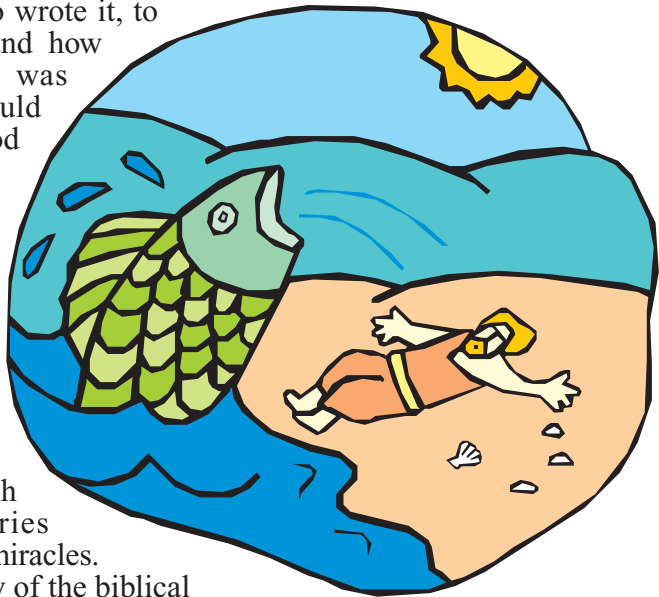
The Bible tells us clearly that this creature was prepared by God for a specific job. It is not something that the Jews were familiar with, and the Bible does not portray it as a normal inhabitant of the ocean. The creature was a special creation of God.

This brings us to our second point, which is that when the Bible says that something is a miracle or a special act of God, we are in error trying to explain it naturally. If it can be explained naturally, then it is not a miracle. If a whale shark *Rhincodon* swallowed Jonah, then the statement that God “prepared a great fish” (KJV) is in error. We either accept the event as a miracle and believe it by faith, or we reject it as a myth or a fable or a spiritual story that is not historical in nature. Trying to explain it naturally is inconsistent with taking the Bible literally—which means

looking at who wrote it, to whom, why, and how the people it was written to would have understood the message.

We should hasten to say that this situation is relatively rare in the Bible. Atheists suggest that all the Bible contains is a bunch of bogus stories about claimed miracles.

A careful study of the biblical account shows that situations like Jonah are rare. We have already discussed the use of the Hebrew word *bara* which denotes an act of God—a miracle that man cannot duplicate or explain. We have also previously discussed the Hebrew words *asah* (make) and *yatshir* (form) which indicate a natural process



was involved in what was accomplished. *Bara* is only used 42 times while *asah* is used 607 times in the Old Testament.

In some cases it is not entirely clear from the language of the passage whether the event described is a miraculous act of God or a natural phenomenon used by God to accomplish His purpose. Were the plagues in Egypt natural events or miraculous ones? There are natural events which could explain the frogs, the hail of fire, or the locusts; but the death of the first born would be a different matter. The miracles of Jesus are not explainable by natural events. From His conception to His raising people from the dead we see the direct hand of God in what is happening. The fact that the Bible correctly identifies things as miracles that could not possibly be explained naturally is an evidence that it is not a creation of ancient ignorant people.

There is a mountain of evidence that God does exist and that the Bible is His word, but we need to be careful to take it literally and look



at what it actually says to know that. Jonah, the angel wrestling with Jacob, and Balaam's talking donkey are not natural events we can expect to happen in our daily lives. They are miraculous acts of a God who wants to allow us to be able to make free moral choice about what we will believe, what we will love, and how we will live. But God also accomplished His will by taking whatever action is necessary to fulfill His promises.

We would urge you to trust God and to realize that all Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness, so that we may be thoroughly equipped for every good work (2 Timothy 3:16–17).

—JNC

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!



SCIENCE AND RELIGION ARE NOT ENEMIES

by John Oakes

Editor's note: Dr. Oakes is president of the Apologetics Research Society with a Ph.D. in chemical physics from the University of Colorado. See www.evidenceforchristianity.org.

Many words have been written and much rhetoric produced by the “New Atheists” such as Richard Dawkins declaring that the human religious pursuit is the natural enemy of human progress and, more particularly, of the free search by scientists for knowledge about the physical world. Famously, Stephen Jay Gould and Niles Eldridge have called for peace between warring scientists and religionists by declaring that science and religion are “non-overlapping magisteria.” According to Gould and others, there is no overlap in subject matter or in the kinds of questions to be asked and answered by the purveyors of religion and science; therefore the two can simply ignore one another. It is not hard to read between the lines of Eldridge's words to detect that he assumes that, with time, the human need for religion, reflecting a pre-modern superstition, will soon conveniently disappear.

The questions at hand are these: What is the relationship between science and religion as they are regularly practiced in modern life? Is their language and means of acquiring knowledge incommensurate? Are there any important questions which both religion and science seek to answer? If so, might their means of addressing these questions be complementary rather than in a natural and unending state of conflict? Does the arrival of the age of science herald the inevitable decline and fall of religion? What kinds of questions is science good at answering and what are the limits of science?

