

DOES GOD EXIST?

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

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**Understanding The
"God Particle"**

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“For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse” (Romans 1:18, NIV).

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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>;
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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

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Understanding The “God Particle”

I am a retired physics teacher, and at the start of the school year we always had to get a few definitions in order before we could explore the wonders of Newtonian mechanics. One of those definitions that always caused wonderment in the minds of my students was the difference between weight and mass. We would point out that mass was measured in kilograms and grams in the metric system, and in slugs in the English system. They would think I was kidding them until I got into units of force or weight which was measured in dynes and newtons in the metric system and in pounds in the English system. I would ask them when they went into orbit in future years, would they become weightless or massless? Our usual definition of mass was that it was the quantity of material something contained, and we would be able to relate it to the mole in chemistry which was defined as 6.0238×10^{23} molecules. Weight is a kind of force and deals with a push or a pull on something. The pull of gravity is your weight, but your mass is how many molecules there are in your body, which can be measured in several different units.



Weight or Mass?

In the process of all of this confusing discussion, someone would ask what causes gravity. My answer many years ago when I was teaching this material was that mass had as one of its properties, the tendency to attract other masses. We tested Newton's universal law of gravity which says that if you had two masses m_1 and m_2 located some distance (r) apart, they would attract each other with a force calculated by multiplying the masses together, dividing by the square of the distance they were apart, and then multiplying again by a gravitational constant (G) which was 6.67×10^{-11} . I would explain this as a proportionality constant, one of many

$$F_g = G \frac{m_1 m_2}{r^2}$$

Newton's Law

constants that appear in nature that allows matter to exist in a stable form. The units of the proportionality constant was newton-meters squared per kilogram squared with the force measured in newtons and the mass measured in kilograms. Why matter should attract other matter, and why these constants were necessary remained unanswered. In my own mind, the presence of so many constants like this one was an indication that an intelligence was involved in choosing the constants and arranging the matter to obey the commands of the equations.



We have come a long way since the 1950s when I learned all of this in my physics classes at the university level. Quantum mechanics has opened new doors for us to understand much more about what mass and charge and space and time are about. The New-

tonian laws that we use to describe large scale matter like cars and space ships do not work when one is studying sub-atomic particles like quarks and neutrinos. In 1964 Peter Higgs developed a theory that he felt might explain why some elementary particles (like protons) have rest mass and others (like photons) do not. He proposed an energy field, now known as a Higgs field, which he said permeated space. He proposed that when a particle called a Higgs boson collided with the Higgs field it would produce mass in quarks, electrons, etc., as well as electric charge. His calculations showed that the boson would have an energy between 125 and 127 GeV/c^2 .

In 1993 Leon Lederman named it “the God particle.” There is much debate about why that name was given and why it stuck, but it was not for religious reasons. Lederman indicated the nature of the question by subtitled his material, “If the universe is the answer, what is the question?” If the Higgs boson could explain why particles have mass and why electric charge exists, it would be explaining the mechanisms that produced the physical universe in which we live. Since it explained so much of the nature of how things were created, the name “God particle” was coined. Many physicists do not like the term, but the media has made it pretty much a household name.

On July 4, 2012, an experiment was performed using the Hadron Collider at the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) on the border between France and Switzerland. The experiment was called ATLAS (short for A Toroidal LHC Aparatas). It was announced that evidence was found of a boson of 125 – 127 GeV/c^2 . The media immediately announced that “the God particle” had been discovered.

This grossly oversimplified explanation is not the main point we wish to make in this article. This journal deals with apologetics, not the latest experiments in science. Has the discovery of the

“God particle” (assuming it sticks and is in reality factual) eliminated God’s role in the creation of the cosmos? Does this discovery have any implications for apologetics as a whole? That is what this discussion is really about.

In my 41 years of teaching high school science I always avoid-

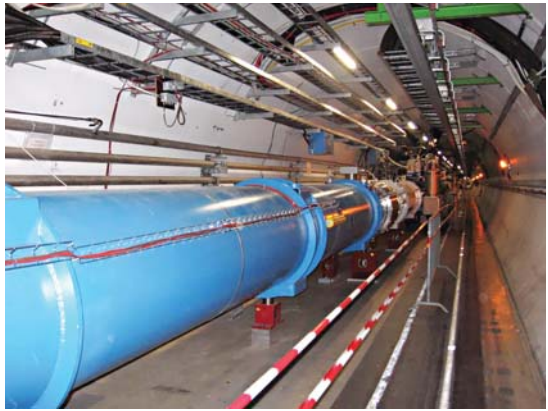
ed confrontations with those who were from a fundamentalist religious background by telling them that all science should be to them is a way of understanding how God did what he did. Philosophers can have massive discussions about this subject, but on a layman’s level I maintain that is a healthy biblical view. Proverbs 8 is an interesting study in this subject. Wisdom is speaking in the passage and indicates its role in the process of creation. In verses 22–23 wisdom says: “The LORD possessed me at the beginning of His way, / Before His works of old. / I have been established from everlasting, / From the beginning, before there was ever an earth” (NKJV).

The entire passage revolves around God’s wisdom and planning in every aspect of the creation process. Passages like Psalm 104:2 and Isaiah 40:22 speak of God “stretching out the heavens” with the Hebrew word *natah* meaning “to stretch out or spread out” being used to describe the process. The Bible simply indicates that God has used a variety of processes beyond the scope of man’s understanding to create time, space, energy, and the cosmos in which we live.

As quantum mechanics has developed, it has become increasingly obvious that a whole new set of processes was involved in the creation. If the Higgs boson interacts with a Higgs energy field producing mass and charge, what has been discovered is one more step in the processes God used to create the creation. The production of the energy field and of the Higgs boson are not under discussion. As we have seen, the term “God particle” was not a religious term — nor a scientific term. It was simply an indication of the nature of the discovery, helping to understand the processes used initially to create us and the world in which we live.

One of the cliches used in the past was “If man comes to understand the origin of mass and charge, all it will prove is that it took intelligence to do it in the first place.”

— John N. Clayton



CERN's Large Hadron Collider

STRUGGLING WITH “NOTHING”

If you want an interesting word search to do on your computer, go to the Web and search under the word “nothing.” Depending on your search engine you will get millions or even billions of results. It seems that mankind has struggled with the concept of “nothing” for a very long time, and we have learned more and more about nothing until we know almost everything about nothing!

