

DOES GOD EXIST?

Fourth Quarter 2020
Volume 47 Number 4

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

BEYOND
MEASURE

Does God Exist? Lectureships

No Lectures are scheduled,
but visit us at
doesgodexist.org, where
all materials online are
available free of charge.

We hope that all our
friends and readers of this
Does God Exist? journal are
staying healthy during this
sheltering-in-place pandemic.
We all need to rely on God
to watch over us and protect
us from this virus as well as
from other maladies that we
may face.

Visit the Clayton Museum of
Ancient History at York College
in York, Nebraska.

Articles in this Issue:

Beyond Measure	3
Woodland Recycling System	7
The Benefits of Thanksgiving	10
The Magi's Gifts	13

Guest Article:

Two Questions Science Can't Answer	15
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Special Features:

Scientists and God	20
Cynthia's Corner	21
Book Reviews	
So, You Have Cancer! Now What?	22
Fine-Tuned for Life	23
Dandy Designs	
Self-Destructive Defense	24
Whirlpool Fishing	25
News and Notes	26

<https://www.claytonmuseumofancienthistory.org/>.

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BEYOND MEASURE



Like many people, I have a routine that I follow to get my day started. My routine has both a spiritual and a physical component. I start the day by turning on my computer and going to NASA's Astronomy Picture of the Day (APOD. nasa.gov) website.

Our cover picture comes from that website on August 30, 2020. It shows nebula NGC6357 where stars are still forming. The brightest star you see above the gas cloud is

Pismis 24-1 and it is more than 200 times the mass of our Sun. Hubble pictures have revealed that it is actually made up of three stars each 100 times our Sun's mass. Near the center of the picture, new stars seem to be breaking out of the cocoon.

I spend some time looking at the latest picture from space and reading the explanation of what the image shows and what is unique about it. This leads me to think about the creation and what the Creator did to make such a view possible.

It amazes me that the God who created the things we can see through our telescopes would bother with our little planet and with the likes of me. Why would a God who uses supernovas to produce the elements to make the world and my body care about me? How can I possibly be important enough to God that he "so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16 KJV)?

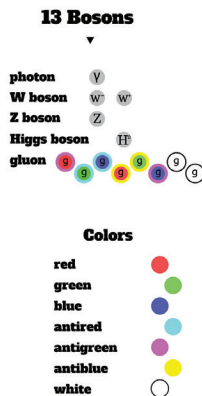
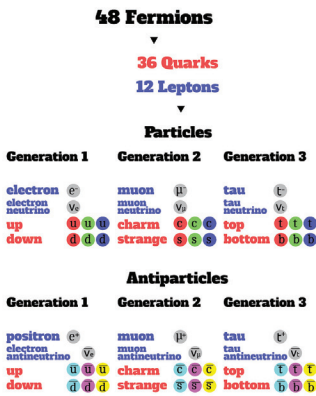
My training as a scientist also tells me not to accept every claim or explanation of what we see in the world around us. I thought I understood why there is such a thing as dark matter. I know that when things spin, centrifugal force throws matter away from the center. Because galaxies spin, the fundamental laws of physics tell me that they should fly apart. But they do not fly apart, meaning that some hidden force or energy is balancing the centrifugal force and holding

them together. Calling it dark matter or dark energy makes sense because we cannot see whatever it is. As astronomers wrestle with this design and its cause, new pictures show that many galaxies do not have dark matter yet they somehow still seem to hold together. The latest count of galaxies of this kind is 324 that have either lost their dark matter or were created differently.



The nature of science is that no theory or explanation is so rigid or foolproof that it cannot be proven wrong or at least incomplete. Our understanding of even the most fundamental objects in space is limited and constantly changing. As I read scientific literature and books, I find more and more scientists in all fields talking about energies and forces outside of the familiar dimensions we study in basic science classes. Neutrinos, quarks, hyperons, antimatter, superstrings, bary-

61 Elementary Particles



ons, muons, leptons, parallel universes, and more challenge our imaginations and tell us that what we see of the creation is very limited. Our three-dimensional world is just a small part of dimensions far beyond our own. Even though much of this cannot be tested or falsified, and thus is not a scientific fact, it does have a message for us. It

challenges us to think beyond what our senses can reveal.

This leads me to another attempt to comprehend the nature of God. It is not an exercise in futility because the Bible approaches the question of what God is by listing his properties. That is a technique we use in science. We cannot see an electron, but we can understand it by studying its properties. We know an electron has a negative charge, that it spins clockwise in a north magnetic field, and that its mass is 1/1842 that of a proton. There are a whole plethora of properties of electrons that allow us to have a field of science known

as chemistry, which helps us understand how molecules form.

My understanding of God is very similar to my understanding of an electron. The Bible uses the same technique to help us build our understanding of God. It tells us that God is not flesh and blood (Matthew 16:17) and that God is not a man (Numbers 23:19). The Bible also tells us that God cannot be seen by human eyes (1 John 4:12). We know that we are created in God's image (Genesis 1:27), but we also know that it is not our bodies that are in God's image but our spiritual makeup. John 4:24 tells us that God is a Spirit. It is clear that what separates us from the animal world is our creative capacity in art and music, our worship, our ability to feel guilt and sympathy, and our capacity to love unselfishly (1 John 4:8, 16). We know that God created time and the beginning and that he exists outside of time (Psalm 90:4; 102:27; 1 Corinthians 2:7; 2 Peter 3:8; Revelation 22:13).

