

# DOES GOD EXIST?



# GIFTS

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

## Does God Exist? Lectureships

We have had a number of questions about why there is a lack of lectureships posted in this section of our journal. We have only posted lectureships in this journal where the sponsoring group is a congregation of the Church. This is due to follow-up problems when the program is sponsored by a secular group or denomination. We are also having fewer congregational lectureships as congregations are dealing with the hard financial times we are in, and focus on internal work — but I have no health issues and we are still very busy in presentations and meetings. John Clayton

*Check our website for an updated list of lectures.  
[www.doesgodexist.org](http://www.doesgodexist.org)*

## Articles in this Issue:

Gifts	3
Morality and the Garden of Eden	6
Making Sense of Rocks	10

## Guest Article:

Merry Christmas... Without the "X"	15
The Prince of This World	17

## Special Features:

Announcement — <i>The Source</i>	19
Nobel Scientists and God	20
Cynthia's Corner	21

## Book Reviews:

A Dictionary of Christian Denominations	22
Identifying and Developing Your Spiritual Gifts	23

## Dandy Designs:

Snow	24
The Amazing Nature of Light	25
News and Notes	26
2012 Canyonlands Tour Questionnaire	26

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# GIFTS

“It is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35).  
“God loves a cheerful giver”  
(2 Corinthians 9:7).

The cover of our magazine conveys one of the great joys of life—that of giving something that brings great joy to someone we love. As we approach Christmas, there are many good things about the season and some negative things as well. Many of us will spend massive amounts of time, energy, and maybe money to try to give our child or grandchild something that he will like.

I can remember when our children were small and we had very little money, that my wife would start shopping at discount stores and sales at department stores early in the summer to make sure that Christmas morning was a joyous time for our children. On December 25 we had a family tradition in which I would run downstairs where the gifts were arranged carefully around the family room floor and set up our 8 mm camera and the harsh lights needed to get a good movie. The kids would then be turned loose and would come running down the steps and their eyes would fly wide open as they saw the array of toys, dolls, games, candy, books, and craft items that my wife had accumulated for them. All of that would be recorded on film, and the joy of giving to our children would be enjoyed again. My mentally-handicapped son, Tim, still wants (at age 49) to have his Christmas stocking to open and enjoy.

Those are happy memories, and I still enjoy looking at those old videos which record the happiness and joy my wife and I found in giving to our children. I do not think the kids remember all of that as fondly as I do, and yet I see my children having similar celebrations with my grandchildren.

God has not told us to celebrate the birth of Christ on December 25, nor has He told us to give gifts as a religious act. It is interesting that there is very little mention of gifts associated with the birth of Jesus.



In Matthew 2 we see the Magi stating that they came to worship the one “born king of the Jews” and in verse 11 they do this and bring gold, incense, and myrrh as gifts. These were expressions of joy at this happy and world-changing event. The Greek word used here for “gift” is *doron* and is used in a generic way to describe anything made as a donation (see Luke 21:1). There are other words in the original language of the Bible that convey a different kind of giving. In the Old Testament a gift that was used as a bribe was indicated by the Hebrew word *shochad*. In the laws of Exodus 23:8 and Deuteronomy 16:19 the Jews were told not to accept such a gift because it would “twist the words of the righteous.” (Second Chronicles 19:7; Proverbs 17:8, 23; Isaiah 1:23; and Ezekiel 22:12 are other uses of this word.) In Hebrews 2:4 the word *merismos* in the Greek indicated a distribution or dividing of something, in this case the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

In the New Testament the word *dorea* is used indicating a different kind of gift. The Greek dictionaries say that this is a “free gift.” In John 4:10 Jesus uses this word when talking with the Samaritan woman at the well as He makes reference to Himself and to the future Christian faith. Jesus says “If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water.” This statement makes reference to the fact that Christianity would break down the Jewish prejudice against the Samaritans and the wall separating the Gentiles in general from God. It was not based on anything anyone did, but was a free gift. Throughout the New Testament when this gift is mentioned it is always associated with God’s grace (see Acts 2:38; 10:45; Romans 5:15; 2 Corinthians 9:15; Ephesians 3:7; James 1:17). In this season of giving to our families and friends, it would be well for all of us to think about what a wonderful gift God has given us in providing the gift of freedom from national, sexual, ethnic, class, racial, and economic divisions that rip and tear at the very fabric of our society and our relationship with God.



Another word used in the New Testament for a gift is the Greek word *charisma*. We use this word in English to describe leadership. In fact the dictionary defines it as “A special quality of leadership

that captures the popular imagination and inspires unswerving allegiance and devotion.” The Greek lexicon defines the original word as “A grace or favor or kindness.” The use of the word charisma in the New Testament is always in connection with a talent or spiritual gift given to a person and is one he is to care for and use carefully. In 1 Timothy 4:14 Paul tells Timothy, “Do not neglect your gift, ... .” In 2 Timothy 1:6 Timothy is told, “For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, ... .” (Other uses of this word are in Romans 1:11; 6:23; 11:29; 12:6; 1 Corinthians 1:7; 7:7, 12:4, 9, 28, 30, 31; and 1 Peter 4:10.)

It is a joy for us to give to those we love. As creatures created in the image of God we share with God the joy of giving. “God loves a cheerful giver” because it is a product of a positive relationship between that giver and God. We are blessed when we give because we emulate what God has done for us. The kind of giving we are talking about in the Christian faith is unique to Christianity. It involves serving, loving, breaking down prejudice, and loving those who are unlovable. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus calls His followers to a life of serving and giving. As He contrasts His teachings with the harsh teachings of Moses He calls His followers to give love instead of anger (Matthew 5:21–24). When abuse comes, Jesus calls us to give more than was demanded by force (Matthew 5:38–48.) Jesus tells His followers to give freely, and not because of the recognition they will receive (Matthew 6:1–4).

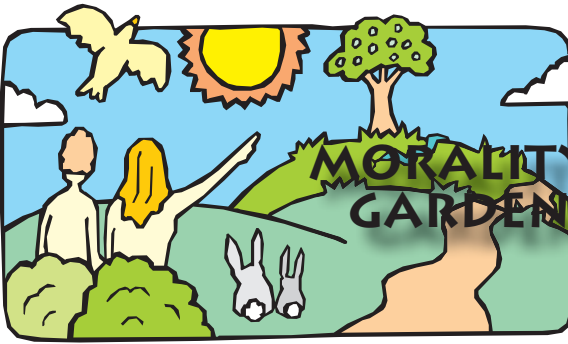
Jesus did not just talk about and command giving—He lived it. In John 13:1–17 Jesus gave His followers the gift of washing their feet and then told them it was their responsibility to give the same gift of service and peace to one another. In this season of giving, perhaps the greatest gift we can give to family and friends is this one—to love them and serve them as Jesus loved us and served us in giving us a way to live that brings joy and peace.

—John N. Clayton

## WHAT ARE THOSE FUNNY LOOKING BARCODES?

You may have noticed barcodes like the one on the right showing up in magazines and catalogs. It is called a “QR Code,” which is short for Quick Response. By scanning the code using a device with a barcode scanner such as a smart-phone, smart-tablet, or webcam you can get more information or go to a website. Try this one to visit one of our sites. You will be seeing more of them in this journal. If you have any questions or comments, send an e-mail to [re@doesgodexist.tv](mailto:re@doesgodexist.tv).