The current leading book in this subject area from an atheist viewpoint is *A Universe from Nothing: Why There Is Something Rather than Nothing* by theoretical physicist and cosmologist Lawrence Krauss of Arizona State University. One of his

lines is “Forget about Jesus—the stars died so you could be born.” One of his major supporters is atheist biologist Richard Dawkins whom we have discussed in this journal in the past. Krauss and Dawkins made a documentary movie in April 2013 titled *The Unbelievers* to help promote their atheistic agenda. By mixing a number of new proposals with a heavy dose of atheist philosophy, Krauss leads his fellow atheists into familiar waters. In fact, when I was active in atheism some 50 years ago, I was arguing that science is advancing so fast that ultimately all present mysteries will be solved and mankind will understand how the creation came into existence from nothing.

It is not our purpose here to review Krauss’s book, which is well written, interesting, and explores some difficult, theoretical, and controversial areas of science. What we would like to do is explore this subject area with an eye to giving a common sense, easy to understand foundation to the questions being raised by followers of Krauss. Our basic theme in this journal and in our ministry is that faith and science are not enemies—they are friends. New experiments and new understandings may modify what we believe, but properly understood all scientific facts will support faith. If there is a God and if he created the creation we observe, and if that same creator gave us an explanation in the Bible of what he did, then our faith in God can only be strengthened by a better understanding of the cosmos. Those whose



sole purpose is to get people to “forget Jesus” are not educating us, but are salesmen promoting their own religious agenda — which in this case is atheism or agnosticism.

POINT 1: THE DEFINITION OF NOTHING IS AN ISSUE.

The word “nothing” is obviously “no thing” — or the absence of “something.” Webster’s dictionary adds that nothing contains no part or trace of anything. In the early days of science, understandings were based on what the five senses could detect, and it was believed that the universe was only made of what could be sensed. As new tools became available to science it became obvious that there were things that could not be sensed by the five human senses, but were very real. “Nothingness” would have to include the absence of detectability and no one knew what that limit would be. At the beginning of the twentieth century Einstein gave us $E=mc^2$ indicating that matter and energy were just two forms of the same “something.” This meant that not only would we have to talk about matter when speaking of what nothing is, but we would also have to speak of a complete absence of energy since mass was simply a concentrated form of energy.

This has been a problem with some writers in the twenty-first century. The modern concept of vacuum fluctuations or quantum fluctuations

suggests temporary changes in the amount of energy in a point in space. The assumption is that as long as the products of any reaction adds up to zero we have nothing becoming something and then becoming nothing again. Some have even used matter/antimatter interactions to support this view saying that if matter collides with antimatter they destroy each other and produce nothing. That statement is patently false. What happens is that energy is produced obeying $E=mc^2$ and in theory that energy could be re-formed back into matter. Trekkies will remember the “beam me up Scottie” line in which this was theoretically done.

It has become increasingly obvious as quantum mechanics has advanced that there are dimensions beyond our own three-dimensional world, and that these dimensions have connections to the cosmos as we observe it. Scientific proposals such as string theory and brane theory have incorporated these ideas in their models.



The biblical account and the concept of God creating the cosmos does not deal with these modern discussions of nothingness. The Hebrew word *reshith* translated “In the beginning” in the Bible implied to the readers thousands of years ago the same concept that it does today — that is, the creation of the physical world.

It is important to understand that all modern theories about creation assume a pre-created matrix for whatever interaction is being described. The “God particle” advocates assume that the Higgs boson exists, and that the Higgs field exists. String theory assumes that 11 dimensional superstrings exist and that there is a matrix in which they could collide. The Hebrew word for God in Genesis 1:1 is *Elohim* which was used when the Hebrews were emphasizing God’s power and creative capacity. The Hebrew word for create is the word *bara* which is reserved for an act that only God can do. The Hebrew word translated “heaven” is the word *shamayhim* which most literally means “heaved up things” and is involved with the cosmos being “stretched out.” There is no conflict between what our experiments show and what these words say. Science will change, expand, and come up with new models that work better than the existing models, but redefining “nothing” to try to exclude God from being the designer and creator of all we see is an exercise in futility. The question of whether God is the designer and creator of things like the Higgs boson can be debated and certainly will be, but it is not a debate over nothing.

POINT 2. UNDERSTANDING GOD’S METHOD DOES NOT NEGATE GOD’S EXISTENCE —AND IS WORTH DOING. Laymen may wonder why anyone wants to engage in these types of research and discussions. If the sole purpose of such work is to discredit Christianity and cause people to “forget Jesus” such a challenge might be valid. The fact is however, that any research into the cosmos can provide benefits to humanity. There was considerable religious resistance to surgery when modern surgical methods began. I have been told that a doctor decided to remove a baby that had died late in a pregnancy and whose decaying body was poisoning his mother. The doctor’s life was threatened by local people who felt this was God’s domain and man should not invade it. That kind of ignorance has existed in a number of scientific areas, but this is human ignorance and has nothing to do with God’s existence. By understanding how our bodies work we are now able to correct and cure a huge range of physical ailments. While such knowledge can be misused, it can also bring great blessings to mankind. Most doctors will tell you that they can only do so much and that there is much that goes on with curing medical problems that is outside of what our technology can do.

Knowing how the solar system works, how the sun functions, and how the moon interacts with the earth has great benefits. Such knowledge not only fills us with awe at the wisdom and power involved, but also helps us predict events that affect us so that we can prepare for them. It also helps us to find energy and mineral resources. Understanding how the atom has been built and how charge and mass function has given us modern technology and the solution to all kinds of problems. Krauss' statement that "the stars died so that you could be born" is easily understood to be simply a methodology that God has used to create us and the world in which we live. If God created the Higgs boson and the Higgs field as a means of producing

mass, that is again just an understanding of the methods God used and is not related in any way to God's existence.

Knowing how light is produced has given us the laser. Discoveries that allow us to understand how gravity is produced and how it can be controlled have huge



positive possibilities for mankind in the future. The more we know of the creation, the closer we get to the creator and an understanding of his incredible wisdom and power. It should never cause us to question his existence. "The heavens declare the glory of God; / And the firmament shows His handiwork" (Psalm 19:1). Romans 1:20 has a remarkable choice of words on this subject: "For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power . . ." Science helps us comprehend these "invisible attributes" by helping us see "the things that are made," be it a tree or a Higgs boson.

POINT 3. THE BIBLE IS WRITTEN FOR A VERY WIDE AUDIENCE—NOT JUST TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY COSMOLOGISTS.

Mankind seems to forget the scope of the readership of the Bible. The date of Genesis can be debated, but no one doubts that it was long before the birth of Christ. Can you imagine writing something today that will make sense 3,000 years from now? Recent conflicts in Moslem countries have driven home to most of us in America how difficult it is for people to reach

across cultural lines. A while back someone in the United States made a very bad video which gives a scathing denunciation of Mohammad. The content of the video is not the issue here, although I found it to be poorly done and in bad taste. My discussions with Muslims whom I am studying with through our e-mail program have revolved around their belief that the United States government has produced the video. The idea that an individual could produce this on his own and that the government would not approve, sanction, or promote it is beyond their understanding. In their country anything public has to be government approved, and an individual does not have the right to express such a view.