Do I totally understand all there is to know about electrons because I know some of their properties? The answer is obviously "no." Science has found particles that explain what causes charge and mass. I know enough about electrons to teach chemistry and to work on processes where the control of electrons is essential. I also know that there are dimensions beyond our own that give us a hint of a fuller understanding of electrons in the future. Scientists have never seen an electron, but they use the properties of electrons to create electronic equipment and understand chemical processes.



Do I understand all there is to know about God because I know some of his properties? Certainly not. But what I do know allows me to have confidence in praying to him and living my life in a way that reflects my understanding of God. I sense God's presence in those morn-

ing hours when I plan my day and talk to God about my concerns for those people and things I love.

One of the many things that science and the Bible agree on is the fact that our existence is not eternal. Built into the cosmos is the second law of thermodynamics, which tells us that the cosmos is moving toward a condition of disorder called entropy. As we watch stars and galaxies on the NASA site, we see that all stars die and take their planets with them. There is no doubt that the cosmos is not eternal.

The Bible agrees with this assessment, telling us that "The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare"



(2 Peter 3:10 NIV 1984). Science cannot tell us anything about what happens to us when the three-dimensional world we live in is dissolved. The Bible assures us that time will end and that we will enter a dimension in which not only does time not exist, but all the negatives that

depend on time will also cease to exist. There will be no more tears, sorrow, crying, or pain when our existence in this three-dimensional world ends.

Revelation 21 tells us there will be a new heaven and a new earth, and all things will be made new. In 1 Corinthians 15:40–57, Paul tells us that our bodies will be changed. Those verses also describe our present physical properties and the changes that will make all we endure here become a distant memory.

—John N. Clayton



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Woodland Recycling System

I have lived my entire life in the woodlands of North America. I love walking through the vast areas of pines, birches, maples, oaks, blueberries, ferns, mosses, aspens, and raspberries. To me, it is pure joy to sit in the woods or in a boat on a lake or river and listen to the sounds of nature. I especially enjoy the fall when the colors become vivid, and animal life is in a rush to prepare for winter. The falling of leaves to the ground, followed by frost and snow, adds its own magic to the joy of being in the woods.

What we are seldom aware of is the massive amount of waste produced in the woods. We all know about leaves and probably have had some cruel words about them when they cover our lawns. The fact is that a constant rain of organic material falls to the floor of the woods. Limbs, bark, twigs, dead grass, moss, sawdust, animal excrement, and carcasses pile up year after year. Yet when you walk in the woods, the floor is made up of a thin, spongy layer of black soil. What happens to the massive amount of debris that falls to the forest floor every year?



The answer to this question is under-appreciated by most of us. God has built into the forest an incredibly efficient recycling system.

When something organic falls to the forest floor, it is swarmed on by bacteria, termites, ants, fungi, and worms, which form the basis of the food chain for higher forms of life. Nutrients in the woods seldom last longer than a few weeks at the most. Rain is moderate and percolates through these nutrients, rapidly helping them find their way back into the forest's living tissues.



Those places where there are not dense forests have a completely different system of recycling. In the far north, where forests are not dominant, migrating salmon provide the ecological balance needed. In desert areas, the lack of ecological balance means that life for humans is difficult at best. Human survival depends on God's recycling system. In some areas of the rich farmlands of America, we can measure the soil in

feet. That allows us to grow our grain crops that sustain our existence, but those areas were built in an ancient forest. God told us to take care of what he gave us (see Genesis 2:15). One part of caring for



Top photo: Roland Earnst; bottom: © sandsun. Image from Big Stock.com



the Earth is to copy God's recycling techniques and replenish the nutrients we take from the soil rather than polluting the air by burning them or polluting the ground by bagging in plastic and burying them.

—JNC



See our videos at www.doesgodexist.tv

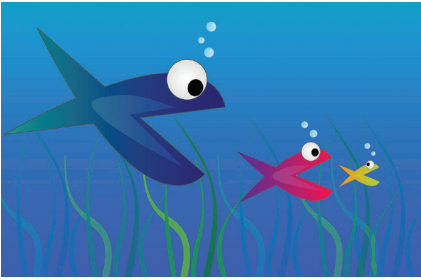


In the United States, Thanksgiving became a national holiday in 1863 when Abraham Lincoln made a Thanksgiving Day proclamation. He asked citizens to “set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next as a day of thanksgiving and praise.” The Civil War was going on at that time. Various colonies had set aside special days of thanksgiving long before, so this was not a new concept. Most of us have heard about the Pilgrim Thanksgiving in Plymouth, Massachusetts, with the Wampanoag people in 1621. But it was not until 1941 that Congress finally designated the fourth Thursday in November as “Thanksgiving Day,” thus creating a federal holiday.

Our belief system affects how we observe and participate in the holiday. As America has become more prosperous, and as science and technology have made our lives more comfortable, we have bought into the idea that we are the sole controllers of what we have and what we will have in the future. “Survival of the fittest” has led to a mindset that we must

be the fittest in every area of life. Some religions have adopted this guiding principle to justify the extermination of those who are





not part of their faith. Genocide, abortion, euthanasia, racism, and abuse of all kinds are rooted in the mindset that survival of the fittest produces.