## MORALITY AND THE GARDEN OF EDEN

“You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die” (Genesis 2:16b, 17).

Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; ... (Genesis 3:7).

One of the major issues involved in discussions about the existence of God is the issue of morality. In recent years there have been several books by atheists trying to suggest that “You don’t need God to be good,” and that theme has been posted on bus panels and billboards in various cities around the world as we have reported in this journal (see “News and Notes” March/April 2011). Atheists argue that morality is a survival issue because, “If I don’t want you to murder me, then I must not try to murder you.” That oversimplification simply points out there can be a motive for morality that does not involve God in any direct way. The Christian response to that atheist view may be to point out that “survival of the fittest” in humans may in fact demand murdering someone to avoid the possibility of that person being a competitor in the future.

On the other side of the ledger we find atheists ridiculing the biblical account of Adam and Eve and the forbidden fruit as a fairy tale that has no essence of truth, and makes the whole issue of morality a trust in a controlling God who simply pulls strings. Atheists will also argue that Christians throughout history have shown they are no more moral than anyone else, with an endless string of infidelities and killings done or sanctioned by Christian leaders.

There can be no question that the hypocrisy of human beings weakens all arguments that can be made in the minds of people. However, fair-minded people will realize that human weakness does not validate or invalidate any position. The question has to be what the system actually teaches and how it works. How humans became humans in a moral sense is an important question, and one we can think about and investigate. We have had articles in this journal in the past about whether a confirmed atheist can really have a moral

system (see “The Moral Impossibility of Naturalism,” May/June 2011; “Making Choices: An Apologetic for Christianity,” January/February 2010; “How Do We Make Choices?” May/June 2007; “Atheistic Explanations of Morality and Common Sense,” November/December 2006). What we would like to do in this article is to look at the biblical account and see what it actually says and whether it makes sense.

## PRE-FALL MAN

Before eating the forbidden fruit, the first humans were what anthropologists call “gatherers.” The description that the Bible gives is that man could “eat from any tree in the garden” (Genesis 2:16). After the fall man was told “By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food ...” (Genesis 3:19). After the flood the expanse of man’s foods seems to be much larger as God says to Noah, “Everything that lives and moves will be food for you. Just as I gave you the green plants, I now give you everything” (Genesis 9:3). Also at this point a clear moral statement is made, “... from each man, too, I will demand an accounting for the life of his fellow man. ‘Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made man’” (Genesis 9:5, 6).



Before the fall mankind did not have a moral code as such. If you do not have knowledge, you cannot have morality. The tree in the garden was “the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.” When God speaks about man after the fall His words are, “The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil” (Genesis 3:22). Someone could argue that since they had been commanded not to eat of the tree before the fall that there was in fact a moral code. But we must not confuse the ability to obey rules with morality. There is no understanding or morality necessary to obey a rule. A small child or an animal can obey a rule without being morally responsible, and in fact would obey the rule even if the rule was immoral. When Adam and Eve were given a rule it was not the establishment of morality.

## POST-FALL MAN

After the fall, Cain murdered Abel, and a number of changes in man’s situation took place. First, man apparently began eating meat. Genesis 4:2–4 tells us that Abel kept flocks and “brought fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock.” This would suggest butchering and thus the eating of meat. When Cain killed Abel, God’s testimony

about the murder was, “Listen! Your brother’s blood cries out to me from the ground” (Genesis 4:10). There was no moral code involved, but a clear suggestion that murder of one’s brother is condemned by the Creator in a natural way. Atheists will argue that things like murder are naturally wrong, yet male lions and bears kill their own offspring, and cannibalism is seen in many life forms. When Adam and Eve ate of the forbidden fruit, they suddenly gained an awareness of good and evil. They were sentient beings. They then had the capacity and knowledge to make moral judgments. Interestingly enough, the first judgment was nudity. God’s response (Genesis 3:11): “Who told you that you were naked?” He immediately asked them the rhetorical question, “Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?” As we have already pointed out, verse 22 finds God saying that man has become like God, knowing good and evil.

Instead of looking at the significance of this process, people have tended to focus on the tree and the fruit. The drug culture has tried to suggest that it was LSD or marijuana or some exotic, drug-laden elixir. Some children’s books have said it was an apple. The list of speculations about the forbidden fruit is endless. Genesis 2:9 simply tells us that there were two unusual trees in the middle of the garden,

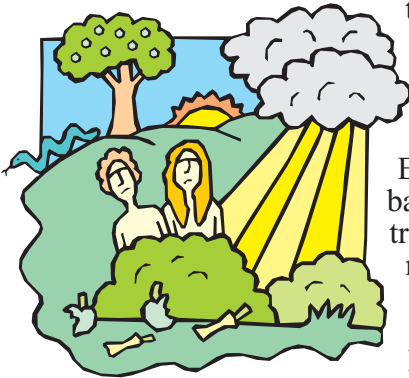
one being the tree of life and the other

the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Neither of those trees exist in the physical world today, just as

there are no places where there are cherubim east of the Garden of Eden with “a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life” (Genesis 3:24). Mankind

misses the point by looking for physical forms of these sources of life and knowledge in today’s world just as

he does in looking for the Ark of the Covenant as in *Raiders of the Lost Ark*.



## 21ST CENTURY MAN

As militant atheism has taken over the twenty-first century, one of its major efforts has been to maintain that religion has nothing to do with morality. They even go so far as to deny that good and evil exist! Richard Dawkins in his book *River Out of Eden* ([New York: BasisBooks, 1995], page 133) wrote, “The universe we observe has precisely the properties we should expect if there is, at bottom, no design, no purpose, no evil and no good, nothing but blind, pitiless indifference.” Connected to such a view is the idea that man can intellectually form his own moral code and live by it, and that people



will adhere to it because they see the advantages to them personally in doing so. Along with this view is the attempt to invent such a code. Situation ethics, existentialism, and the like are such attempts. Carried to a totally naturalistic conclusion such views run into inherent problems. If there is no uniqueness to man of the nature the Bible describes, then all living things have equal rights and animals have the same moral protection and restraints as humans. This has resulted in animal rights groups striving to protect, in a human way, the rights of not only primates, but dogs, cattle, and in the famous case with PETA's complaint against President Obama — flies (June 16, 2009). On the other side of the ledger this view has led to people like Princeton bioethics professor Peter Singer advocating the destruction of humans who have mental or physical disabilities.

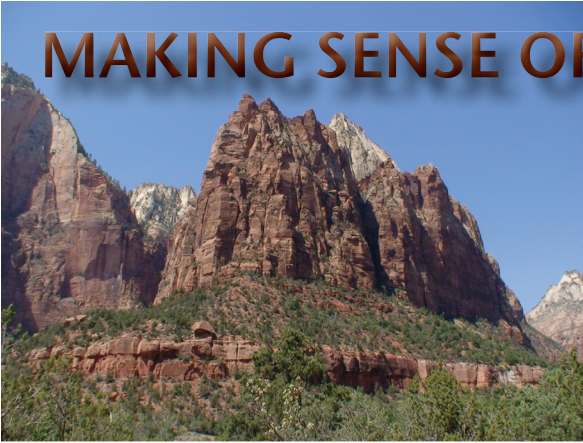
The point is that without an absolute, proven standard that is not the product of scholarly opinion, all you have is human guesses as to what will work. When you look at what has happened when these human constructions are tried, what you see is failure and atrocities. The list of examples includes Hitler, Cambodia, Sadam Hussein, Mao Tse Tung, David Koresh, Jim Jones, and Charles Manson — all reminding us of human systems that simply failed.