The same should be asked of religion. What is religion good at doing, and what are its limits—areas in which it generally is not productive? One conclusion will be that, although science and religion are broadly incommensurate, there are areas of inquiry where they overlap. The other will be that it is a mistake to assume that the two are natural enemies. Scientific inquiry is not the natural enemy of religious pursuit. Neither is religion, if pursued in its appropriate context, the natural enemy of the scientific search for knowledge about the universe.

WHAT IS SCIENCE AND WHAT ARE ITS LIMITS?

First, what is science and what can we learn from the scientific approach to acquiring knowledge? Put simply, science is a means to discover the underlying laws which govern the natural world using em-

perimentally-generated data as well as theories and models to explain that data. Science does not answer the ultimate question “Why?” Rather science provides us with explanations of physical phenomena which are not self-contradictory and which are consistent with the physical evidence. Science provides us with physical explanations of physical phenomena.



Science, by its very nature, is limited in the kinds of knowledge it can give us. It is very good at answering certain questions and very bad at answering others. Its answers are always tentative and never the final answer. For this reason, science does not answer the deeper questions about truth. It is completely unable to answer the metaphysical question: Why? On the other hand, science is really quite effective in answering questions such as, Where? When? How many? By what means? Arguably, it is by far the most effective means yet devised by human beings to answer such questions. Postmodernists may question whether absolute truth exists, but science certainly does seem to give extremely reliable knowledge about the workings of the physical world.

Having said this, science is quite limited and perhaps even useless to answer questions such as: “What is the value of human life?” “Is that the right thing to do?” “Am I here for a reason?” Without exception, human beings find themselves asking questions about beauty, social justice, and purpose. Science does not help us here. In assessing the relative importance and need for science in human societies, it is worth noting that these are the kinds of questions people really care about. Human beings may not be concerned with where, when and how many, but are very concerned with questions of justice and truth. When I discuss the limits of science with my students, I point out that, in the final analysis, science is not very good at answering any of the questions most of us really care about. This is not to deny the importance and usefulness of science. Through science we have cured diseases, understood the marvelous working of nature on a microscopic and cosmological level, been able to predict our future, and devise means to avoid the negative consequences of human behavior. However, it is clear that science is not the only means to ask and answer questions, and its ability to answer the questions humans

care most deeply about is limited. In order to meet the needs of real people and to maximize the human good, other sources of knowledge and experience, such as art, philosophy, and religion are essential.

WHAT IS RELIGION AND WHAT ARE ITS LIMITS?

It is clearly difficult to define religion and even more difficult to assess its limitations. However, we must make the attempt in order to assess if religion and science are natural opponents. Scientists generally agree, at least broadly, on a “method” to acquire knowledge of the world. Clearly, humans do not agree on the “right” religion. Yet, we can establish in very broad outline the sphere of knowledge and the means of establish-



ing that knowledge in the human activity we label as religion. Generally religion asks questions such as the place of human beings in the world—not just the physical world, but in the larger world, which includes purpose and realities beyond the physical. Those who practice religion ask

questions of what is right and wrong. They ask not what is, but what ought to be. What is my purpose? Is there a higher, supernatural reality? If so, what is the human relationship to that reality? Whereas science seeks tentative explanation and rejects authority, religion, at least in this sense, is the opposite. Generally, religious “truth” and knowledge are based on authority, such as that of a guru or a canonical scripture. In science, nothing is true, per se, but in most religious contexts, truth is well-defined. Scientific knowledge changes and grows. Religious experience may change and grow, but religious claims do not.

We may be stepping into controversial territory here, but generally, religion is not particularly effective in answering questions about measurable things. Questions such as when, where, how many and so forth are either not answered, or the track record for religions answering such questions has not held up well. We ignore history on this to our peril. It seems not unreasonable to conclude that generally religion can concede to science the role of informing us the cause of a particular disease, the history of the universe, the age of rock formations, and the probable result of combining certain chemicals.

BOUNDARIES

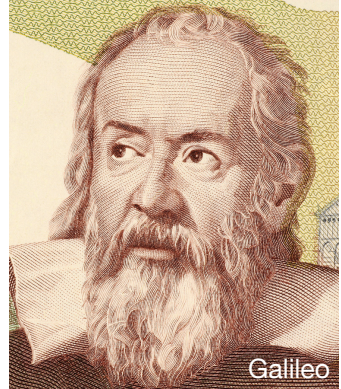
Humans are social beings, but we are individuals as well. Generally, in a social sphere, we will concede space to the other; but in our

own personal sphere, we will defend our territory vigorously. I will share space with my neighbor at the coffee shop, but will not concede space to him or her in my own bed. The general conclusion from the discussion above is that the “homes” of science and religion are separate. These are more or less incommensurate bodies of knowledge. As long as religion does not enter the bedroom of science and science does not enter the bedroom of religion we can have peace. It should not surprise us that when religion invades the natural territory of science, it evokes a reaction and vice versa. If science tries to declare that alcoholism is neither right nor wrong, religion will not concede this point. If religion tries to declare that “sin” is the immediate cause of disease, science will not remain silent. Nor should it.