Historically, God has always encouraged his children to view thanksgiving as essential. In Leviticus 22:29, God told the

Israelites to participate in a sacrifice of thanksgiving. This sacrifice was vital for them to be accepted by God. Jesus Christ, in Matthew 5–7, turned the notion of survival of the fittest upside down. In those three chapters, he gave statement after statement about behaviors and beliefs that did not promote the individual’s survival, but submission and promotion of others. In Ephesians 5:4, Paul takes all of the loose talk, crudeness, and covetous behaviors and says, “instead let there be thanksgiving.”

“Black Friday” is a good indicator of what has happened in America. Some people sit outside a discount store in the rain all day Thursday and Thursday night to get a bargain on Friday for something they really do not need.

So what is the benefit of thanksgiving, and I do not mean just the holiday? Thanksgiving is something we need to live daily and weekly. A



person who looks at the stars and planets and looks at living things and looks at family should feel a sense of thanksgiving. When we look in the mirror, we must reflect on how blessed we are to be alive. We can be thankful that we can think and see and feel and smell and hear. With thanksgiving, we are not looking to see how we can subdue someone else or get what someone else has. Thankful people are at peace within themselves.

When Jesus calls us to live at peace with everyone, to turn the other cheek, to give to others, to show mercy and gratitude to others, he calls us to the real, meaningful things in life. None of us likes to be involved in stress, fighting,





bickering, or war. But as long as “survival of the fittest” is our key to living, those destructive drives will be part of our makeup. They jeopardize our health, our relationships, and our joy at being alive.

A key to joyous living is to have an attitude of gratitude. Thanksgiving should be a daily, hourly activity. Pause to give thanks every time you eat. Spend some time looking

at your family and those around you, and thank God for them. Be thankful that God, through Jesus Christ, has made it possible for you to not live in fear of death and dying. You can rejoice with the knowledge that this life is only a small snippet of your total existence, and with all its joy, it is still the worst you will ever experience.



—JNC





And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.

—Matthew 2:11

There has been a great deal of confusion about the magi's visit to the Christ child. Not only are there differences of opinion about who the magi were, but even their gifts have been misunderstood. Atheists have claimed that the whole story is nonsense because Mary and Joseph could make so much money from these three items that Joseph would not have to work as a carpenter. We assume that whatever value the gifts had would have helped to support the family during their sojourn in Egypt.

At the time of Christ, these gifts were quite expensive. Today on Amazon, you can buy frankincense resin for \$16 a pound and myrrh resin from \$16–36 a pound. Gold, on the other hand, is selling for more than \$1,800 an ounce. But the value of the magi's gifts was not primarily financial.

Frankincense and myrrh are resins extracted from wounds in the bark of trees that grow in northeast Africa and southern Arabia. Frankincense was used to soothe the gums and to treat respiratory problems, skin infections, and bruises. Modern researchers have found that frankincense has antiseptic, antifungal, and anti-inflammatory properties. It also contains flavonoids that cause the



Frankincense Tree

lungs' bronchia to dilate, helping with breathing problems. But frankincense was, and still is, burned in the worship of deity. For that reason, it seems to be an appropriate gift for the Christ child.

People used myrrh as an anesthetic. Soldiers gave Jesus "wine mingled with myrrh" during his crucifixion to relieve his suffering. He rejected the offering. Modern research has shown that myrrh can lower cholesterol levels, and it has been used to treat heart disease. A side effect of myrrh is that it stimulates the thyroid resulting in accelerated metabolism. Myrrh was used to embalm royal mummies like King Tutankhamen. The Jews also used it for embalming bodies for burial. The gift of myrrh hints at the death of Christ.



Myrrh Tree

Even gold was valued for medical uses and not just business transactions. Roman doctors prescribed gold dissolved in acid to cure appendicitis. Today the drug auranofin is a gold salt listed by the World Health Organization to treat rheumatoid arthritis. But gold was and is associated with kings and crowns. This gift from the magi indicates a kingly future for Jesus.

The point of all this is that the expensive gifts of the magi had symbolic meaning. They were foreshadowing the death of Jesus, but also his deity and kingship. We know very little about the magi except that they came to worship the Christ child. Their gifts honored the one who was God in the flesh and who would eventually die to redeem all who would accept him as their King.