The Bible portrays the human capacity to know good from evil as a unique attribute bestowed by God. We are not told how the forbidden fruit produced this attribute, but we are shown the results. The entire Old Testament is a witness to man's repeated failures to follow God's rules for moral conduct. When we come to Jesus Christ and the New Testament we see the perfect moral law of God enacted and supported. It is difficult to read Matthew 5–7 and deny that such a system would work if it were followed. As people have followed the Christian system, incredible benefits have come to mankind. Women's rights, the abolition of violence, the beauty of marriage and commitment on a personal level, and the value and precious nature of children are just a few of the things that have grown out of God's perfect moral system as taught by Christ. (For more on this read *How Christianity Changed the World* by Alvin Schmidt.) People claiming to be Christians have lived in rejection of what Jesus taught as exemplified by the Crusades, the Inquisition, and Ku Klux Klan; but the system itself is beyond criticism.

Chaos in the world will continue as long as we refuse to live as God called us to live. Christ shows the importance of living God's moral code when He says, "Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, . . ." (Matthew 25:34–35). Our moral choices live on into eternity, but our theories about why we have morality and moral choices will die with us.

—JNC

# MAKING SENSE OF ROCKS



There are many things that young people encounter at school and at church that can cause doubts to arise. It is difficult to travel anywhere and not see layers of rocks which have different colors, textures, and structure.

Church leaders may blow off these layers as “God’s creation” without any consideration of why there should be different rocks in separate layers at all. “God just did it that way” may satisfy some minds, but most young people will want to go further. Why do some rocks have holes in them and some have fossils in them? Why are there beautiful crystals in some rocks and why do others have bands of different minerals? When young people get evasive answers in Bible class, or no answers at all from church leaders there is a tendency to wonder why. One recent e-mail from a young lady said it well, “It just seems like they are afraid of the message that the rocks contain and want to avoid discussing why these things exist.”

My first reaction to this issue is to say to young people that the Bible does not take that position. The psalmist in Psalm 19:1 not only says that “The heavens declare the glory of God” but also says that “the skies proclaim the work of his hands.” We can look throughout the natural world that surrounds us on earth and see God’s wisdom and design. In Proverbs 8:23–27 we are told that wisdom was involved in the formation of the mountains, the hills, the fields, and the dust of the world. In Romans 1:19, 20 we read “that which may be known of God ... from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, ... so that [men] are without excuse.” All of us need to understand that God has created the earth with intelligence and purpose, and rocks are a part of God’s creation. When we learn to read the rock record we will learn just as we learn when we read His word.

## **ROCKS SHOW GOD’S PROVISION FOR MAN.**

Many people do not understand that almost everything we have which sustains our modern way of life comes from rocks—but not just any rocks. Coal is produced from a very different kind of rock than the rock that produces copper, gold, and silver. Gypsum, rock

salt, and limestone are very different from rocks which produce coal or oil. These are still different from rocks which produce iron, aluminum, and precious metals.

Even resources that are not produced within a rock itself are frequently contained and stored for man's use in rock containers. A classic example is oil. Oil is produced by a microorganism called a diatom, which forms a drop of oil in its body during its life. When the microorganism dies it settles to the floor of the ocean and is buried. As sediment piles upon it, the pressure squeezes the oil out of the skeleton leaving diatomaceous earth. If the oil is in a porous rock material like sand it will move into and through the porous material. Some rock layers are not permeable and will not allow the oil to migrate through them. Materials like shale (which is lithified mud), will stop the oil and the oil will pool where it hits the impermeable material. If the oil is deep within the earth the oil will be heated by the heat generated from the earth's core

and may be under considerable pressure. This oversimplified and idealized picture is typical of a large number of important minerals including natural gas, sulfur, and even water. Geologists locate mineral resources and



mine them by knowing the design of the deposit, and understanding how it was produced.

The recent disaster in the Gulf of Mexico should raise some issues for those who are interested in God's methods. How did scientists for British Petroleum know there was oil that far out in the ocean and at that depth? We have learned how God has produced and contained these resources in a natural way. If God "zapped" these resources on the earth in some way, we would never be able to find them. Whether we have tried to tap some resources like the ones in the Gulf prematurely is certainly an issue that needs to be addressed, but the fact that God has provided such resources in natural ways is important for us to understand. It is a demonstration of God's wisdom and planning in providing resources in a way that we can find and use them.

## ROCKS HELP US UNDERSTAND EVENTS IN THE BIBLE.

If the Bible tells us that a certain event was a miracle, we do not try to explain it naturally—although atheists will certainly do that. A miracle by definition cannot have a natural explanation. What is interesting about the Bible is that there are very few miracles in proportion to the size of the book and the number of years that it covers. We tend to focus on things like the resurrection and the virgin birth which clearly are miracles and are presented as such, but many biblical events are not presented as miracles and are understandable from scientific information.



How could a small, young man sling a rock that could kill a full grown warrior in full armor? I used to do a demonstration with my physics classes using a centrifugal force sling to show them how a small rock can have tremendous

force, certainly enough with the right composition and shape, to do what the Bible describes in the account of David and Goliath.

As agriculture has advanced and our knowledge of genetics has grown, we have learned how to bring about chosen characteristics in livestock. What Jacob did with Laban's flocks in Genesis 30:31–42 is practiced by modern animal husbandry. The use of sexual stimulants and the segregation of chosen genetic criteria are not alien to our modern scientific understandings. The description in Genesis is not specific, but natural techniques are involved, not a miraculous zapping of chosen physical characteristics.

Those who deny that such understandings can be used to comprehend the Bible message frequently are confused by their own assumptions. Some assume that somehow the rods/branches in this last example were the cause of the markings on the cattle. The Bible tells us the rods were made so the white appeared and they were set near the watering areas to stimulate conception, not that they caused the markings. You can debate what stimulation was going on, but it was a natural process, not a miraculous one.

Even the Flood of Noah has a description that involves natural processes. The two sources of water given are “the fountains of the deep” and the “windows of the heaven” (Genesis 7:11). Not only are these two sources given, but the duration of rain is given. Critics of the Bible have made assumptions about the condition of the earth at

that time, when this happened, and what the condition of the waters were. Were the mountains the same height as they are today? Were the waters level (almost certainly not)? What effect, if any, did this have on the planet and its land masses as a whole? A myriad of other questions are unknown and yet would have a profound effect on what took place naturally on the earth during this event. The rocks tell us what could have been Flood-caused and therefore part of this event. They also tell us what would not have been caused by the Flood. Attempts to explain the formation of the Grand Canyon by the Flood and comparing it to what happened at Mount Saint Helens are easily dispelled by any high school student who has had a course in earth science. The rock record helps us know what is true and what is not true in human theories and explanations.

## **ROCKS SHOW THE EARTH'S HISTORY AND VERIFY THE WRITTEN WORD.**

The Bible writers used an economy of language in what they wrote. Their focus and their purpose was not to reveal science or history. They were to show man's relationship to God, how man breached that relationship, and how God has provided a way for man to be restored to that relationship. When we try to use the Bible for some other purpose than that, we are going to run into problems. The main problem with the history of the earth as recorded in the Bible is its brevity. The simple statement "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth" is undated and untimed and covers the whole history and substance of cosmology. No methodology is given and massive amounts of the details are omitted.