The Genesis account was written in a particular language at a particular time in a particular culture. Trying to explain a quark to high school students in basic physics classes has always been a challenge to me as a teacher. Trying to do it to people who have never seen an electric device would be far beyond my ability. People have a tendency to forget that writers of Genesis and Job were not modern scientists. What they wrote had to make sense to the ancient shepherds in the hills of the Middle East and for people who were not scientifically literate in all cultures throughout thousands of years; and yet had to be testable for scientifically literate people in the twenty-first century. The Genesis account does all this and whatever conflicts arise are due to human failure to take the Hebrew words literally or a misapplication of what Genesis says.

POINT 4. THE BIBLE'S MAIN THRUST IS SPIRITUAL, NOT PHYSICAL—THE OPPOSITE OF THE ATHEIST'S THRUST. When you explore the websites dealing with “nothing,” what you see is that they deal entirely with the physical realm. “Survival of the fittest” is a physical concept and when it is applied to moral and social issues the result is destructive. The classic example which we have mentioned before in this journal is Dr. Peter Singer, the Ira W. DeCamp Professor of Bioethics at Princeton University, who has suggested that people who are mentally ill and/or mentally challenged should be euthanized because they are a drain on society and they make no contribution to society. That suggestion is the result of viewing only the physical in nature—the naturalistic mentality. The suggestion that we live in a universe that came from nothing and that we should “forget Jesus” because of that is rooted in a naturalistic, materialistic philosophical orientation.

The history of creation in Genesis 1 concludes with the statement, “Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished. ... Then God ... rested from all His work which God had

created and made” (Genesis 2:1, 3). In 31 verses of Genesis 1 we have been taken from true nothingness—no mass, no energy, no time, no space, no Higgs bosons or gravitons, and no fields of any kind—to a functional



planet in a physical three-dimensional universe functioning within a segment of space/time. All of modern cosmology and quantum mechanics is an attempt to understand how God did all of that.

The second chapter of Genesis then turns us to the main purpose of the Bible—to show man’s ideal relationship with God and with woman. That relationship in both cases is not primarily physical. The stated purpose of the relationship between man and woman was a spiritual relationship because nothing else could be “a helper comparable to him” (Genesis 2:20). The concept of man and woman becoming “one flesh” (Genesis 2:24) was not just a sexual relationship. It was far more than that. Our obsession with the physical has caused us in recent years to denigrate marriage because the emphasis has been on a physical unity, not on the oneness that Genesis describes.

The third chapter of Genesis brings us to man’s corruption of his relationship with God. In the discussion between Eve and the serpent the break between the physical and the spiritual is made clear. God has told Eve, “You shall not eat it [the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden], nor shall you touch it, lest you die” (Genesis 3:3). The serpent tells Eve that she will not die physically, but that the change will be spiritual, “You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil” (Genesis 3:4–5). Satan makes it clear that physical death is not what is involved, and verse 6 tells us that Eve knew it was “desirable to make one wise.” This was a deliberate rejection of God and did in fact result in death—spiritual death. God’s pronouncement was correct and Satan’s words were partly true.

Theologians like to argue about the literalness of this account, and volumes have been written to defend a multiplicity of interpretations. The fact is, however, that the rest of the Bible is about man’s spiritual journey back to God. Jesus said “My kingdom is not of this world” (John 18:36). Over and over Jesus taught people to focus on the spiritual arena and rebuild their relationship with God. “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy

and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven ... For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matthew 6:19–21).

Telling people to “forget Jesus” and then giving a reference to how the elements in our physical bodies might have been formed in the interior of an ancient supernova as the reason to do this involves being incredibly ignorant of the Bible’s message. We need to avoid debates about nothing, and understand that the evidence is clear that God is the creator of the physical and the spiritual. We are special because we are created in his image with the capacity to love and serve in the same way that Jesus loved and served. Paul told the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers perhaps the most concise version of what we have tried to say in this essay in Acts 17:24–30:

“God, who made the world” (from true nothingness) “and everything in it ... is not far from each one of us; for in Him we live and move and have our being ... ‘For we are also His offspring.’ Therefore, since we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, ... Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent.” (Bible quotations are from the New King James Version.)



—JNC

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING

The ancient Greek philosopher Parmenides in the fifth century B.C. argued that “nothing” cannot exist and so there has always been something. In other words the universe could not have come into existence out of nothing. Socrates and Plato seemed to agree, but Aristotle concluded that the idea of the impossibility of “nothing” was “next door to madness.” Since then René Decartes, Blaise Pascal, Isaac Newton, Bertrand Russell, Albert Einstein, and many other great minds have weighed in on this heavy topic. However, of all the things that have been said about “nothing” here is my favorite:

“For with God nothing shall be impossible” (Luke 1:37, KJV).

—Roland D. Earnst

REASON AND REVELATION

by Dayton Keesee

What a glorious statement of clarification and revelation is in the Hebrew writer's words: "By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible" (Hebrews 11:3, NASB). The writer was not guessing or imagining. He stated that he understood! Both by reason and revelation this one God and Father of all (whom Paul affirms is "over all" [his power], "through all" [his providence], and "in all" [his presence]—Ephesians 4:6) is worthy of our worship and service! Would you dare believe it?

In recent years I have reasoned from a seven-fold foundation of known facts with Hindus in India, who boast of a million gods, and with Russian atheists, who affirm that there is no God. Without naming the source, each one is urged to recognize as to the visible universe that an: (1) Unseen, (2) Intelligent, (3) Eternal, (4) Feeling, (5) Purposeful, (6) Uniting, (7) Communicating power made all of this.

FIRST—There is no man nor group of men, at present or known in history, who made the universe. No one in this age or any other age has seen the power that produced and sustains the universe. Therefore, it reasonably follows that an unseen power did it!

SECOND—That unseen power surely possesses intelligence, for the massive network of heavenly bodies, plus the intricate makeup of just the human body shouts the imperative need for intelligence!

THIRD—By reasoning on the facts we know, that unseen, intelligent power must be eternal. Socrates was one of the earliest to apply the reason of cause and effect—something is because something was, therefore something always had to be!

FOURTH—It is further reasonable that the unseen, intelligent, eternal power must have feelings. From the air we breathe to the water we drink, and many other things, we must draw the conclusion that power that created us has feelings for us because of all the good things designed for our welfare!

FIFTH—It further follows as a reasonable conclusion that this unseen, intelligent, eternal, feeling power must have some purpose for all things made. A watch that indicates time and dates, has an alarm, and contains a light for night viewing obviously is no accidental arrangement. Its design powerfully cries out its existence as a means to fulfill multiple purposes. If that is a reasonable deduction it would call for a watchmaker just as an automobile calls for an auto-maker. Then there is overwhelming evidence this universe and the life on it were surely designed and developed for some purpose!