If scientific materialists try to tell us that, based on experiments in neuroscience, the human soul and human consciousness are not real, then it seems fair for those with religious faith to cry foul. Since when could science answer questions about ultimate reality? This is a boundary issue. Scientists would be better off to take off their scientist hat before speaking on such a topic they know little if anything about. Unfortunately, some scientists do not respect this boundary.

On the other hand, if a person with faith in a particular religious authority declares that their scripture denies that the earth moves or claims that the universe has existed in an infinite cycle—a wheel of time, then the scientist has reason to cry foul as well. If a religious claim tells us that galaxies do not exist, the scientist seems within his or her right to respond that this religious claim is almost certainly not true. Again, this is a boundary issue. At the very least, the person with religious faith ought to hesitate to impose a qualitative belief on quantitative science.

Perhaps humility might go a long way here. The scientist ought to hesitate to declare that the physical world is all there is—that there is no God, no supernatural reality—and the person of faith ought to pause before declaring a particular scientific conclusion to be false doctrine. Is it not possible that their own interpretation of their authority is what is at fault? Or, as Augustine proposed, such an anomaly may be evidence, not that science is wrong, but that their religious authority might be mistaken. The story of Galileo’s conflict with the Roman Curia is informative here. On the one hand, for the materialist to declare, by fiat, that there is no supernatural intervention in the world is to commit a boundary error. On the other hand, for a person of faith to apply such a faith to declare that there are no truly random forces in nature seems to be a boundary error as well.



WHEN DO SCIENCE AND RELIGION OVERLAP, AND HOW SHOULD THIS BE HANDLED?

One can only wish that Gould and Eldridge were completely right that science and religion are non-overlapping. However, the fact is that the territories of science and religion do overlap. Is human consciousness real or a mere epiphenomenon? Is there a real demarcation between humans and other animals? If so, what is that demarcation? Was the physical universe created? If so, how and why? Was life created and can fully random forces explain the creation of life? Given the apparent “phase transition” of complexity between living and non-living things, might there be a corresponding transition to a higher level of reality? Is religious experience just chemicals moving around in our brain, or might such chemical activity be an indicator of something real happening on another level of reality? Is love just the release of certain neurotransmitters and the firing of certain neurons, or might “love” be something real? Do I exist? Do I have a body, or am I a body? Neither science nor religion has exclusive ownership of any of these questions. It is in these areas that each can inform the other and that, for the wise person, such interchange will indeed happen.

To simply declare that religion has nothing to offer to these questions or that such questions are sheer nonsense is not acceptable to the great majority of people. To do so is to undermine the dignity of human beings and to lessen the value and quality of life. On what authority can anyone declare such questions nonsense? To say that justice is a meaningless word and that religious experience is mere superstition is to declare the result of an experiment which has not even been performed.

On the other hand, for persons with religious faith to simply ignore the implications of genetic research into the causes of alcoholism or the discoveries of neuroscience is short sighted. Perhaps one can even argue that the moral imperative of most religions includes the search for truth, wherever it leads. One can argue that to simply reject on religious presuppositional grounds the implications of scientific discoveries is to lessen the value and quality of life as well. If it is foolish to simply declare religious experience foolishness, it is also foolish to simply ignore the vast and growing evidence for common descent of living things.

CONCLUSION: SCIENCE AND RELIGION OUGHT TO BE FRIENDS

The conclusion to this point is that on a great number of questions, science and religion are incommensurate. Careful attention to boundaries can, for the most part, allow the two to coexist without doing battle. Humility and caution can allow people to delve into

the areas where the two overlap without major friction. Science and religion can coexist in peace. However, the conclusion of this essay is not just that the two can exist in peace. The claim is that they are natural friends. Is this going too far? Let me explain.

Let us consider the question of alcoholism. If we only listen to the “science,” perhaps we will notice the genetic predisposition of some to alcoholism, but fail to give hope to the alcoholic. It is not inconceivable that if we do not allow science and religion to work together, we may leave the alcoholic in a very bad place. The science alone might even give the person an excuse to not change. Perhaps



the “ought” of religion can make the difference for a person to overcome the addiction. On the other hand, if we only consider the “religion” of alcoholism, declaring it a sin, but ignoring the science, we may miss a chance to use a chemical treatment to help the person overcome alcoholism. We might also fail to show compassion, not understanding that

for some it really is harder than for others, for reasons not completely within their control.