In spite of all of this brevity and economy of language, what is stated is accurate. The sequence of the creation process given in the Bible is exactly what we see recorded in the rock record. That sequence is repeated even today when fire or other catastrophic causes may reduce the surface of the earth to a lifeless condition. Notice, for example, that a number of changes are indicated in the earth itself before any kind of life is discussed. To have any kind of life there must be the right atmospheric conditions and soil with all of the nutrients necessary for life has to be present. You cannot have just water, but you must have land for life to exist. Marine life with all of its cycles and sequences has to



be the basis of life on the land. To have birds you must have a food chain upon which birds can feed, and higher forms of mammalian life has to come later. Within the plants it is necessary to have simple plants to provide a base for higher forms of plant life. Angiosperms, the plants that we depend upon for food, can only exist when there is a base for the plants to draw upon. All of this has to be in place before man can survive on the planet. This is a carefully arranged sequence. Today we call it “succession” and it is exactly what we see in the biblical record. It was used by God to prepare the earth for man. It was used in God’s preparation for man and his animals which the creation week describes, and it is still used by God and man today to take sterile places and make them suitable for human life. Theologians and skeptics can attempt to reduce the Genesis account to a magical display of God’s power. While it is incomplete, it shows God’s wisdom and design in the creation in a very accurate description of the sequence of creation without concerning itself with the specific methods or timing.

The rocks also have much to tell us about man’s history on this planet. The only thing left of the distant past of human habitation on earth are the rocks and stones that ancient people used to shelter themselves from the elements and to worship, as wells as trinkets, weapons, and tools to sustain themselves in a difficult world. The whole field of archaeology is based to a great extent on being able to read what rocks have to say. The role of salt from the mineral halite



is clear in the Bible and in archaeological digs throughout the world. Copper has been an important metal in man’s history dating back to ancient times. In some religions sacred rocks have turned out to be meteorites — rocks from outer space. Sulfur burns forming brimstone, another important subject in the history of man’s past and an important part of

warfare in the distant past. Volcanic eruptions have sometimes buried man’s cities and frozen a page in history. Pompeii is perhaps the most famous, but many places in the world have had similar events.

Knowing something about rocks and the message they have for us is important to students of history, religion, and the Bible. The stones cry out in many ways to people of all ages and backgrounds, and it is important for us to listen.

—JNC

To watch a video of John Clayton teaching “A Short Course in Petrology” scan this QRcode or go to [www.doesgodexist.tv/petrology.html](http://www.doesgodexist.tv/petrology.html)



# MERRY CHRISTMAS ...WITHOUT THE "X"



'Tis the season for the atheist/humanist crowd to make fools of themselves. As millions of Americans celebrate Christmas, the American Humanist Association is in the midst of their annual membership drive punctuated by smart-aleck billboards and city bus placards that mock the existence of moral authority and belittle faith in Christ.

Three years ago, their motto was "Why believe in a god? Just be good for goodness' sake!" Then they became more direct: "No god? No problem!" But this year, as they feebly attempt to

detract from the celebration of Christ's incarnation once again, perhaps it is a fruitful exercise for our civilization to consider their overtures and weigh the merit of their message.

As far as I can tell, the mantra "No god? No problem!" has but one minor flaw—the entire record of human history. It is no coincidence that as German atheist philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche boasted, "God is dead ... we have killed him ... must we not ourselves become gods" (which, by the way, is the entire basis of humanism dating back to the Garden of Eden), he simultaneously predicted that the twentieth century would be the most murderous in human history.

That he was right is actually of secondary importance. Most significant is the apparent recognition Nietzsche had that man, left with no moral authority beyond his own impulses and passions, would devolve into self-destruction.

Indeed the banner slogan of "No god? No problem!" hangs poignantly over the ovens of Auschwitz, the killing fields of Cambodia, and the trash bins of Planned Parenthood.

Though it might be more difficult to squeeze onto a billboard, the American Humanist Association needs to correct their jingle to convey the more accurate message: "No God? No problem ... except the one that even the greatest atheist thinkers have recognized: when a belief in God dies, man dies."

Moreover, the phrase "be good for goodness' sake" is meaningless unless we can define what "goodness" is. For the believer, that is a relatively easy question to answer. Goodness is measured by the extent to which man's behavior conforms to the character and the will of his Creator. That is why the Christian believes the Bible is an irreplace-

able component of human existence—its revelation serves to guide us towards that divine will.

But atheist/humanists have no such moral center—no fixed point of reference. They may talk at length about the need to be “good,” but in the final analysis, their presuppositions fundamentally reject any concrete basis for morality.

That is not to say that anyone who is an atheist or humanist is a murderous butcher ready to pounce. Certainly there is a great number of nonbelievers who are benevolent, caring, and kind. But while the atheist points to these upstanding godless citizens as proof of their theory that you can be good simply for goodness sake, they conveniently ignore the cultural foundations that taught those individuals good from bad.

As columnist Jeff Jacoby (*The Boston Globe*, November 14, 2011) observed, “In our culture, even the most passionate atheist cannot help having been influenced by the Judeo-Christian worldview that shaped Western civilization.” Put another way, the American atheist who boldly touts his morality and decency is humorously doing so only by appealing to the very Christian ethic he seeks to denounce.

Though this conclusion is inescapable, the pride inherent in humanist thought forbids them from admitting it. Consequently, we are persistently treated to their vapid musings that one must choose between religion and reason.

But suggesting that reason alone is sufficient to direct behavior is intellectually dishonest. Human reason will always be guided by presuppositions. That is why civilizations like ancient Rome found it reasonable to murder handicapped children while we in the Western world find that to be abominable.

Jacoby noted that Roman philosopher Seneca the Younger wrote, “We drown even children who at birth are weakly and abnormal,” stressing that “it is not anger but reason” that provides justification for such an act. This horrific practice is the result of reason built upon a godless foundation. In contrast, American civilization bears the fruits of reason based on a Christian ethic that teaches submission and obedience to a transcendent Moral Authority.

That fact alone should cause the atheist to pause as he jeeringly taunts believers with signs proclaiming, “Merry X-mas.” Creating a Christ-less holiday season may seem like a worthy cause until you realize where it leads. Civilizations torn free from the moorings of Moral Authority are not the kind anyone—even a fervent atheist—would want to live in.

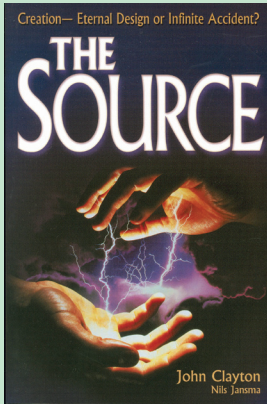


**Editor’s Note:** Peter is a public high school history teacher and radio talk show host in central Indiana. E-mail him at [peter@peterheck.com](mailto:peter@peterheck.com) or visit [www.peterheck.com](http://www.peterheck.com). This column was first published at *The American Thinker*, and is used with permission.