SIXTH—Most germane to Paul's plea for one God, is the fact that this power must be a united and a uniting power. Having personally been introduced to the claim for Ju Ju gods in Nigeria; the Brahma, Vishnu, Shiva (plus the other million) gods of India; and the avowed denial of any God by some in Russia, it is most evident that there is no unity in that conglomerate of ideologies. The existing harmony as to time (day/night, weeks/months/years, summer/winter, etc.), plus consistent, predictable function patterns of the universe accumulate as a mountain of evidence for monotheism, or one united power source. The consistency of earth's rotation and orbital path about the sun shout for unity and oneness for the power that governs the universe. A rational conclusion that fits the facts known by all is that power is one.

SEVENTH—The unseen, intelligent, eternal, feeling, purposeful, uniting power surely must seek to communicate with us. The conclusion is reasonable that this power with feelings and purpose would seek to communicate with us. You long to communicate with someone you genuinely care for. Add the fact of this power's intelligence in forming the universe, making man, etc.—that power certainly has sufficient intelligence to communicate! The evidence is overwhelming that this power would seek to, and surely could communicate with us.

There should be an inner hunger in you and me to want to know about that power! Consider the following incident. Years ago William Jennings Bryan was on a journey to Columbus, Ohio. He stopped at a restaurant, ordered a meal, which was topped off with a cool, nice, juicy, sweet piece of red watermelon. He carefully raked aside the seeds, putting them in a small container. Upon his return home, he first used some meticulous scales, concluding it would take about 5,000 dried watermelon seeds to weigh a pound.



Later, he followed through on his mind-set from that good experience in the restaurant. He placed the seeds in the ground. For our purposes now, just follow the function of one seed. Blended with the soil, sunshine, some rain, that little rascal went to work. It pushed a stalk or stem up through the ground, gradually crawling across mother earth, forming a vine, leaves, pistil, blooms, curls, etc. The most amazing thing is that through one of the stems it ballooned out an object two hundred thousand times its own weight, put on it a green covering called a rind, and within was a white streak plus a core of red, and symmetrically placed throughout were seeds just like itself!

What architect drew up that plan? Where did that seed get its power to produce such a vine and such a melon? Where did it get the coloring matter to make part of it green, part white, part red? Where did it get the flavoring extract to make it juicy and sweet? Where did that little seed get such amazing power and pattern-producing skill?

Did you know that there is not a scientist or group of scientists on the earth who can tell us where that seed gets its power by their laboratory experiments. They can name every leaf, bloom, and curl, and they can classify the plant type; but they cannot tell us where the seed gets its power, nor can they produce such a seed!

When you think of that watermelon seed in comparison to the universe, do you not think you and I had better be concerned about that power operating the earth, sun, moon, and stars? Would you like to know and be acquainted with that power? Keep reading.

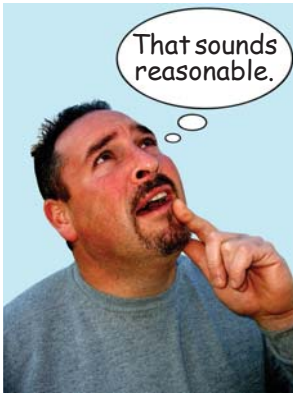
Having reasoned through the seven stages of existing circumstances relative to this undeniable power, only one step needs to be taken. Every one of these rational deductions concerning this power is attributed to God by his communicating tool—the Bible! As we go back over the seven reasonable points, note the passages from God’s Word that parallel with each reasonable conclusion!

1. There is an unseen power that did it. Note John 1:18 and 1 John 4:12. Jesus said that no one has seen God at any time. That is no positive proof that God is that power, but being unseen, he could be that power! This rules out matter as the cause because we can see matter!

2. It is an intelligent power. This is a trait attributed to God with the emphasis that “His understanding is infinite” (Psalms 19:1ff and 147:4ff). This rules out naturalistic evolution as the cause, because the record states that He spoke and it was done (Psalm 33:8ff). No materialistic evolutionary process fits!

3. This intelligent power must be eternal. God is repeatedly referred to as being eternal or everlasting. Moses stated, "... from everlasting to everlasting, You are God" (Psalms 90:2; 93:2; 102:25–27; Jeremiah 10:10; 1 John 1:1–3).

4. This intelligent power must have feelings. We know this because what has been made is perfectly designed for the good of life on the earth. Both the Old and New Covenants emphasize God's feelings. First John 4:8 declares that "God is love." Matthew 5:45 informs us that God "causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous" (note also Ecclesiastes 3:11–13 and John 5:17). Acts 17:24–28 declares that God is not very far from each one of us, assuring us that he has reached out through time to us. That rules out Deism, or God in isolation.¹



5. This intelligent power must have a purpose for the universe and people.

This fact is repeatedly declared in God's word. Jesus said, "For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only'" (Matthew 4:10; note Psalms 22:27; 115:12; 8:4; Ecclesiastes 12:13ff.) Plato was on target when he advanced the idea that energy plus design equals purpose. The earth has a great display of both! This was later labeled by Christian Wolff (1728) as the teleological argument. This point emphasizes that God is the Maker, we are

the made. He is the Creator, we are the created (Genesis 1, 2). This rules out pantheism, which is a philosophy that all forces and love constitutes God—everything is God. Not so! He made us, and we must be sure we never forget it (read Psalm 55:20–23). To him we must give an account (Romans 14:11ff).

6. This intelligent power must function as one because of the lasting harmony and order evident in the universe. That stability and pattern is characteristic of God's very nature. Note Deuteronomy 6:4, "Hear, O Israel, The Lord is our God, the Lord is one!" Other passages affirm this same fact (Deuteronomy 4:39; Mark 12:29ff; Isaiah 44:6; 45:5, 18, 21, 22; 1 Timothy 2:5; 1 Corinthians 8:4, etc.). This fact rules out polytheism and atheism!

7. This intelligent power must make known his purpose and feelings by communicating with us. Such is the repeated claim in the Bible as God's Word. The Hebrew writer stated: "God, after

He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days, has spoken to us in His Son” (Hebrews 1:1, 2). Jesus even affirmed that full and vibrant living for man comes by “every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God” (Matthew 4:4; Deuteronomy 8:3). Note all of Psalm 119; Romans 1:16–25; 1 Corinthians 2:9ff; Jeremiah 31:31–24; Hebrews 8:6–13; Acts 14:15–17, etc. This make-up of God’s Word — his rules, commands, precepts, and promises — eliminates the “no standard” theory and situation ethics. Hearing and heeding this communication from the Maker and Sustainer of the universe should capture our attention and our hearts.