—JNC

Myrrh



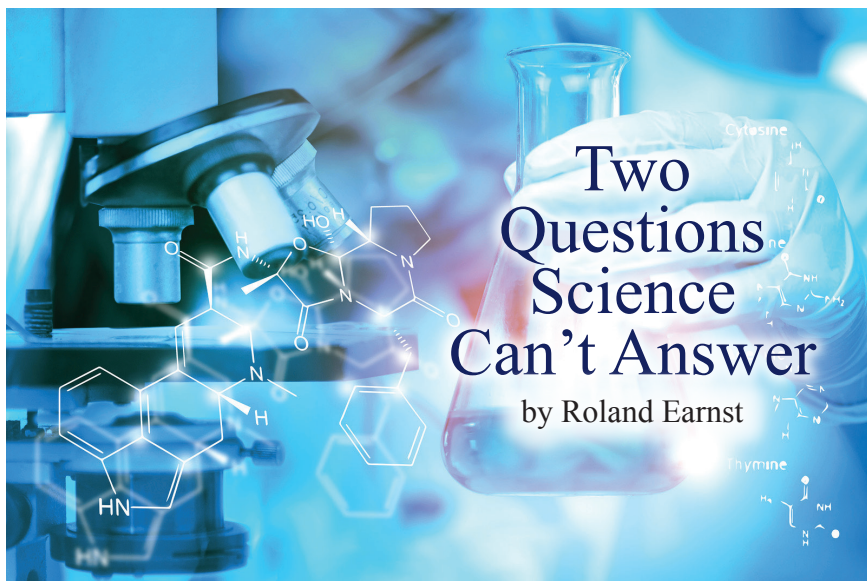
Death

Gold

King

Frankincense

Worship



Have you ever heard someone say that evolution makes God unnecessary? “Since evolution can explain the existence of everything, why do we need God to explain why we are here?” When someone tells you that, you might want to remind them of two fundamental questions that science cannot answer.

QUESTION 1 Why is there **SOMETHING** rather than **NOTHING**?

You could say, “Why is there ANYTHING rather than NOTHING?” Contemplate this question. Scientists agree that the universe is not eternal. (After denying it for thousands of years, but that is another subject.) First, there was nothing, then suddenly, something appeared. That something was a tiny speck containing every bit of matter/energy that now exists in what we know as the entire universe. The universe, with its billions of galaxies, each containing billions of stars and untold planets, was contained in that speck that scientists call a singularity. It included every bit of material that became dark matter and dark energy, which science tells us makes up most of the universe. It also contained the makings of every nebula, pulsar, quasar, black hole, and anything else that we do not even know about yet. It included the ingredients for every element and molecule that make up everything we can see and touch, including ourselves.



How did NOTHING become SOMETHING, or perhaps we should say, how did NOTHING become EVERYTHING? To make the question even more confounding, time and space did not exist before that cosmic creation event, commonly called the “big bang.” So how did nothing—meaning no time or space or matter or energy—become everything we can see and everything we cannot see?



Just thinking about that can make your head spin. How could NOTHING become EVERYTHING with no CAUSE? It had to have a cause. What is the cause? That is the crucial question. It is a question that must be answered by

both theists and atheists. Of course, theists believe in God, and that is their answer. Atheists must find another solution to the question.

The late scientist Stephen Hawking thought he had the answer. In his book *The Grand Design*, he stated, “Because there is a law such as gravity, the universe can and will create itself from nothing. Spontaneous creation is the reason there is something rather than nothing, why the universe exists, why we exist. It is not necessary to invoke God to light the blue touch paper and set the universe going.” Hawking was a brilliant man, but that seems to me to be a rather weak answer.



When atheists such as Hawking answer the question of cause, they are describing their “god.” Whatever someone takes as the ultimate source of all that exists in this physical universe can only be described as that person’s god. If Hawking believed that gravity was the ultimate source, gravity was Hawking’s god.



Anyone who thinks through the idea of existence must contemplate the ultimate cause of why we are here. You are here because of your parents. They lived because of their parents and on and on until you get to Adam and Eve. But what was before the first humans? For an atheist, evolution describes the ancestry from there back to the “primordial soup” or whatever birthed the original life-form. That leads to the second question.

QUESTION 2

How did inorganic matter SPONTANEOUSLY become life?

How did lifeless matter SPONTANEOUSLY become alive? How did carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, nitrogen, phosphorous, calcium, potassium, and other lifeless elements become a living cell and eventually us?

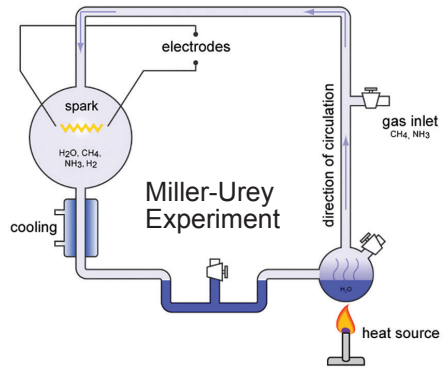


Science has been working for years to create life in the laboratory. They thought they made an early breakthrough in 1952 with the Miller-Urey experiment. We now know that the “atmosphere” in that experiment does not resemble the early Earth’s atmosphere, thus invalidating the finding. Also, the experiment only created some amino acids, which are the building blocks of proteins,

but far from a living cell.

I have an Associated Press news article in my files. The headline reads, “Scientists Believe Artificial Life Will Be Possible in 3 to 10 Years.” The report is dated August 20, 2007. In 2020, the artificial creation of life is still years away if it ever happens. If a team of scientists succeeds in creating a living cell capable of reproducing, what will they have proven? Will they have shown that life arises spontaneously from non-life? No. They will have proven that great intelligence under carefully controlled conditions can turn non-living matter into life-forms. They will have shown that life is not an accident, but the creation of an intelligent being. That is what the Bible has said for thousands of years (see Genesis 1).