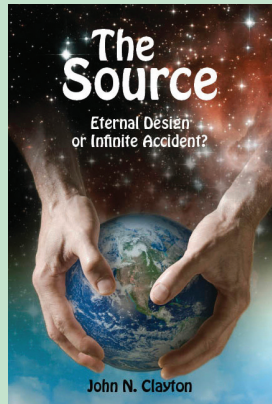


# DOES GOD EXIST?

## Resources



COLLEGE  
LEVEL

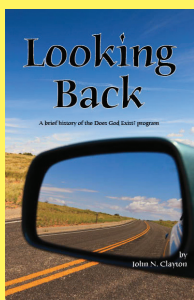


NEW  
EDITION



Our best-selling book, *The Source*, is now available in a new edition. We still have the original version which is written on a college level, but John Clayton has written a new and updated version for a wider audience. Both books take a scientific approach to finding answers to questions about God. Both books are available by mail-order from **Does God Exist?** or from our authorized web-store. Turn the page for more exciting books and website resources.

**Helping to show that God is real  
and the Bible is His word.**



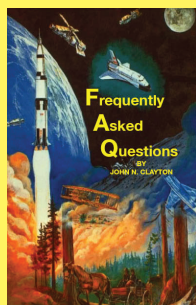
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- Who are the giants of Genesis 6?
- How old is the earth?
- Do you really believe in the flood of Noah?
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- Where are dinosaurs in the Bible?
- Do you believe in evolution?
- How can anyone understand the Bible?
- What about global warming?
- ... and many more!



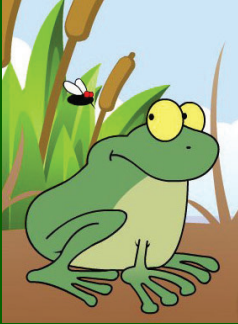
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# THE PRINCE OF THIS WORLD

by Wayne Turner

As Christians, we enjoy singing praises to God. Worship is our response to who God is and what He has done for us. How could we not be moved to wonder by contemplating God's love, the cross, or the creation? Joyously we declare in song, "I Stand Amazed," "There Is a God," and "This Is My Father's World." Like the Psalmist and Paul, we see the presence, majesty, power, and wisdom of God in the creation.

At the same time, we find ourselves troubled by the thought that Satan has attempted to usurp God's place in the world. While the physical creation proclaims God's glory, the population denies it. Jesus acknowledged the extent of Satan's power in the world when He referred to him as the "prince of this world" (John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11). This is why the Bible presents a contrast and opposition between the Kingdom of God and the world of men—the world being that which is alienated from God by its nature and conduct—that which does not know or obey God. Thus, the Bible refers to the rulers of the world (Isaiah 40:23), the people of the world (Luke 16:8; 1 Corinthians 5:10), the principles of the world (Galatians 4:3), the wisdom of the world (1 Corinthians 3:19), and the ways of the world (Ephesians 2:2).

The Bible does not minimize the difference between the world and Christ. Jesus tells us we cannot love both the world and God. First John 2:15 plainly tells us not to love the world or anything in it. "If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him." The tension between the world and Christ and the church is so great that Jesus warned, "the world hates you" (John 15:19). This is why the Bible strongly portrays the relationship between Satan and Christians as spiritual war. In the context of arming ourselves for this conflict, Paul speaks of taking our stand "against the devil's schemes" (Ephesians 6:11).

The Bible and history reveal some of those schemes. For example, Satan has incited the world to hate and persecute Jesus and His followers. He has prompted Christians to compromise with the world. He has influenced the world to reject the values and morals of God. He has caused division in the church. His attacks have been aggres-



sive and open, as well as subtle and hidden. His effectiveness and progress in today's world can be clearly seen. To identify this, we need only consider what has happened with moral issues over the past fifty years.

In the late 1960s, the "New Morality" gained influence. Biblical moral standards of purity and chastity were displaced by sexual laxity under the guise of love. Concepts of lifetime marital commitment gave way to easy, no-fault divorce. Over the following years, the legal system increasingly separated itself from the influence and values of the Bible. Abortion became legal and accessible. Couples openly live together outside of marriage. Same-sex relationships have become accepted and even promoted. We might legitimately ask what could possibly be next?



Over the past few years, the issue of euthanasia has gained increasing attention. Often presented as "physician assisted suicide," the debate (and practice) of euthanasia has taken dramatically different turns. For example, the Groningen Protocol ("neonatal euthanasia") in the Netherlands (2004) permits doctors, under certain conditions, to take the life of a child. Should this not be seen as a direct result of increasingly lax attitudes toward abortion and even life itself? According to the Protocol, a committee of doctors should be involved in the decision to end a child's life. However, how many of us are personally aware of children who, at birth and even later, were given pessimistic medical prognoses only later to thrive?

More recently, another attack on biblical values is occurring. According to lawyer John Ince, at least two million Canadians, many young, live in "polyamorous" relationships. Ince, representing the Canadian Polyamory Advocacy Association, has applied to the British Columbia Supreme Court to declare the anti-polygamy section of the Criminal Code of Canada unconstitutional. However, polyamorists are not polygamists. Polygamy is the practice of having multiple spouses—plural marriage. According to Daphne Bramham of *The Vancouver Sun*, polyamory is "a post-modern, secular, non-patriarchal, conjugal relationship that involves a panoply of sexual groupings and gender variations." They want the court to see that "polyamory is a more highly evolved form of family/conjugal relationship that is beneficial to all of its participants—the way of the future. Mindelle Jacobs, Sun Media columnist adds "the B.C. Civil Liberties Association also wants

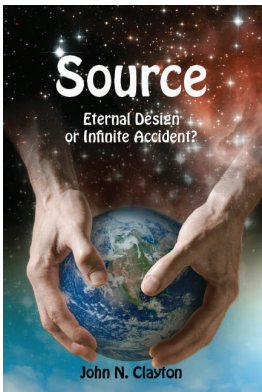
our polygamy law struck down.” In case you have not realized what polygamy entails, essentially it is the complete rejection of biblical standards of marriage and morality. Trying to make it palatable and acceptable, they call it polyamory which means many (multiple) loves (sexual relationships). From a biblical perspective, it is immorality. However, given Satan’s influence and the direction Canadian society and the legal system have been going, it seems almost inevitable that eventually, polygamy and polyamory will become legal.

Ephesians 5 describes a world much like ours today. The contrast between Christians and the world they lived in was like light and darkness. Christians are not to be deceived and be partners with darkness. We are to pursue “goodness, righteousness and truth” and to “find out what pleases the Lord.” We are to have “nothing to do with the fruitless works of darkness, but rather expose them.”

The “prince of this world” has great power in our world. He has gained the hearts, minds, and souls of countless millions. As people of God’s light, we dare not minimize the magnitude of the conflict with Satan nor the importance of our role, as individuals. Though the world may descend further into darkness, we must show His light, pure and untainted, in every way possible.

**Editor’s Note:** Wayne Turner is co-editor of *Gospel Herald* in which this article was originally published. It is used here by permission.

## ANNOUNCING A NEW EDITION OF THE SOURCE!



Since 1972 we have had a book titled *The Source: Eternal Design or Infinite Accident?* The book has been reprinted with updated information and a different format, but its basic theme has been scientific support for the existence of God. In 2001 we released a college-level edition of the book that was published by Howard Publishing, and we still have that edition available. We have re-written that edition on a high-school reader’s level and the new version is now available from us at our cost of \$8.00 postpaid

or through our [doesgodexist.tv](http://doesgodexist.tv) web site with a credit card for \$7.95 plus postage. It can also be borrowed like any of our materials by contacting us. To order send a check or money order for \$8.00 to **Does God Exist?** PO Box 2704, South Bend, IN 46680-2704, or scan this QR code to order online.