Does understanding the brain chemistry of prayer make it any less beneficial to the believer who prays? Perhaps knowing that her brain was “designed” to allow her to experience both a spiritual and a physical effect from prayer might increase the faith of a believer. Many believing scientists have found special revelation from religion and general revelation from science to complement one another. Galileo had a good grasp of the boundary issues and the complementary nature of science and religion. In his letter to the Duchess Cristina (1614), speaking of his Christian religion and science he said; “I think that in discussions of physical problems we ought to begin, not from the authority of scriptural passages, but from sense-experiences and necessary demonstrations; for the Holy Bible and phenomena of nature proceed alike from the divine Word, the former as the dictate of the Holy Spirit and the latter as the observant executor of God’s commands.”

If we allow science and religion to work together, especially in that limited number of questions on which they naturally overlap, much good can result. We can contemplate not just the truth that God created all, but can marvel at how it was done. If we allow for the possibility of a design or a plan, then a vast array of incoherent but amazing discoveries can become coherent. They will make more sense. If we respect boundaries, how is science hindered by religion? The answer, historically, is that religion will inform science. That

certainly was the case with Roger Bacon, Copernicus, Galileo, and all the early scientists. The answer is that if we respect boundaries science will inform religion as well. If we can assume that our scripture or religious authority is a source of real truth, then science might even help us to understand how to interpret revealed truth. As one believer has said, all truth is God's truth.

In summary, science and religion are natural friends. If those who practice science and religion will respect reasonable boundaries, allow humility and reason to prevail in the places where the two overlap, and if they will be informed by science and religion when both are relevant to important questions, then science and religion can be kissing cousins once again.

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.

CHRISTIAN ANFINSEN

1972 NOBEL LAUREATE IN CHEMISTRY

PIONEER IN THE STUDY OF ENZYMES

“I think only an idiot can be an atheist. We must admit that there exists an incomprehensible power or force with limitless foresight and knowledge that started the whole universe going in the first place.” My own view is actually a quotation of Einstein who said that “the most beautiful and most profound emotion we can experience is the sensation of the mystical. It is the sower of all true science. He to whom this emotion is a stranger, who can no longer stand rapt in awe, is as good as dead. That deeply emotional conviction of the presence of a superior reasoning power, which is revealed in the incomprehensible Universe, forms my idea of God.” “Clearly, an all-powerful, all-knowing entity must exist to explain our own existence.”

Cynthia's Corner



COMMENTS ON THE BOOK OF THE MONTH

When John told me he had reviewed *Created to Be His Help Meet* (see next page), I thought it would be interesting to get a wife's perspective on the book. I think it is a valuable book for any wife to read, whether she is a believer or not. However, if you do not believe that the Bible is God's inspired Word, you may have a difficult time accepting the wisdom and soundness the book contains.

What I appreciate most about the book is the unapologetic presentation of God's view of marriage and the relationship God intends for husband and wife to have. I think it takes spiritual courage to write a book like this, and I commend Debi Pearl for doing it. The world has changed so much since Bible times, and many, if not most wives and mothers have jobs/careers. This makes their roles as wives and mothers much more challenging. Human nature has not changed however, and neither has God or His will for our lives. I believe God's Word tells us in many places what God expects of married women both in the New Testament and the Old Testament.

God has told us to be in submission to our husbands. Countless books have been written about what that means and does not mean. Debi Pearl's book addresses the heart of the matter—are we, as wives, in submission to God? Are we seeking and wanting to do God's will more than our own? Or, do we seek to rationalize our refusal to follow God's plan for marriage because times have changed or our circumstances are hard or our husband is failing?

This book was not written to address extreme situations in marriage where outside help may be required. Pearl is writing to challenge every wife to look at God's plan for marriage, and to seriously evaluate whether or not she is living in conformity and harmony with God's will (not hers or her interpretation of God's will). God says if we want to know His will and are willing to follow it, we can understand it.

Another thing I appreciate about this book is its emphasis on prayer. No one can understand and do God's will without prayer—it is impossible. We can know God's will by reading His Word; but, changing our mind, heart, and actions to conform to His will takes prayer.

This book also contains many practical do's and don'ts for wives and many real life examples and stories. I highly recommend it.

—Cynthia Clayton



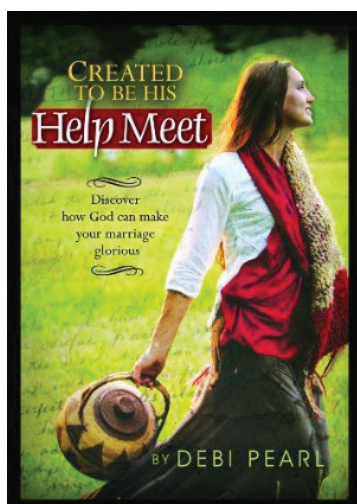
The books that are reviewed in the Book Review section are not available through us, but can be obtained from a local bookstore or through many online bookstores.