Furthermore, in making that living cell, they will be using elements and molecules that they did not create. Where did those elements come from? That takes us back to question number 1. There is a story about a scientist who challenged God, saying that it was no big deal to create a man from the dust of the ground. God said, “Go ahead and do it.” The scientist



Furthermore, in making that living cell, they will be using elements and molecules that they did not create. Where did those elements come from? That takes us back to question number 1. There is a story about a scientist who challenged God, saying that it was no big deal to create a man from the dust of the ground. God said, “Go ahead and do it.” The scientist



grabbed up a handful of dust, and God interrupted him, saying, “Wait a minute! Make your own dust.”

If life can come from non-life without intelligent intervention, why did it happen only once in our planet’s history? Why is not life popping up from non-life in swamps today? Okay, so the atmosphere and conditions were different back on the early Earth. How did those just-right conditions merely happen, and did they occur in only one location? Why did not life pop up in many places? The more we consider how the cosmos and life began, the more questions we have.

MORE QUESTIONS SCIENCE CANNOT ANSWER

The two main questions we have considered cannot be answered by science today, and probably never will be. Science can only devise hypotheses on those two challenges because the events involved happened long ago. Without inventing a time machine to take us back, any hypothesis cannot be proven or falsified. So the bottom



line is, even if you could prove evolution from a single-cell life-form to human beings, that would not eliminate the need for God.

Science also has no answer to the question, “What is the purpose of the universe?” If the cosmos just happened without an intelligent causer, then it cannot have an ultimate

purpose. There is also a more personal question, “Why am I here? What is my purpose?” Science cannot answer that, either. If you are merely the result of chance evolution, you are no more valuable than a frog or an earthworm. You are just an accident.

Is your “god” a random gravity fluctuation of “nothing,” or a personal God who created you in his image with a purpose for your life? If the latter is your answer, you are infinitely valuable, and you are loved. All of this leads to the most basic and essential question of all—“Does God exist?”

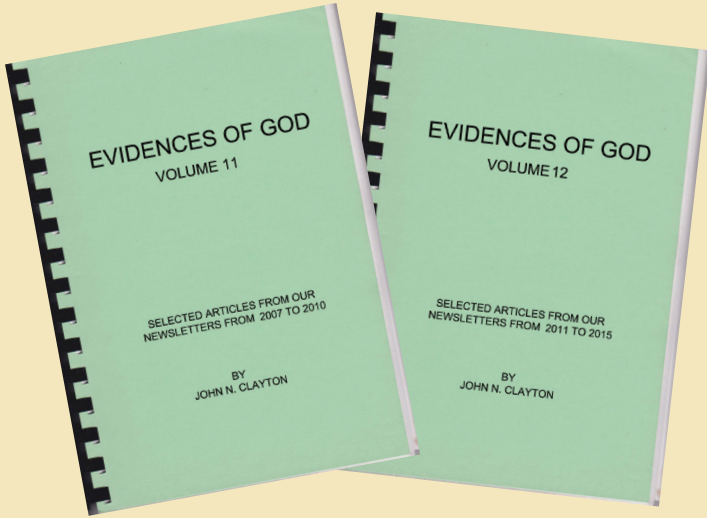
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EVIDENCES OF GOD: VOLUMES 11 AND 12

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We have released two new volumes in the Evidences of God series. These comb-bound books contain articles from this journal from 2007–2010 and 2011–2015. As with previous volumes, they have a subject-matter content guide. If you want to find an article on evolution, you can look in the guide and find every article we published on evolution between those dates.

We now have volumes of *Evidences of God* going back to 1973 when we began printing the journal. People tell us about four favorite uses of these books. Those who prepare church bulletins can quickly find something on a topic we have covered. People also use the information in writing “Letters to the Editor” in local newspapers. A third use is when someone raises a question on a covered topic. You can copy the article and hand it to the person presenting the question. A fourth use is to get a perspective or data on an issue when preparing for a speech, a sermon, a term paper, etc.

These books are available on loan or to purchase at our cost of \$6.00, each post-paid from:

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SCIENTISTS AND GOD

Editor's Note: Our thanks to Tihomir Dimitrov on the nobelists.net website for quotations from many of the founders of modern science who were also fundamental believers in the God of the Bible. As we share these quotations we are reminded that being a good scientist is not at odds with belief in God.

Galileo Galilei (1564-1642)

Founder of Experimental Physics and heavily persecuted by the Catholic church for his scientific work

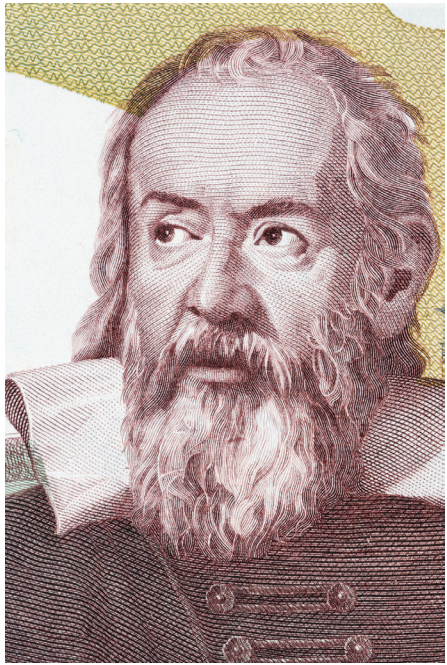
“To the Lord, whom I
worship and thank,
That governs the heav-
ens with His eyelid
To Him I return tired, but
full of living.”