# 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.

*Richard Smalley  
Nobel Laureate in Chemistry—  
Known as the "Father of Nanotechnology"*

“Recently I have gone back to church regularly with a new focus to understand as best I can what it is that makes Christianity so vital and powerful in the lives of billions of people today, even though almost 2000 years have passed since the death and resurrection of Christ.

“Although I suspect I will never fully understand, I now think the answer is very simple: it’s true. God did create the universe about 13.7 billion years ago, and of necessity has involved Himself with His creation ever since. The purpose of this universe is something that only God can know for sure, but it is increasingly clear to modern science that the universe was exquisitely fine-tuned to enable human life.

“We are somehow critically involved in His purpose. Our job is to sense that purpose as best we can, love one another, and help Him get that job done.”  
“The burden of proof is on those who don’t believe that ‘Genesis’ was right, and there was a creation, and that the Creator is still involved.”



## Cynthia's Corner



I love this time of year when we celebrate two holidays that reflect the essence of Christianity. The first, Thanksgiving, is a time of reflection and acknowledgment of all that is good nationally and personally. To recognize all the blessings we have as a nation and individually is to cultivate a grateful

heart. To look for and focus on the positives in life is a foundation for happiness (Philippians 4:7, 8) and a relationship to God (Psalm 103:2). Expressing thankfulness to God (Ephesians 5:20) is recognizing that He is the source of all that is good (1 Timothy 4:4) and all that is love (1 John 4:8). Expressing gratitude for and to others is a way to strengthen relationships (2 Thessalonians 1:3). A grateful heart helps us cope when life gets difficult. Life is full of challenges and struggles, and if we allow them to consume us, we lose perspective. Being ungrateful is a sin (2 Timothy 3:2) because it shows a lack of recognition and appreciation for the good in our lives. Cultivating a heart of gratitude and developing the habit of being thankful and expressing it, is good for life now, and eternally.

Christmas is characterized by giving gifts because God gave us the greatest gift of all—salvation (Ephesians 2:8) and eternal life through His Son Jesus. Giving demonstrates love. God loves us so much that He sent His only Son, Jesus, into our world (1 John 4:9) to show us who He is (John 1:18) and how to have a relationship with Him (John 14:6). Not only did Jesus show us and teach us about God, and ourselves, but He willingly and literally died for all of us (Hebrews 2:9; 1 Peter 3:18). He was the only human never to have sinned (Hebrews 4:15), so He was the only One who could die for our sins and not His (Hebrews 7:26, 27). By paying the price for our sins (Isaiah 53:5), He opened the way for us to be forgiven by God (Acts 2:38) and have eternal life with God (1 John 5:11, 12).

God and Jesus gave to us sacrificially even when we did not deserve it (Romans 5:6–8). They set an example for us to follow (1 John 3:16). How generous we are with our finances, our time, our energy, and especially ourselves indicates where our heart is (Matthew 6:21; 2 Corinthians 8:5) and how much we love (John 3:16). When we give, we are reflecting the very nature of God.



—Cynthia Clayton

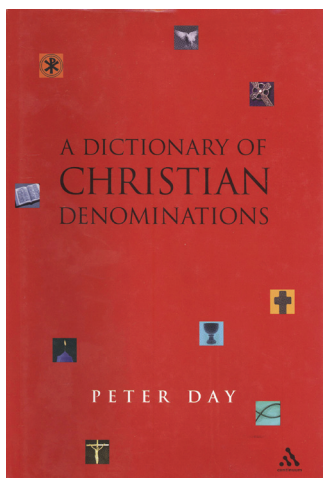


The books that are reviewed in the Book Review section are not available through us, but can be obtained from a local bookstore or through many online bookstores.

## **A Dictionary of Christian Denominations**

by Peter Day

Continuum Publishers, 2003, 528 pages, \$120.00  
(hardcover), ISBN-10: 0-8264-5745-5



Over the years we have gotten letters on a fairly regular basis from people who want to know what a particular denomination is about, what they teach, and what their history is. In our day of cults and people looking for something new and exciting, this can be a major issue. The problem is that the number of denominations is in the hundreds and finding reliable information is difficult. If you contact a denomination you will hear what they want you to hear and not an objective picture of what their history and connections are, or even what they believe about issues like communion, baptism, miracles, and discipline.

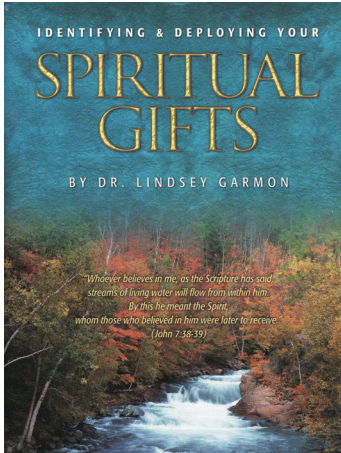
Peter Day is a historian who records things without bias and in a very concise manner. Each denomination is identified by name, with a cross reference to other names they may have used. A brief history is given along with the key people who started the denomination. Their theology is given in abbreviated form. While you will not get their position on social issues for the most part, you will find out what their primary beliefs are.

While the cost of this book puts it out of reach of most people, you may want to request your library get it as a reference edition. If you work with a lot of people in counseling or in areas where there are young people searching for a church home, this is a convenient resource item. It is a great reference source for information on over a thousand denominations and sects.

## Identifying and Developing Your Spiritual Gifts

by Dr. Lindsey Garmon

Available from the author at 423 Pinehurst Ave., Portland, TX 78374,  
telephone 361-643-3085 or e-mail [lindseygarmon@yahoo.com](mailto:lindseygarmon@yahoo.com),  
[www.toolsforministry.net](http://www.toolsforministry.net), 2005, 72 pages, \$14.50 (paperback)



Many of our readers have expressed appreciation for book reviews of materials that are not highly advertised and yet are of good quality. This book is not primarily an apologetic work, although the question of spiritual gifts is often a challenge that is brought by skeptics of the Bible, and usually reflects their lack of understanding of what spiritual gifts are. Lindsey Garmon has a doctorate of ministry and has worked in local ministry for the 40 years or so that I have known him.

Skeptics and Christians alike have misconceptions about spiritual gifts.

Some seem to equate spiritual gifts with miraculous powers that an individual possesses and that elevates one person over another. This workbook explains from a biblical perspective what spiritual gifts are and what they are not—and what ministry is and is not. There are eleven chapters containing biblical studies of the words in the Greek—what they mean and how they are individually applicable to all believers. The fact that some gifts are not necessary or applicable today is explained, but the emphasis is on helping the individual Christian find his or her gifts. There is a ten-page section of the study devoted to helping people find their gifts by a questionnaire and evaluation form. The fact that all Christians have gifts but not the same gift is emphasized. The concept of all of us fitting together to make the body of Christ comes through clearly.

This is a great class study book, but will be helpful for an individual wanting to explore this subject without getting into a modern-day miracle debate. We recommend it highly.