Created to Be His Help Meet

by Debi Pearl

Greater Joy Ministries, Inc., (www.nogreaterjoy.org)

2004, 297 pages, \$14.95 (paperback), ISBN-13: 978-1-892112-60-6



The cover of this book says the book will help you “Discover how God can make your marriage glorious.” This is a book designed for Christian women who have a desire to make their marriages what God intended for marriage to be. The view is very biblical, very fundamental, and very politically incorrect. The “help meet” concept will rub some feminists wrong, but the best summary of what the book is about is a short paragraph Debi Pearl has on page 20:

“As you have probably discovered, you didn’t just marry ‘the right man’ and live happily ever after. Every man

I know is a *bona fide* sinner. And, considering that you, too, are a selfish, fallen creature, it will take real effort to make a heavenly marriage. A good marriage, just like anything worthwhile, takes doing the right things every day ... every hour ... every moment.”

The book is divided into 24 chapters which are in two sections. The first is titled “The Help Meet” and discusses the biblical concept of marriage and what a woman’s role is in marriage. The second section is titled “Titus 2” and discusses specific things for wives to do. Pearl writes very well. She is engaging, open, fair, and gets to real

issues. Sex is discussed fairly and accurately and the needs of men and women are handled well. The things that cause pitfalls in marriage are handled well. There are times when the book is very blunt, and some may be offended by that. The purpose stated at the end of the book is:

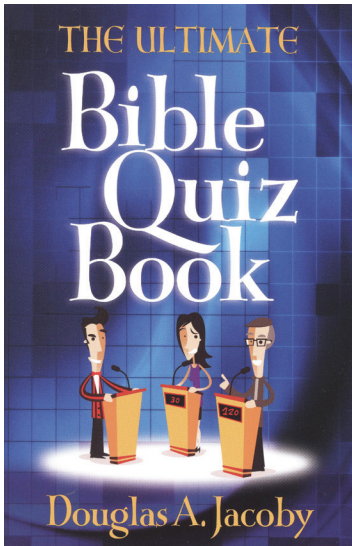
“Somewhere over the passing years and changing culture, women lost their way. This book is written to lead back home. Regardless of how you began your marriage or how dark and lonely the path that has brought you into where you are now, I want you to know that it is possible today to have a marriage so good and so fulfilling that it can only be explained as a miracle.”

The book does a good job of helping people achieve that goal. It is divided in such a way that it could be used as a class study, and it would be very useful in counseling engaged couples. We recommend this book to Christians who have an interest in the biblical concept of marriage.

The Ultimate Bible Quiz Book

by Douglas Jacoby

Harvest House Publishers, (www.harvesthousepublishers.com),
2008, 237 pages, \$11.99 (paperback), ISBN-13: 978-0-7369-3051-2



You may think this is a rather strange book for us to be reviewing since virtually all of our “Book of The Month” books are in apologetics. The reason we are doing this is because of the number of inquiries we have had about material for Quiz Bowl, Trivial Pursuit, and our emphasis on using quizzes and assignments in Bible class. There is not much adult material out there, and this source is one that we have found useful. This book has questions in ten areas. You will find quiz questions on biographical information about the characters in the Bible, facts about the books of the Bible, animals of the Bible, kings of the Bible, the life of Jesus, facts about biblical subjects, and even questions

about the canonicity of the Bible itself.

Most of the answers (which are provided) are one word answers with some being true/false, but not a lot of multiple choice. If you are looking for something that is accurate and challenging, you will like this book.

DANDY DESIGNS

THE MOST COMPLEX MACHINE ON EARTH

Science Illustrated (November/December 2010, page 72) calls attention to all the things we are learning about the human body. We see science shows that tend to make us think that our bodies are like a car with parts that are fixed and function in predictable and understood ways. As we learn more about the human body, we come to understand that it is far more complex than any machine mankind can envision, and shows design and purpose in every aspect of its being.



Even our body hair is designed to function in a multiplicity of ways, with the average human head shedding up to 100 hairs per day. The brain makes up only two percent of the body's weight, but receives 15 to 20 percent of the blood supply. The heart beats on the average 70 times a minute, 4,200 times an hour, 100,800 times a day moving 1,800 gallons of blood a day. It takes 20 seconds for a typical blood cell to circulate through the entire body. In a lifetime of 80 years the heart will beat over four billion times and pump 600,000 tons of blood through 60,000 miles of blood vessels. A drop of blood

contains over 250 million separate blood cells and yet microbes on our skin and in our tissues outnumber our cells by 10 to one.

Our sense of smell can detect more than 10,000 scents. A woman's ovaries contain between one and two million eggs at birth but only about 400 mature. A typical male ejaculation contains between 300 and 400 million sperm cells. Water makes up about 60 percent of an adult man's weight, but it is not evenly distributed. Water makes up 10 percent of the weight of body fat, 22 percent of bones, 70 percent of the brain, 90 percent of the blood, and 99.5 percent of saliva.

The more we learn of the body the more we see the truth of David's statement in Psalm 139:14, "... I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvelous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well" (KJV).