“When I reflect on so
many profoundly marvel-
lous things that persons have
grasped, sought, and done, I
recognize even more clearly
that human intelligence is a
work of God, and one of the
most excellent.”

“The Holy Scripture
cannot err and the decrees
therein contained are abso-
lutely true and inviolable.
But its expounders and interpreters are liable to err in many
ways.”

“The Holy Bible can never speak untruth — whenever its
true meaning is understood.”

From Caputo, Drake, and Ross quoted on <http://nobelist.tripod.com/id4.html>.



Cynthia's Corner



God Became Human—Why?

There are many world religions and many concepts of God. If we are going to dedicate our lives to “believing in God” and living accordingly, we must have proof or evidence of his existence. We must also understand who he is and what he wants of us. How can we know this? After all, God is a spiritual being, not human, and we cannot see him. But, we see God’s existence through the things he has made. “For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse” (Romans 1:20). God says his creation is evidence that he exists.

However, because he wants us to know him personally, he has communicated directly with us from the time of the first humans. Adam and Eve spoke with God. Though they did not see him, they heard him. He continued to communicate with his chosen people by many means—voices, visions and dreams, angel messengers, and his prophets. God chose special people to write down his words, by inspiration (2 Timothy 3:16; Galatians 1:11, 12). We call that record the Holy Bible. The inspiration of the Bible can be proven in many ways. For more information on this, contact us.

God wants all humans to know him personally and live eternally with him after this human existence ends. He did one more thing to show us who he is that cannot be denied or refuted. He sent his Son into this world as a human baby to live with us for about 33 years. His human name was Jesus. He was born of a virgin by the power of the Holy Spirit.

As an adult, he did undeniable miracles that only God could do. He healed the blind, the deaf, the mute, the paralyzed, and those with acute and chronic illnesses. He commanded the elements to obey him by calming storms, changing water to wine, and providing unlimited quantities of food. He commanded demons to obey him and brought people back from the dead. Those miracles prove that he is the Son of God in human form (John 20:30–31).

The greatest miracle and proof of his deity was his resurrection from the dead. He appeared to more than 500 people over 40 days and proved he was alive (Acts 1:3). God became human to show us who he is, how much he loves us, and how we can have a relationship with him through his son Jesus (John 3:16–17).

—Cynthia Clayton



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

So, You Have Cancer! Now What?

by Glenn Goree, Winged Publications, © 2020, 128 pages,
\$6.99 (paperback), \$2.99 (Kindle), ISBN-13: 979-8677835285



Typically our book reviews cover books that deal with apologetics. However, sometimes a book comes to our attention that we believe meets the needs of people who have an interest in our ministry even though it does not primarily involve evidence for God and the Bible. We want to share one such book with you here.

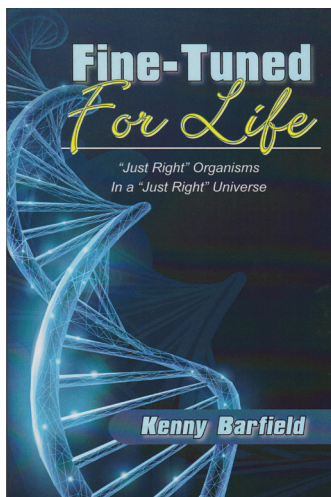
I have read many books on cancer and books that deal with grieving when you lose a loved one to cancer. This book was written by a man who has terminal cancer of the liver and a short time to live. Glenn Goree titled his book *So, You Have Cancer! Now What?* I did a lectureship with a congregation in Texas many years ago, where Glenn was the preacher for ten years. He has also been a missionary in Africa and has had a long career as a counselor. Glenn has had a large share of illnesses, including two heart attacks, hepatitis C, diabetes, including having five toes removed and neuropathy.

The purpose of this book is to help Christians who know their life is about to end. Glenn is candid, outspoken, honest, and fair in what he says. He talks about being angry with God and being outraged. He deals with fear and depression. He discusses God's grace, forgiveness (including forgiving God), and mercy. He does this by describing his own feelings and then going to the Bible to get help when knowing you are about to die. However, every reader will profit by reading this book since every one of us is terminal. However, just his approach to grace and God's mercy makes it worth reading.

Besides a local bookstore this book is available from Glenn Goree's website: www.glenngoree.com through amazon.com.

Fine-Tuned for Life

by Kenny Barfield, Lambert Book House, © 2020,
306 pages \$15.95 (paperback), ISBN-13: 978-0-89315-996-2



Dr. Kenny Barfield has written an excellent book called *Fine-Tuned for Life* with the subtitle “‘Just Right’ Organisms in a ‘Just Right’ Universe.” If you have followed the **Does God Exist?** ministry, you are aware of an approach called “Dandy Designs” (see the next page). We desire to show design in the natural world that defies explanation by blind, opportunistic chance as the cause. We always attempt to document the source of our examples, but our documentation has often been short and incomplete. Dr. Barfield has taken the evidence from design idea and going farther with it than we have been able to do.

Kenny Barfield is a school teacher and an apologetic specialist with some 50 years of teaching science, so the book is thorough and accurate. This book has more examples than we have offered and with many color pictures. It also has two useful appendix sections to help those teaching children or holding classes for teenagers and adults.