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# DANDY DESIGNS

## SNOW



We can get very frustrated with snow when we are trying to drive in it, but the design of water and of the snowflake are incredible examples of God's intelligent planning of even simple things in the creation. In spite of what you have heard, many snowflakes are identical. In fact, virtually all snowflakes are the same when they first form. A snowflake is generally bunches of perfectly symmetrical crystals that stick together as they form. They stick because of the design of the water molecule which has a 105-degree angle between the hydrogen atoms. This allows the water molecules to be polar in nature—having a positive and negative end.

Water molecules form around a speck of dust to make the crystal. The dust can be volcanic ash, man-made pollution, or a particle from outer space. This process removes particulate matter from the atmosphere, cleaning the air and carrying the minerals in the air to the surface of the earth. As the crystal grows around that speck of dust its shape is altered by humidity, temperature, and wind. That is why the flakes seem different when we see them on the earth.



Freshly fallen snow is usually between 90 and 95 percent air, so it is a good thermal insulator. This allows a freshly fallen snow to protect plants and animals from extreme cold. In addition to that, large quantities of water are stored in snow, and that allows a gradual recharging of the aquifers in places where water is a rare commodity. Snowflakes stick together very tightly, so the idea that shouting can cause an avalanche is a myth.



According to the *Guinness Book of World Records*, the largest snowflake ever found was 15 inches in diameter found in Montana in 1887. A snow crystal can be 50 times as wide as thick, so snowflakes are typically thin like a sheet of paper. Snow is vital to life on planet Earth. Snowflakes are a dandy design of God that can be seen as “treasures of the snow” (Job 38:22). Source: *Discover* magazine, July 2010, page 80.

# THE AMAZING NATURE OF LIGHT

In my 41 years of teaching high school students in South Bend, Indiana, one of my favorite units of discussion was the unit on light. The nature of light can challenge the best minds of high school physics classes. It is easy to show experimentally the nature of light making it an ideal subject to get kids to think outside the box.

I always began the discussion of the nature of light by doing experiments with sound and mechanical waves. You can show not only such things as frequency and wavelength, but it is easy to show that there are two kinds of waves and that sound and light waves are very different. Put a doorbell in a vacuum jar and suck all the air out and the sound diminishes until you cannot hear it at all—and yet you can see it. Obviously sound waves cannot travel through a vacuum and light can. You can then use a ripple tank and get kids to see that mechanical waves do things you can watch—diffract around an obstacle, refract when the density of the material changes, reflect, and interfere with each other. Sound can easily be shown to do all of these things, and so can light.

The fun stuff really starts when you show students that light has properties of mass—it can knock electrons out of crystals in something called the photoelectric effect (seen in solar cells). I would yell at the same crystal and show that sound could not do that. We would then show that while light has momentum and thus properties of mass, when light stops it has no mass. Shining a light on someone does not cause them to gain weight. The final teaser was to show that light can be polarized—made to vibrate in one plane. We would make our own 3-D pictures using the simple polarizers we had in the lab, or show how polarized sunglasses work. We would then show that light is two dimensional—it has an X and a Y component but no Z component. We would also see that light comes in all kinds of frequencies just as sound does, and that anything you can do with visible light you can do with radio waves, X-rays, microwaves, or infrared radiation.

The question of how light can be a wave and a particle has perplexed the minds of scientists for centuries. The fact that it has these properties allows us to have all of the technology and modern conveniences that we enjoy today. It is also, of course, what gives us the beautiful sensation of color and sight. I had one student many years ago who was trying to grasp all of this and apply it to a problem-solving exercise the students were working on. He looked up at me in bewilderment and said “Who thought all of this stuff up?” He then brightened and smiled and said, “Never mind, I think I just answered my own question.” The simple phrase “Let there be light” is an incredibly complex command.

# News and Notes

## ANNOUNCING OUR 2012 CANYONLANDS TRIP!

Last year we canceled our Canyonlands trip, and we received a significant amount of mail from readers who were unhappy about that cancellation and indicated that they wanted to go but had not made a commitment to do so. Our problem is that we have an investment in the cost of the trip and we even lose some personal money in doing the trip. We have no resources to underwrite the costs for others. To try to eliminate that problem in 2012, we are going to ask anyone who would be interested in participating in the Canyonlands trip to pre-register. You do not have to pay anything now, but if you are reasonably sure you want to go, we would like to know that so we have some indication of whether there is enough interest.



**The Canyonlands field trip, July 23–27, 2012**, is for Christians and involves lectures on the bus and field examination of the Grand Canyon, Bryce Canyon, Zion Canyon, Petrified Forest, Meteor Crater, Lake Powell, Sunset Crater and the Painted Desert. We travel by air conditioned, chartered bus and stay in good motels. The cost this year will be \$889 per person for two in a room. This covers all bus costs, entry fees, motel bills, breakfasts, and materials. No money is paid to your host or guides.

Transportation to Flagstaff, noon and evening meals, gratuities, souvenirs, and housing for Sunday and Friday nights are not included.

If you want to go on this trip, please e-mail us at [jncdge@aol.com](mailto:jncdge@aol.com) or mail us a note. Whether we do the trip this year will depend on the interest that is expressed.



**POLITICIANS AND EVOLUTION.** As we enter another election year, we find politicians trying to capture groups of voters by taking positions on issues. Rick Perry was asked in New Hampshire, “Why don’t you believe in science.” He then was led to take a position on evolution in which he stated evolution was a theory “with some gaps in it.” Jon Huntsman, another Republican candidate stated, “To be clear I believe in evolution and trust scientists on global warming.” Only eight percent of Republicans polled said they believed in evolution without any other intervention. The point that needs to be made here is that questions about science and religion need to be answered with clear definitions and with the candidate explaining what they mean, not just making superficial statements to get votes. Source: FoxNews.com 8/25/11.

**IS AIDS REALLY SYPHILIS?** Dr. Lynn Margulis is a widely recognized scholar in the area of symbiotic factors in the history of life on earth. In *Discover* magazine (April 20, 2011, page 66) there is a fascinating interview in which Dr. Margulis makes some interesting points about the incompleteness of Darwinism. One controversial point she makes in the interview is that there is no proof that HIV causes AIDS. She also observes that penicillin does not kill syphilis. What causes syphilis is the spirochete (a corkscrew-shaped bacterium) that lives in a relationship with the genome of the person. AIDS is very much the same kind of infection, and both syphilis and AIDS exist in a relationship with the body so you never really are cured of either disease. All of this points out why not following God’s plan for sexual conduct is so dangerous.

**COHABITATION DATA CONTINUES TO BE NEGATIVE.** The number of people living together who are not married continues to climb. Glenn T. Stanton has written a book titled *The Ring Makes All the Difference* in which he presents scientific data on people who cohabit and what the results of that lifestyle is. Some of the conclusions of the scientific studies are: (1) People in cohabiting relationships are relationally and emotionally more manipulative than those who are married. (2) Couples who cohabit have less sex and less-fulfilling sex over the long term than those who are married. (3) Children in homes where their mother is cohabiting are three to four times more likely to see violence, have less money spent on them, and experience more drug and alcohol abuse and more infidelity than children in married households.