MORE DESIGN FEATURES IN REPRODUCTION

The more scientists learn about mammalian reproduction the more amazing the process appears to be. In our January/February 2009 issue (page 18) we discussed the fact that the immunological system of the mother tends to reject the fetus and that an elaborate system is designed to allow the baby to develop within the mother's womb. New data has now come to show that the mechanism that allows the sperm to find the egg is far more complex than anyone dreamed.

Dr. Michael Eisenbach of the Weizmann Institute of Science has released a study showing that the sperm is directed to the egg by temperature variations in the fallopian tubes—a process called thermotaxis. The egg rests at a spot that has a higher temperature than where the sperm begin their journey. There has previously been data to show that the unfertilized egg releases attractants to get the sperm to head in the direction of the egg—a process called chemotaxis.

It has always been a mystery to researchers as to why the sperm seem to head straight for the egg. They are simply cells, not organisms with a brain. It now appears that the reproductive system is designed in such a way that several things motivate these cells to move toward union with the egg. It seems that conception is a miracle of design, and obviously one that has been incredibly successful. Source: *Science News*, February 1, 2003, page 69.

For More
Dandy Designs

Visit Our Website

www.DandyDesigns.org

News and Notes

Our **Canyonlands Tour** for 2011 has been **CANCELLED**—We have had a smaller than usual response to the tour, and so we have cancelled the tour for this year. Rising gas prices and the recession have apparently taken a toll on people's willingness to commit to something like this in advance. We do not have any margin which will allow us to absorb a loss on the tour. We will try again next year.

JOHN CLAYTON had a speaking engagement on the *Queen Mary* in Long Beach on June 18. The following Wednesday, John had extreme abdominal pain and eventually was admitted to a hospital in Riverside, California. His diagnosis of acute pancreatitis resulted with his gallbladder being removed on Sunday, June 26. As a result we had to postpone the lectureship for that weekend in Little Rock, Arkansas. Thank you for the prayers you have offered on John's behalf. God has blessed him with a full recovery.

NOTE: After we published and mailed the May/June 2011 issue of the *Does God Exist?* bulletin we were informed that we fell for some e-mail/social-network scams. After being informed we looked on snopes.com and found out this kind of thing has been passed on (forwarded) quite a bit. Snopes.com has two articles under the titles of "fivedays" and "2011." One of our readers wrote to us the following:

A quick bit of research would have shown you that the 5 Fridays, 5 Saturdays, 5 Sundays thing happens a LOT more often than every 823 years. The calendar only has 14 variations. There are seven days that the year can start on and when you factor in leap year you have 14 variations.

We just had this same pattern—of 5 Fridays, 5 Saturdays & 5 Sundays last October. The e-mail about this subject seems to go around every time it happens. Any time a 31-day month begins on a Friday it will happen. I was surprised to see this bit of misinformation in your magazine.

Thank you for your input on keeping us straight. We see these kinds of e-mails/social-network entries many times and any one of us can fall for this deception. Actually having five weeks with three consecutive days within a month can happen on any day of the week and several times a year. We need to be vigilant about what we read on the Internet, just as with printed books, because there can be deception put off as fact.

—Our apologies!

NYC ATHEISTS IRKED BY STREET NAME. An atheist group in New York City is demanding that the city change the name of a street honoring seven firefighters who were killed in the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. The name of the street is “Seven in Heaven Way. The atheists say that the sign violates the separation of church and state. They object to the use of the word “heaven.” Ken Bornstein, president of the New York City Atheists said, “There should be no signage or displays of religious nature in the public domain, ... It’s really insulting to us. ... We’ve concluded as atheists there is no heaven and there’s no hell.” David Silverman, president of American Atheists, was in agreement with the NYC atheists and called on the city to remove the sign saying, “It implies that heaven actually exists.” Source: FoxNews.com, June 11, 2011.

PORNOGRAPHY HITS MTV. Decency on television has hit an all-time low with the series called “Skins” being shown on MTV. The show has been called “the most dangerous television show for children that we have ever seen” by the Parents Television Council. The show includes teenagers in Baltimore downing shots of vodka, using massive amounts of marijuana and pills, masturbating, and jumping in and out of bed with each other. The show drew 3.3 million viewers in its first episode with 1.2 million being under 18 years of age. No consequences of all of this irresponsible behavior are shown, and very little plot is involved. *The Washington Post* says “this is the kind of show for which ‘off’ buttons are made.” Parents need to be aware of how bad this show is, but with *Playboy* and *Penthouse* now available to kids on the Internet, the off button will not do it for most young people. Some frank and honest teaching is going to be needed at church and at home. Source: *The Week*, February 4, 2011, page 21.

DIVORCE PERCENTAGES DOWN. *Reader’s Digest* (February 2011, page 81) reports that the divorce rate has fallen by 13 percent since the year 2000 in the United States. Before anyone gets too excited about this figure, you have to realize that the number of couples cohabiting is way up, which accounts for at least a part of the lower divorce rate.