What accumulated evidence that there is one God! These facts are proven by reason and revelation. How many habitats of harmony would be established if mankind would only keep the unity of the Spirit relative to one God as to worship and service! How are you currently related to that Power — that one God?

1. Deism is a philosophic effort to justify how an all-powerful God could allow so much suffering, pain, disasters, etc. The philosopher’s putting God into isolation neither fits Scripture nor the facts. On a teaching tour in India a man asked me, “If God is all powerful and is love, why does he allow so many of my people to starve, hurt, and have pain?” I asked him, “Are you married? Do you and your wife have children?” His answer was, “Yes, and we have 5 children.” My next question was, “Do you love your children?” His answer was, “Yes, I love my children?” I asked, “Did you know when you and your wife decided to have children that they would get sick? Suffer? Could do evil? Would die?” His response was that he did not want such to happen, but he knew that it would happen. My response was, “Don’t tell me you love your children. If you brought them into a world with pain and problems, you do not love your children. You have lied!” After a stunned expression, he and I both smiled because he had gotten the point. “You mean if I know I love my children and brought them into such a world, God could love us though such perils as befall my children.” My response was, “That is correct except for one big difference. If your children die, there is nothing you and your wife can do about it, but death is no problem to God (1 Corinthians 15:50–57; Matthew 3:9). God does care and he corrects. Through him and Jesus Christ we can overcome (read carefully John 3:16; Romans 8:35–39).



THE LORD OUR ROCK

by Paul Douglas Smith



When we think of God as our rock we usually think of the defensive strength God provides —like a fortress. However, there is another aspect in which a rock can bring stability in times of turbulence to deliver us to the other side. Dr. Smith gives us an illustration.

And he [David] said, The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer (2 Samuel 22:2, KJV).



Missionaries in Africa, who serve in very remote areas, often have to cross through swift-running streams in order to get to the villages where they want to minister. The greatest danger in crossing these streams is getting swept off their feet and plunged into deeper, more rapid waters where they may get hurt or drowned. The local

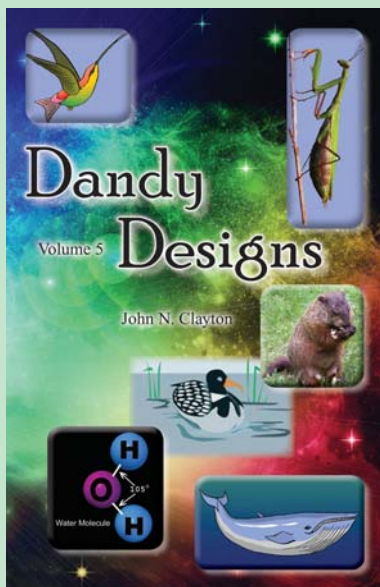
natives taught the missionaries to pick up a heavy stone and carry it along as they crossed the stream. The added weight would give them stability as they waded across the swiftly moving waters.

The world is a lot like these swiftly moving streams in Africa. As we wade through it, we must take care that we are not tripped up by the world's rapid currents and swallowed up by Satan's worldly devices.

Deuteronomy 32:4 shows us that the Lord "is the Rock." This is to say that he is our refuge and strength. Even more, when we truly have him in our hearts, we will have stability, and though we may stumble, we will never fall down in the dark and deadly waters of Satan's world (Psalm 46:1).

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GREAT SCIENTISTS AND GOD

Editor's Note: There are many writers who claimed that good scientists and intelligent, well-educated people do not believe in God. This simply is not true. Tihomir Dimitrov (<http://nobelists.net>) has been researching the statements of the greatest scientists of all time, and we are reproducing some of their statements in this column.

JAMES CLERK MAXWELL

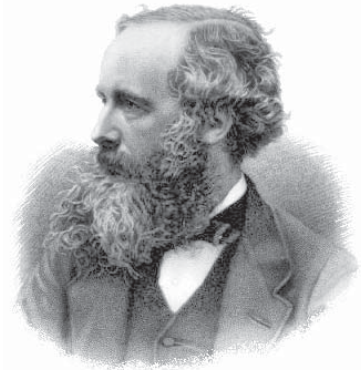
(1831-1879)

Scottish Theoretical Physicist

Formulated Theory of Electromagnetism

His contributions to science are on the level of those of Isaac Newton and Albert Einstein.

“Almighty God who has created man in Thine own image, and made him a living soul that he might seek after Thee and have dominion over Thy creatures, teach us to study the works of Thy hands that we may subdue the earth to our use, and strengthen our reason for Thy service; and so receive your blessed Word that we may believe on Him whom Thou hast sent to give us the knowledge of salvation and the remission of our sins. All of which we ask in the name of the same Jesus Christ our Lord.”



“I think the more we enter together into Christ's work He will have the more room to work His work in us. For He always desires us to be one that He may be one with us. Our worship is social, and Christ will be wherever two or three are gathered together in His name.”

“I think men of science as well as other men need to learn from Christ, and I think Christians whose minds are scientific are bound to study science that their view of the glory of God may be as extensive as their being is capable of.” “Think what God has determined to do to all those who submit themselves to His righteousness and are willing to receive His gift. They are conformed to the image of His Son, and when that is fulfilled, and God sees that they are conformed to the image of Christ there can be no more condemnation, for this is the praise which God himself gives, whose judgment is just.”

Cynthia's Corner



WHY IS GOD NECESSARY FOR US TO EXIST?

To believers, that's like asking why do our kids exist; we created them! God "himself gives all men life and breath and everything else" (Acts 17:25). God is the Creator (Genesis 1:1), the Sustainer, the Source of life; indeed, he is life (John 14:6). "All things were created by him and for him ... and in him all things hold together" (Colossians 1:16–17). Those are statements from God's Word which are important spiritual truths. My husband and other apologists can give you scientific evidences to support the existence of God. As an older adult, I can give you anecdotal evidences for the existence of a loving God who is actively involved in the affairs of humans. There are many scriptural examples of miraculous events where God acts outside the natural order of things to affect the world and directly touch the lives of believers.

From the beginning of mankind, humans have always searched for answers to our existence. God created us with a curiosity and a desire to seek knowledge and to seek him. "God created man in his own image" (Genesis 1:27). God not only made our physical bodies, but he created us in his spiritual image. He gave us a spiritual, eternal soul that seeks to know him and to be with him. "As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, Oh God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God" (Psalm 42:1–2). We have a deep spiritual void without God.