**MORE EVIDENCE HUMANS ORIGINATED IN ASIA.** The Bible indicates that humans originated in the Tigris-Euphrates-Pison rivers area of what is now Iraq. Traditionally evolutionists have main-

tained man originated in Africa. A west Asian site called Dmanisi is revealing specimens of *Homo erectus* much older than those found in Africa. Harvard anthropologist Philip Rightmire says “It certainly looks as though the African origin of *Homo erectus*, must be reconsidered.” It will be interesting to see if further studies vindicate the biblical record on this point. Source: *Science News*, July 2, 2011, page 8.

**NO TIME TRAVEL.** A research team in Hong Kong led by Dr. Du Shengwang has shown that photons (the basic units of light) cannot go faster than the speed of light (186,282 miles per second). That means that the information carried by a photon can only exist in the present so an effect cannot come before its cause. Science fiction fans will have to go back to the drawing boards to come up with a way to go back into the past to change the present. We would suggest this is a design feature God has built into the creation, so man has to live responsibly because he gets no chance to go back and undo his past mistakes. Source: *The Week*, August 12, 2011, page 21.

**FIRES AND PLAGUES.** One of the questions asked us frequently is why God commanded Israel to destroy and burn whole cities of their enemies—killing and burning even the animals in the cities. Our response has always been that the diseases and plagues that these people had contracted by not following God’s laws left no choice, but to sterilize the area. In *Discover* magazine (October 2011, page 80) is a reference to the fact that the 1666 Great Fire of London destroyed 80 percent of the city and ended the bubonic plague that had killed some 65,000 people in the previous year. The fire killed the rats and fleas that carried *Yersinia pestis*, the plague causing bacterium.

**NINE MILLION UNKNOWN SPECIES ON EARTH.** There are about 1.9 million species of life that have been identified by scientists on this planet, but research shows that many more exist. Biologists now say that there are 7.8 million species of animals, 611,000 species of fungi and 300,000 species of plants that have not been identified. Most of the animals that have not been found yet are very small. Recently a previously unknown, half-inch long Caribbean gecko was found in the Dominican Republic. The biblical word “kind” (Hebrew *miyn* in Genesis 1:11, 12—Greek *phusis* in James 3:7) is a very broad word and not the same as “species.” In 1 Corinthians 15:39 Paul identifies four kinds of animals and the same grouping is given in Genesis. “Species” is a scientific term, and centers around the ability of offspring to be able to reproduce. Some of these newly discovered species may bring new drugs as exotic animals and plants frequently do. These forms may also provide new foods, and materials to mankind. The details of God’s creative wisdom and the methods He



has employed to provide for man's needs continue to astound those who research the wonderful planet on which we live. Source: *The Chronicle-Journal* of Thunder Bay, Ontario, 8/24/11, and AP science writer Seth Borenstein.

### **GAY MARRIAGE LAWS LEAD TO POLYGAMY SUIT.**

Kody Brown is a member of a Mormon group that espouses polygamy (one man/many wives). Brown is married to five women and has 16 children. He is suing the state of Utah claiming their anti-polygamy laws violate his rights. The suit claims "consenting polygamists deserve the same right to privacy as gay people." The Browns are not accused of hurting their children or coercing minors. The suit says they "just want the right to create a loving family according to the values of their faith." We would suggest this is a very predictable result of the gay marriage issue. Still to come are group marriages, marriages to animals, etc. How welfare laws, medical insurance laws, divorce laws, and tort laws function in all of this will keep a lot of lawyers in business. God's definition of marriage is the one proven system that needs to be used as stated in Genesis 2:24 and by Christ. Other civil unions cannot be called marriage without creating a host of problems. Source: *The Week*, August 5, 2011, page 16.

**ARCHAEOLOGIST ADMITS PREJUDICE AGAINST BIBLE.** Hershel Shanks is the editor of *Biblical Archaeology Review*, and is known for his controversial views on many subjects. In the July/August 2011 issue (page 6) Shanks takes on his fellow archaeologists by claiming that there is heavy prejudice against the Bible in professional archaeology. The particular archeology dig which has precipitated this is work by Eilat Mazar of Hebrew University who has used the Bible to decide where to excavate King David's palace. Attacks on Mazar's work have been extensive—which is normal in archaeology. The main critic is Ronny Reich of Haifa University who is a biblical minimalist maintaining that the Bible cannot be trusted. Shanks points out, correctly, that this attitude taints all of archaeology and is unfortunate. Hopefully he can get a more objective treatment of archaeological research.

**NEANDERTHALS RETURN.** For the past several years there has been an attempt to suggest that Neanderthal man was a different species than modern man. New genetic analysis has shown that some of the human X chromosomes have been found in a piece of Neanderthal DNA called a haplotype. Dr. Nick Patterson of MIT says "There is little doubt that this haplotype is present because of mating with our ancestors and the Neanderthals." The report which is on Discovery-News.com says that "Neanderthals possessed a gene for language and had sophisticated music, art, and tool craftsmanship skills." We have

suggested for many years that racial differences are confused with speciation by the general public, and two races can look very different and yet still be one species. We are truly “one blood” as Acts 17:26 maintains. Source: <http://www.foxnews.com./scitech/2011/07/18/may-be-part-neanderthal-scientists-say/?test=faces>.

**NEW PRINTING OF USSHER’S OLD BOOK.** In 1650 an Anglican Bishop named James Ussher published a book titled *Annals of the World*. The 1,600-page book has now been reprinted in English (960 pages in this edition) and is being used by many homeschoolers. The book claims to be the history of the world from the Garden of Eden to the fall of Jerusalem. Ussher put the date of creation as October 23, 4004 BC, making the Earth 6,015 years old this past October. The date of October 23 was arrived at by guessing that the Jews started their calendar at harvest time. Ussher then took the first Sunday after the fall equinox which at that time was in October (today it is September 21.) About 15 percent of Ussher’s research is from the Bible, with the rest coming from secular sources. We have pointed out many times that Ussher makes huge assumptions in his calculations of dates, and many of these biblical assumptions can be shown to be incorrect. We have a list of some of these assumptions on our [doesgodexist.org](http://doesgodexist.org) website in the booklet *God’s Revelation in His Rocks and His Word*.



**MORE MULTIVERSE DISCUSSION.** Many atheists explain the apparent fine-tuning of the universe by claiming that there are many parallel universes that have existed outside of time, and that we are in one that has all the properties necessary for life. In the August 2011 issue of *Scientific American* (page 38) there is an excellent article explaining multiverse theory. Two interesting statements in the article point out why this proposal is not an answer to the creation. The author states, “The trouble is that no possible astronomical observations can ever see those other universes. The arguments are indirect at best. And even if the multiverse exists, it leaves the deep mysteries of nature unexplained” (page 39). “Scientists proposed the multiverse as a way of resolving deep issues about the nature of existence, but the proposal leaves the ultimate issues unresolved. All the same issues that arise in relation to the universe arise again in relation to the multiverse. If the multiverse exists, did it come into existence through necessity, chance, or purpose? That is a metaphysical question that no physical theory can answer for either the universe or the multiverse” (page 43). We suggest that those answers can be found in Genesis 1 and the biblical concept of God and what God is.



God decorates His world for the season,  
 reminding us of His power and His love.  
 Thank you for your support to help us remind  
 more people that God DOES exist  
 as we enter a challenging new year.

*John and Cynthia Clayton,  
 Roland Earnst, Linda Glover,  
 Karl Marcussen*

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Signed—Karl H. Marcussen, Managing Editor, Sept. 23, 2011

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