ASTROLOGY FLAP NOT NEW NEWS. There has been a great deal of press about the fact that the astrological signs are all off by about a month. There have even been some advocates of the myth that the earth is going to end in 2012 using this data to support their ideas. The signs of the zodiac were conceived about 5,000 years ago. The earth is like a big top, wobbling and precessing as it moves through space. (For an explanation of wobbling and precession watch <http://www.grandpajohn.tv/video/Grandpa-John-Explores-Circular>) Because of this the positions of the stars are all about 30 degrees off today from where they were 5,000 years ago. This means that all the astrological signs are off by about one place. My birthday is on February 22 and is placed in Pisces by astrologers. In reality the Sun is in Aquarius, not Pisces on that date. So the stars are not where they are supposed to be according to the original astrology map of the zodiac, but it does not matter because astrology has no scientific validity anyway.

CHRISTIAN SCIENTIST LOSES JOB BECAUSE OF FAITH. Martin Gaskell came to the University of Kentucky in 2007 with impeccable credentials. He was denied a top job because he has said that God and science are not wholly exclusive and has said he is “a devout Christian who uses the tools of science to study the universe.” Even though he was applying for a job at a planetarium, scientists in the biology department were consulted to bring the question of evolution into the hiring process. Gaskell filed a civil suit against the university and it was settled for \$125,000. Atheists who were a part of the case made reference to the Creation Museum that Ken Ham has opened in Kentucky even though Gaskell opposes what the museum teaches. It would seem that people wanting jobs in science cannot openly declare that they believe in God and still hope to be considered for employment, no matter how qualified they may be academically. Source: Associated Press reported in the *The Daily Sentinel* (Grand Junction, Colorado), February 12, 2011, page 6A.

EARTHQUAKES AND WARNINGS. The tragic earthquake and tsunami in Japan have raised a common complaint against God in the media and in the minds of many people. The bottom line is why do earthquakes happen and why are we not given a way of knowing they are coming? Answering these questions does not reduce our compassion and sympathy for the thousands of people that have suffered from the recent 9.0 earthquake. Still, there are some fairly easy explanations. Earthquakes are a natural phenomenon that happen because the earth shifts from time to time. That shift is necessary to lift up land masses and provide resources for man. If there was no ground shifting, erosion would eventually take all land below sea level. A dynamic, changing

earth is necessary for life. There are adequate warnings designed into the natural system, but greed, ignorance, and selfishness on the part of some prevent us from using that information well. We know those zones of the earth that are unstable. Everyone knows that an earthquake like the one in Japan is going to hit the Los Angeles area. Is any preparation being made for this? The answer is “very little” and certainly not enough for a 9.0 earthquake. There are better places to build a huge city like Los Angeles. We do have warnings to stop the loss of life. Earthquakes send out two waves—a P-wave and a S-wave. We can sense the faster P-wave and have enough time to get people out of vulnerable places. Tsunamis always give warning by the water rushing out before the wave arrives. Loss of life is tragic, but God has given us tools to avoid tragic loss and building nuclear power plants in vulnerable areas is inexcusable. For more on this see *Scientific American*, April 2011, page 74.

ANOTHER “JUDGMENT DAY” FIASCO. In December 2010 billboards appeared in Nashville, Louisville, St. Louis, Detroit, Little Rock, Omaha, Kansas City, Bridgeport (CT), and Fort Wayne (IN) proclaiming the end of the world was coming on May 21, 2011. These were paid for by Family Radio, Inc. and were directed by Harold Camping, one of the champions of dispensational millennialism. Camping’s calculations for the date of the “Rapture” were based on the assumption that the Flood of Noah happened on May 21, 4990 B.C. Camping predicted in 1994 that the rapture would happen on September 15, 1994. Family Radio, Inc. has also been a heavy supporter of dispensational millennialism and the Creation Museum in Kentucky, all of which subscribe to the popular “left behind” belief system so rampant in protestant churches today. Jesus made it clear in Matthew 25:13 that no one would ever know when the second coming was going to happen, but in John 21:20–23 even Jesus had problems with people misrepresenting His words to try to fix a date. We would suggest that all of this provides fodder for atheist attacks on the credibility of Christianity and the Bible. Let us remind you that we have a booklet which deals with this subject on an apologetic level titled *God’s Revelation in His Rocks and His Word*. It is available to read on our doesgodexist.org website or by sending \$2.00 to us to cover postage and handling.

HUMAN DNA LESS THAN CHIMPS. It is widely advertised that humans and chimpanzees have 96 percent of their DNA being the same. The question then becomes, “Why are we so different?” If our DNA is 96 percent the same, why do not humans and chimps do 96 percent of the same things? Stanford University geneticists have been making the comparison between human and chimp DNA to see

what we have that they do not. To their surprise they discovered it is not what we have that they do not but what they have that we do not. In the Stanford study more than 500 DNA sequences are “surprisingly missing” in humans. The geneticists are suggesting that our larger brain size may be because a gene that controls the size of the brain was “turned off” so the brain could grow uncontrolled. What is interesting to this reader is that when words like “turned off” and “controlled” are used, the language itself suggests that intelligent choices were made in constructing the final product. The Hebrew word used in Genesis 2:7 to describe the construction of man’s body is *yatsar* which according to *Young’s Analytical Concordance* refers to “fashion, form, constitute.” How God formed man is not explained to us, in part because of the complexity of the process. Here we are in 2011 beginning to understand the tools that allowed man to be able to do the spiritual things that were God’s primary purpose in creating humans. We truly are as the psalmist says “fearfully and wonderfully made” (Psalm 139:14). Sources: *The Week*, April 1, 2011, page 21 and sciencedaily.com/releases/2011/03/110309131934.htm.