Some people live their whole lives without regard for God. They live as if God does not exist and they seek fulfillment and satisfaction in the only ways the world offers — relationships, job success, fame, material possessions, money, drugs, sex, self gratification, etc. They determine their own values, standards and morality — whatever works for them. People continually seek to be fulfilled and find happiness only to fall short because they are ignoring the One who made them. We want to love and be loved; yet, we ignore the One who IS love (1 John 4:7, 8, 16). When we reject God, we are rejecting the Source of all goodness, love, peace, joy, etc. (Galatians 5:22). God says, "We love because he first loved us" (1 John 4:19). Ignoring or denying God's existence does not negate his existence. It only creates a hole in our heart and soul that can only be filled by God. God created us with this longing in our soul so that we "would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us. 'For in him we live and move and have our being'" (Acts 17:27–28).

—Cynthia Clayton

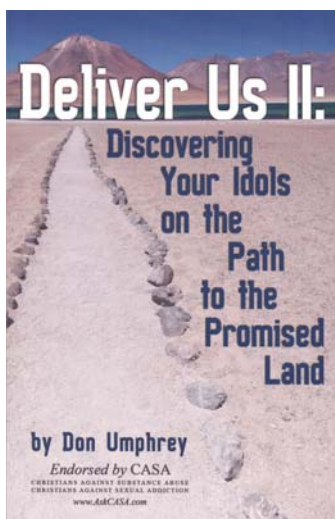
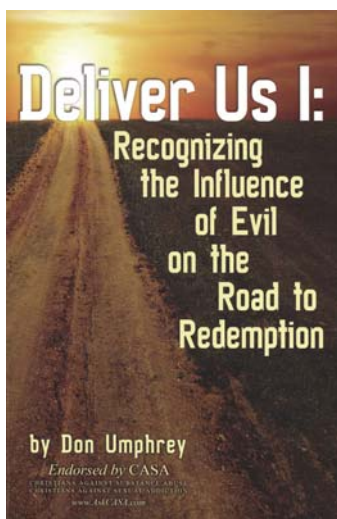


The books that are reviewed in the Book Review section are not available through us, but can be obtained from a local bookstore or through many online bookstores.

Deliver Us I: Recognizing the Influence of Evil on the Road to Redemption

Deliver Us II: Discovering Your Idols on the Path to the Promised Land

by Don Umphrey, Quarry Press, PO Box 181736, Dallas, TX 75218,
 © 2012, 191 pages and 235 pages, \$12.99 and \$14.99 (paperback),
 ISBN-13: 978-1-937766-07-8 and 978-1-937766-06-1



Our book of the month for this month is actually two books by the same author. Don Umphrey is a university professor and journalist who has written several books on Christian solutions to addiction. These two books are endorsed by Christians Against Substance Abuse and Christians Against Sexual Addiction (CASA—www.AskCasa.com).



The strength of these books in your reviewer's opinion is that the author uses himself as the living proof of the truth of what the Bible teaches about handling addiction and struggles in life. Don Umphrey has had a struggle with addiction to alcohol, and has written "that God can use the worst parts of [his] life to help others."

These two books are personal, well written, biblical, and offer practical advice. In both books the author will insert a highlighted question for the reader to consider as to how the truth that the author has just discussed applies to the reader. An example is after discussing the confrontation of Nathan the prophet with King David the question is asked of the reader, "Have you blamed the messenger who was trying to help you? What did it take to subsequently recognize you were wrong? If applicable, describe a situation where you were the messenger who was blamed. What was the eventual outcome?" Such questions challenge the reader to apply the principles discussed, and could also be used in a class study or home devotional.

Deliver Us I is subtitled *Recognizing the Influence of Evil on the Road to Redemption*. This book deals with evil and how Satan works to destroy us. It pushes the reader to come to "a moment of clarity" and to do something about his situation. He uses many Bible and personal examples to make his point.

Deliver Us II is subtitled *Discovering Your Idols on the Path to the Promised Land*. This book deals with idols in our lives. Umphrey points out that the purpose of the ten plagues God sent on Egypt was to show to Pharaoh, the Egyptians, and the Israelites that God is God and the idols are nothing. The book shows how "Each plague unmasked the powerlessness of one or more of the Egyptian gods or goddesses." He shows from the Bible how idols influenced Israel and major characters of the Bible. Then he shows how we are influenced by idols today. The definition of what an idol is and how idols control us and what we do is developed very well. The book helps us to realize that we have idols in our own lives. It shows how people in the twenty-first century can be driven and controlled by idols such as alcohol, food, sex, or the control and judgment of others.

The role of the church, of faith in God, and of belief in the Bible as God's word are strongly emphasized in these books. The books are useful for anyone, but will be especially helpful to people who are finding their way out of doubt, insecurity, and the effects of Satan in today's world.

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

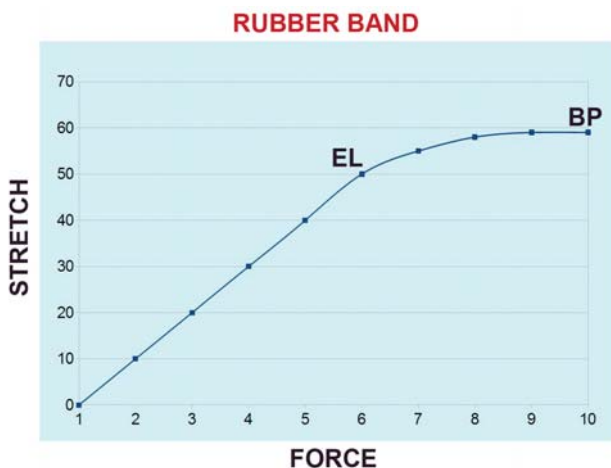


DANDY DESIGNS

MATERIALS DESIGN

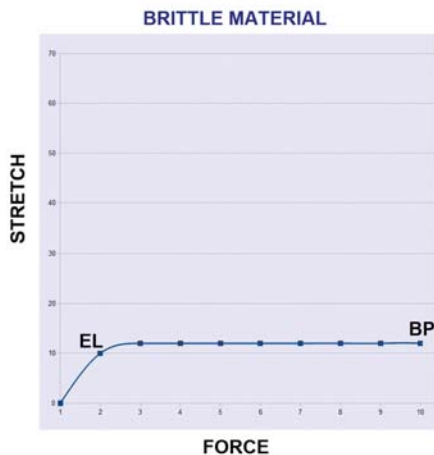
We take for granted as we move and use our hands and feet in our daily activities that nothing is going to break. Unlike our bodies there are many man-made things that do break. The design of materials so that they will stretch if we need them to, or so they will not stretch when you do not want them to is a part of engineering and physics.

In a basic physics class we do an interesting lab exercise in which we put a rubber band on a holder and add weights to it making it stretch. We measure the amount of stretch and make a graph plotting the weight added against the amount of stretch, and for a typical rubber band the graph will look like this.