The book contains eleven sections, each dealing with design features in separate areas of science. After beginning with a brief discussion of statistics, the sections deal with the amazing cell, the goldilocks planet, and then six chapters on the fine-tuning for life of various animal categories, including insects, birds and flying mammals, aquatic animals, land animals, and symbiotic relationships.

This book is easy to read and has documentation and explanations within the sections instead of at the end of the book. That makes it very useful and helps with explanations. It is a book you would enjoy reading at home, but it would be an excellent study for a Bible class or a Vacation Bible School. We recommend this book highly.

This book is available from: Mars Hill Bookstore, 698 Cox Creek Pkwy., Florence, AL 35630, 800-321-4587.

Visit the Clayton Museum
of Ancient History at
York College, York, Neb.



DANDY DESIGNS

SELF-DESTRUCTIVE DEFENSE



How can an ant defend against a predator by blowing itself up? The worker ants of a species (*Camponotus saundersi*) that lives in Malaysia and Brunei use self-destruction defense. Let me explain.

These ants have two glands filled with toxic glue running the length of their bodies. When the ant seems to be losing its battle with a predator, it makes the ultimate sacrifice. By violently contracting its abdominal muscles, the ant ruptures its body. The explosion scatters sticky poison in all directions, disabling the predator.

How can that benefit the ant? Obviously, that ant dies, but its action spares the rest of the colony from the predator. Humans sometimes sacrifice their own lives to save others. But, unlike humans, ants are not conscious of the fact that they are sacrificing themselves for their colony. How can we explain this by natural selection? Self-sacrificing ants would not reproduce to pass on that trait to their descendants. It must have been designed into the ants by the Master Designer of life.

These ants practice self-destruction defense even though they do not understand the concept of self-sacrifice. However, I believe their Creator does. It is expressed beautifully in the Bible (see John 3:16; John 15:13).

WHIRLPOOL FISHING



Many times we see animal behavior that seems impossible to explain. A small wading bird called the red-necked phalarope (*Phalaropus lobatus*) spends its summers in the Arctic regions and winters in tropical oceans. These birds have a curious way of stirring up a meal when the food is too deep in the water for them to reach.

The phalarope swims in a small, tight circle faster and faster to form a whirlpool. The spinning vortex will bring up food from the bottom of shallow waters in the way a tornado can lift objects from the ground. When the whirlpool brings some insects or crustaceans to the surface, the phalarope reaches its bill into the vortex and plucks them out. Sometimes the bird saves energy by finding a spot where converging currents or tidal action bring food to the surface.

Using high-speed photography, researchers found that the phalarope creates a vortex that is over three feet deep. The vortex acts as a miniature tornado bringing food up to where the bird can reach it. You could understand how one bird might learn this skill, but it seems to be genetically implanted since baby birds do the spinning even when they have had no contact with adult birds.

Another strange thing about these birds is that the females display brighter colors than the males, and they go after and even fight over males. The males are left to incubate the eggs and raise the chicks while the females may even head south for the winter.

There is a never-ending variety of fascinating creatures in this world. We think the design, balance, and variety we see in nature testifies to the genius and creativity of God.

We see in phalaropes, as in most animals, that God has given them a genetically-based technique for acquiring food so they can survive.

News and Notes

STAY UP-TO-DATE ON NEWS AND NOTES: The stories in News and Notes are condensed from articles previously published on our website www.DoesGodExist.today. You can use the QR codes with each of these articles to see the original posts for more details and references. There are also many other interesting and informative articles on that website each day. We encourage you to follow us daily on “Does God Exist? Today.” On that website, you can also subscribe to our free weekly e-mail update. We call it “The Best of the Week from DOES GOD EXIST?” It contains links to the most popular of our posts on DGE? Today and our Facebook page (Facebook.com/evidence4god).

BIBLES PRINTED IN 2020: By the end of 2020, the annual total of Bibles printed will be 95 million. That is nearly double the number printed 20 years earlier. In 1900, five million Bibles were published, and you could find them in motel rooms everywhere. In the 1950s, Bibles were distributed to every student at the start of the school year. In 60 years, we have moved to the point where schools are sued for allowing Bible distribution, and schools take disciplinary actions against a child or teacher for bringing a Bible to school. In 1900 there were 2,300 people for every one Bible printed. Now that figure is 82 people per Bible. In spite of that, in many countries, Bibles are hard to find. There are ministries attempting to change that.



As secularism, atheism, and paganism continue to attack the Bible, we can expect to see more conflict and power struggles. Conflict is rising in America and continues in much of Africa and Asia. The situation highlights the mission of this ministry. The total of Bibles printed means little if people do not bother to read them because they do not believe in God. A presentation of the evidence for God, the Bible, and the teachings of Jesus, along with the living example of real Christians, can change the world. Source: *Christianity Today*, October 2020, page 18.



ANTARCTIC GLACIERS MELTING: Two of the most massive Antarctic glaciers have broken loose from their land connections and are floating in the ocean. It is another evidence of global



warming and a warning to the world that we must pay attention to the coming rise in sea level.

When ice is exposed to the air on land, it absorbs a minimum of heat, so melting on a landmass is very slow. In water, however, heat exchange is very rapid. The melting of ice is much faster once it is in water, and the Thwaites glacier, the larger of the two Antarctic glaciers involved, is one of the fastest-changing glaciers on Earth.