FLEA DNA. On a related note—it takes 23,000 genes to hold all the information needed to make a human, so how many does it take to make a water flea known as *Daphnia pulex*? The answer is nearly 31,000, which is the highest number found in any organism to date. About a third of the water flea’s genes are new to science and yet many of its genes are the same as humans. Source: *The Week*, February 25, 2011, page 26.

END TIMES AND DISASTERS. The past 18 months have been a rough time for many people on this planet. We have had earthquakes in Haiti, Chile, and Japan including tsunamis and the 2011 tornado season in the U.S. was one of the most violent we have seen in quite a while. It seems like many groups have a vested interest in using this data to support their belief system. Those who feel global warming is about to do us all in are blaming all of this on the increasing temperatures of the oceans. People who feel that the Rapture and Tribulation are near suggest that this is all supporting that denominational teaching. While we have seen an increase in some of these events, none of them is unexpected or unexplained. Some areas of concern are at an all time low. Sunspot activity, for example, has been exceptionally low. Usually we get about 300 days when the sun has no sunspots, and in the last eleven-year cycle we went 780 days with no sunspots. The past four maximums of sunspot activity have been lower than the last major peak which was in 1960. These cycles, like earthquakes and tsunamis, are normal cyclic patterns and no one should read significance into them. Source: *Science News*, March 26, 2011, page 6.

UFOs BECOME UAPs. In the 40 years this periodical has been in existence, we have had numerous articles on UFOs and related issues like alien abductions and creations. Our basic theme has been that all UFO claims can be explained without invoking aliens, spirit people, or witches. We have talked about weather balloons, flares, sky lanterns, military planes in formation, secret military aircraft, birds, blimps, aircraft reflecting sunlight from their windshields, meteors, meteorites, space junk, satellites, sun dogs, ball lightning, clouds and ice formations, insect swarms, fakes, jokes, mental illness, and book-selling scams. When you go through all of these possibilities, over 95 percent of all UFO sightings and claims can be explained. Now a new wave of claims under the title of “Unidentified Aerial Phenomena” (UAP) is putting out more books. God is in control, and we are not going to be taken over by demons, aliens, or rock people. God’s word is our guide to life, not the instruction of some extraterrestrial trying to tell us how to live. Such a view is not supported by the evidence—or common sense. Michael Shermer, writing in *Scientific American* (April 2011, page 90), refers to this not as UFOs or UAPs but as CRAP, an acronym for Completely Ridiculous Alien Piffle. In this category he includes crop circles, cattle mutilations, alien abductions, and human-alien hybrids. We would concur with him on this subject.

EXTRA-SOLAR PLANET CLAIMS ACCELERATE. It seems that when the media needs to fill up space in their newspapers they print an article about life on other planets. Much of this is coming from the fact that as of the end of February 2011, astronomers have identified 1,235 planets orbiting stars other than our sun in the galaxy in which we live. Recent articles in the newspaper have claimed that there are 50 billion planets in the Milky Way and that 500 million of them have conditions where life could exist. These huge numbers are guessed at by assuming the fraction of space that we have examined and extrapolating that to the whole galaxy. The problem with this method is that the only criteria being used is whether the planet has a “Goldilocks zone” (Habitable Zone). This is an area around the star where water could exist as a liquid. It seems that 54 of those 1,235 planets have a section where water could exist as a liquid. Dividing 54 by 1235 and multiplying that by 100 billion stars in our galaxy gives the basis of the estimate. This estimate ignores galactic effects, chemical effects, orbital effects, size and spin rate effects, and many other factors needed for a habitable planet. We want to say again that life may exist in outer space. This is not a biblical or apologetic issue. However, as Jeffrey Kluger, a senior writer at *Time* magazine, points out; the chances of life elsewhere are overblown. Read his article entitled “Relax: You Don’t Need to Worry About Meeting E.T.” in *Time*, March 28, 2011, page 52.

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.

Send request to:
Does God Exist?
 PO Box 2704
 South Bend, IN 46680-2704

*It's scientists vs. preachers,
 not science vs. the Bible.*

Please put me on your mailing list for your free bimonthly publication.

Please enroll me in your free basic correspondence course.

Please enroll me in your free intermediate correspondence course.

Please send me a catalog of other opportunities available through the **Does God Exist?** program.

Name _____

Street or PO Box _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____