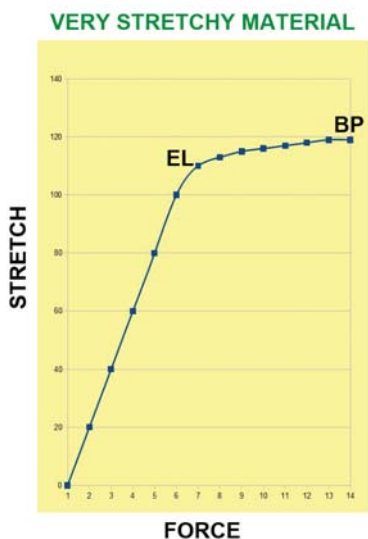


What is interesting is that there is a point where the rubber band's stretching slows down and the rubber band stops stretching. This is called the elastic limit and is identified by EL on the graph. If the weights are taken off after reaching this point, the rubber band will be longer than it was before. When there is no stretching at all, the rubber band breaks, and that point is called the breaking point (BP on the graph).

Every material has a different graph. The next graph shows a brittle material which would stretch so little you might not even notice and eventually it would reach its breaking point.



The third graph shows a very stretchy material like a nylon stocking. It can also be easily stretched beyond its elastic limit producing a “run” in the stocking. The uses of this in industrial applications are numerous, and new materials that have amazing properties have been designed using this graph as a guide. In sports medicine there are numerous applications to muscles, ligaments, and tendons.



Think of how this is applied to the design of your body. You do not want your teeth and bones to be elastic, but to be more like the second graph. The skin on the soles of your feet has to have a different graph than the skin on your knuckles. The cornea of your eye has to be still different than other materials. Your internal organs like your heart have to be designed to

function and yet have the elasticity to endure many changes.

Much of what we have learned about materials science has come from studying the materials in our own bodies. Spider webs have been another area where we have seen incredible materials produced for a variety of different applications. In Psalm 139:14 David praises God saying, “I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Marvelous are your works.” Today we know that the design of the materials used in all of the creation is done with careful planning and intelligence.

News and Notes

GOOD NEWS — OZONE HOLE SMALLER. The size of the ozone hole on September 22, 2012, was the smallest it has been since 1990. A variety of things has contributed to this, including the warmer Antarctic temperatures in 2012. Source: *Science News*, December 1, 2012, page 13.

GOOD THERMODYNAMICS ARTICLE. We would like to recommend an article by Gary Patterson in the December 2012 issue of *Perspectives on Science & Christian Faith*, the journal of the American Scientific Affiliation, titled “Theology and Thermodynamics: In Praise of Entropy.” It is a good treatment of this frequently misunderstood concept. See www.asa3.org/ASA/PSCF/2012/PSCF12-12Patterson.pdf.



BIGFOOT MYTH RAMBLES ON. The old adage that “if people don’t believe in something they will believe anything” is seen over and over again in our so-called modern “post-Christian era.” The Animal Planet TV channel continues to run programs on searching for Bigfoot, and recently much publicity came out about a press release on November 24, 2012, by a Dr. Melba S. Ketchum who said, “A team of scientists can verify that their five-year long DNA study, currently under peer-review, confirms the existence of a novel hominid hybrid species, commonly called ‘Bigfoot’ or ‘Sasquatch,’ living in North America. Researchers’ extensive DNA sequencing suggests that the legendary Sasquatch is a human relative that arose approximately 15,000 years ago as a hybrid cross of modern *Homo sapiens* with an unknown primate species.”

Skeptics of the Ketchum Project have published a long list of errors in the research, and Ketchum has refused to engage in conferences and meetings with those involved in Bigfoot research. It is pretty obvious this



is just a PR scam and that no valid evidence exists. Source: *Skeptical Briefs*, Spring 2013, volume 23, number 1.

PUBLIC SCHOOL BIBLE COURSES ABUST. Many religious people have complained that the public schools should offer public school Bible courses to counteract atheistic teaching that permeates some public school curricula. In 2007 in Texas a law was passed allowing for elective courses, but now complaints and threats are coming to the state about the “blatant bias” found in the courses. The Texas Freedom Network has complained that the courses favor “conservative Protestantism, problematic treatment of Judaism, ... ‘reflects ideological bias that America was founded as a Christian nation based on biblical Christian principles.’” Expecting the tax supported public schools to do the work that the church should be doing is not going to work, and in our pluralistic society that should be a pretty obvious reality. Source: *The Dallas Morning News*, January 17, 2013, page 4A.

CHILDREN OF DIVORCE AND CHURCH.

A new study of adult children of divorce by the Institute for American Values shows that children raised in happy marriages are more than twice as likely to attend religious services as children of divorced couples. In the study researchers found children



saying that people at church did not understand their pain when their parents were splitting. The need for Christians to minister in a special way to children of divorce should be obvious, but it is a neglected area. Source: *Christianity Today*, March 2013, page 11.

AN AMERICAN “DARWIN FINCH” CASE. A modern example of adaptation by natural selection has taken place in southwestern Nebraska. Studies done on the cliff swallows have shown that in 29 years the death rate of the swallows by hitting the windshields of cars has dropped from 2,000 a year in 1983 to 4 per year in 2012. The explanation seems to be that the swallows have evolved shorter wings which allow more dramatic maneuvering to avoid cars. Not everyone thinks that the wings have changed, but rather that the “daredevil gene” in the swallows has been weeded out. This is very similar to Darwin’s argument that the finches in the Galapagos Islands had their bills selected by the environment they found themselves in.

None of this contradicts the Bible. Jacob used this same principle to mold Laban's flocks into something he could manage. It is the extrapolation of observations of these birds that puts neo-Darwinism at odds with those who believe that God had a purpose in building characteristics like this into all living things. Source: *Science News*, April 20, 2013, page 17.

CAT LOVERS VERSUS BIRD LOVERS. Domestic cats kill as many as 3.7 billion birds a year and as many as 20.7 billion wild mammals. As many as 80 percent of the 114 million cats that live in the United States hunt. An estimated 84 million of these hunters live in people's houses. The plummeting numbers of song birds in the United States have been pretty well documented, and cat kills outstrip pesticide poisoning, window collisions, and collisions with communication towers and vehicles. When God told man to take care of the earth (Genesis 2:15) it included intelligently managing animal populations. Cats are a non-native species to the United States, and man must responsibly manage cats as well as birds. Source: *Science News*, February 23, 2013, page 14.



“SUPER-EARTHS” CLAIMS MISLEADING. We continue to see articles in the media regularly claiming that “earth-like planets have been found orbiting other stars.” Some of these planets are in the “habitable zones” of stars, which mean places where the temperatures are such that water could exist in a liquid state. Also their mass indicates that the planets could be rocky. A spacecraft known as Kepler has been looking for possible candidates for these zones called the “Goldilocks” regions. The media makes it sound as if there is such a zone, there will be life. The fact is that none of the other things needed for life to exist are considered—a functional atmosphere, the right chemical compounds, the right spin rate, the right tilt on its axis, the right size, the presence of a significant magnetic field, the existence of a stabilizing moon, etc. There may be life in outer space, but the idea that life is commonplace and present in massive numbers in our own Milky Way galaxy is very misleading. We have a list of some 47 design features in the cosmos which suggest intelligence was involved in creating the environment where life could exist. (It is available at www.doesgodexist.org/Charts/)

EvidenceForDesignInTheUniverse.html.) The creation of life itself would have to be included for a complete picture of whether life exists in space or not. Source: *Los Angeles Times* (MCT), retrieved from the *South Bend Tribune*, April 21, 2013, page C9.

MEDICAL MARIJUANA ISSUE ESCALATES. The question of whether marijuana should be used to treat chronic pain continues to be raised as several states are now sanctioning recreational use of marijuana. In *Arthritis Today* (May/June 2013, page 55) there is a list of health concerns with the use of cannabis in treating arthritis. The list includes: (1) Heart rates are elevated which can produce strokes and heart problems. (2) Depression and anxiety may be exacerbated in individuals with a history of either. (3) “One cannabis cigarette is the equivalent of 20 tobacco cigarettes in terms” of increasing lung cancer risks. (4) There are widespread problems in dispensaries with fungus, bacteria, and toxic pesticides. (5) Motor function is inhibited. The use of THC (the pain killer in marijuana) in terminal patients can make some sense, but legalizing the smoking of marijuana appears to be a dangerous choice which is being made in many places in our country. (See our March/April 2012 issue, page 6 for details).

MEDIA VIOLENCE AND KIDS. The terrible murdering of children at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Connecticut has brought to our attention again the question of how the saturation of violence in the media is affecting us. The young man who committed the horrible carnage at Sandy Hook was immersed in violent video games, and



the shooting at the Aurora, Colorado, showing of *The Dark Knight Rises* has been related to the content of the movie. Data shows that children who watch television regularly see an average of 18,000 murders a year. Psychologists now link this viewing to bullying, abuse, and aggressive behavior. The

rating system on movies reflects our change in this area as studies of the rating system show that movies that were rated G in 2004 would have been rated as PG ten years earlier. God expects his servants to “train up a child in the way he should go” (Proverbs 22:6). It would seem that avoiding misconceptions about the reality of how people can and should live is a part of that. Source: Dr. Darcia Narvaez in an

article titled “What Effect Media Violence Has On Us,” *South Bend Tribune*, February 17, 2013, page A1.

LEFT HANDED BENJAMITES. It is always a little frustrating to have said, “I don’t know,” when someone has asked a challenging question, and then months or years later find the answer and not remember who brought the challenge in the first place. I can remember being challenged by an atheist to explain Judges 20:16 where the Bible refers to 700 Benjamites who were left-handed. Modern genetics tells us that right-handed parents only have a 10% chance of having a left-handed child, so the challenge was that Judges 20:16 could not be true. I had no idea how to answer that question, but in the May/June 2013 issue of *Biblical Archeology Review* there is an excellent article by Boyd Steevers and Joanna Klein on this subject. They point out that being left-handed was a huge advantage in combat, and that 1 Chronicles 12:2 says that David had ambidextrous warriors who were Benjamites. They also point out that the word used in Judges 20:16 literally means “restricted in his right hand” suggesting a conscious development of a combat-ready advantage.

HOW MANY IN PRISON? People studying numbers tell us that in the United States there are over 2,000,000 people in prison making the U.S.A. the possessor of the largest population in jail. China is second with 1,549,000 and Russia is third with 847,000. In the United States, Texas leads the country with 154,000 prisoners followed by California with 136,000, and then Florida with 100,000. The cost per offender to the tax payer is approximately \$24,000 per year. This is an ignored mission field, and our experience is that many of these people can be changed by God into productive citizens. We have some 3,400 prisoners studying with us in our apologetics courses and 1,200 taking other Bible studies with our team. From any angle you look at it, there is a need to increase our work and involvement with prisons. Sources: *Walking in the Light*, from Kings Crossing Prison Ministries (email NLBCASA@yahoo.com) and from Wikipedia.

THE THREAT FROM SPACE. On February 15, 2013, a hunk of rock from outer space about 55 feet in diameter burned up some 20 miles above the surface of the earth over Chelyabinsk in Russia’s Ural Mountains. About 1,500 people were injured, mostly by broken glass, when the shock wave blew out windows. The last time a natural object of this size entered earth’s atmosphere was in 1908 when a 120 foot meteor exploded in a similar way above a remote Siberian forest causing a blast 185 times stronger than the nuclear bomb that was dropped on Hiroshima. The blast flattened 80 million trees, but that

was over 100 years ago, telling us that such collisions are exceedingly rare and our atmosphere is designed in such a way as to burn up even these rare visitors.

Only 16 hours after the Chelyabinsk asteroid another one about 98 feet in diameter passed only 17,200 miles from the earth. The two asteroids were unrelated because they had very different trajectories. However, these events again sparked concern about an asteroid hitting the earth.

Most asteroids orbit between Mars and Jupiter, and our atmosphere burns up virtually all of the objects that are near us. The still larger objects like comets coming from outer space are swept away from us by the gravity of our large planets — Jupiter, Saturn, Neptune and Uranus. These space objects are all debris left over from the formation of the solar system and changes that happen within it.

In December a comet will make a major appearance in the night sky and this will start the publicity of astronomical collisions all over again. We have been reminded of how carefully God has designed the earth when astronomical incidents

occur. Life on earth is special and tenuous, and without the careful design of our solar system the earth would not survive. You do not need to worry about space debris hitting you. The dangers of human stupidity far exceed any dangers from space. Sources: *The Week*, March 1, 2013, page 11; *Scientific American*, March 2013, page 30; en.wikipedia.org “2012 DA14” and “Chelyabinsk meteor.”

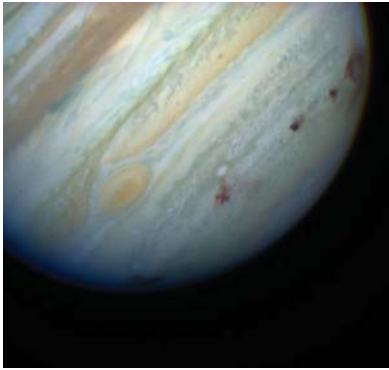


Photo of P/Shoemaker-Levy 09 comet breaking up and crashing into Jupiter, July 1994.



An artist's conception of an asteroid hitting earth. Not something to worry about!

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

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