Job 38:22–23 refers to the “treasures of the snow” and says that this frozen water is “reserved against the time of trouble.” In Earth’s design, the snow and ice preserve water and provide a vital heat sink to the whole planet. The polar ice caps have been the primary water storage areas. Glaciers are also part of the design of Earth to make it hospitable for life.

Rising sea levels present a potential catastrophe we can avoid if we take care of the planet as God instructed us to do. Realize that the possible flooding is a consequence of human actions, not a vindictive act of God. Source: <https://www.pnas.org/content/117/40/24735>.



MONEY BUYS SCIENCE: Jeffrey Epstein, the late millionaire who sexually abused many minors, donated \$6.5 million to Harvard University. As a result, he was appointed as a visiting fellow, even though he had no academic qualifications. Epstein had a close connection with Harvard’s Program for Evolutionary Dynamics and visited their offices over 40 times between 2010 and 2018, even though he was a registered sex offender at the time. That meant he had a key card and passcode with which he could enter buildings during off-hours.

Epstein fancied himself as a latter-day eugenicist who wanted to seed the human race with his own DNA. He got some researchers at Harvard to give support to his ideas. This affair between Epstein and Harvard shows clearly that academic institutions are vulnerable to being bought. Universities must ensure that research funding is based on merit, not cronyism. There have been cases where researchers faked a discovery because their funding would be cut off if they did not produce results. Survival of the fittest seems to be the moral standard used in research funding, and having money to do research only comes to those who are viewed as being “fit.” Fitness, in this case, means being able to produce discoveries that get front page acclamation. Source: <https://>



DID SCIENCE FIND LIFE ON VENUS? In the past few months, we saw several headlines suggesting that scientists have found life in the atmosphere of Venus. As usual, the media have sensationalized a scientific discovery. The fact is that a Japanese robotic satellite orbiting Venus since 2015 records data in the ultraviolet spectrum. The satellite detected spectra for the chemical phosphine (PH_3). Phosphine is a flammable, toxic gas made of one phosphorous atom attached to three hydrogen atoms. It is difficult to make in a typical chemistry lab, but some microbes can make phosphine. Finding the chemical in the upper clouds of Venus, where the temperatures are low enough for the gas to exist, raised some questions about whether microbes could have produced it.

It is possible that the phosphine could have been produced by conditions on Venus that are not available on Earth. The environment of Venus is highly toxic, even to microbes, so microbe production is unlikely. Scientists have found many of the chemicals essential to life or possibly produced by living organisms on several moons in the solar system. The environmental parameters of all of those places are so extreme that no astronomer expects to see an alien walking around.

The Bible does not say that Earth is the only place where life exists, and it may be that God has created life elsewhere. Did science find life on Venus? No. This newest media hype does not tell us anything we did not already know, but the discovery is interesting. Source: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/venus-life-phosphine-gas-scientists/>



MIGHTY MOUSE DRUG AND SPACE TRAVEL: One of the problems with space travel is that the human body was designed to live on Earth. When people are in weightlessness for an extended time, they lose muscle and bone mass. This loss can be as much as 20%. A possible solution might be called the “mighty mouse drug.”

Scientists have developed a drug that blocks a pair of proteins that typically limit muscle mass. When scientists treated mice with this drug, they maintained their weight and muscle mass even when they were in the International



Space Station for a month. The application of this research can do more than provide a way for humans to survive a trip to Mars. It may also benefit people who are confined to a bed or a wheelchair.

This research reminds us that God designed our bodies to function in Earth's gravity, just as he designed Earth to support life. He has also given us the ability to use science to find solutions to our physical limitations, such as the mighty mouse drug.

Source: <https://www.fiercebiotech.com/research/mighty-mice-could-yield-new-treatments-for-bone-muscle-loss>



COLLEGE MIND CONTROL: One of the challenges that college students face in America today is the fact that many of their professors try to force their own personal opinions on them. *The Week* magazine (August 28, 2020, page 8) reported on a case at Iowa State University. Professor Chloe Clark announced she would eject any student who engaged in saying anything negative about “Black Lives Matter, gay marriage or legal abortion.” Say goodbye to academic freedom for students being able to express their own opinions.

A free and open discussion leads to understanding and learning. There is no way to advance those things when professors attempt to force their young disciples into college mind control. To make matters worse, they are doing it while being supported by public tax dollars and high-priced tuition paid by the parents.



DOGS FOR DINNER: In August, *The Week* magazine (August 28, 2020, page 11) reported that the North Korean government is confiscating all pet dogs for use as food. Hungry North Koreans regard feeding a pet as wasteful, and the Communist government labels keeping a pet as a “bourgeois extravagance.”



Authorities in North Korea are forcing households with pet dogs to surrender the animals for dog-meat distribution to restaurants and meat markets.



PLANNED PARENTHOOD DEFEAT: In 2016, the Indiana legislature passed a law, signed by then governor Mike Pence, requiring women to have an ultrasound at least 18 hours before an abortion. Planned Parenthood succeeded in blocking the law by tying it up in various courts, including the U.S. Supreme Court. Now according to Indiana's attorney general, “Planned Parenthood has conceded defeat.”

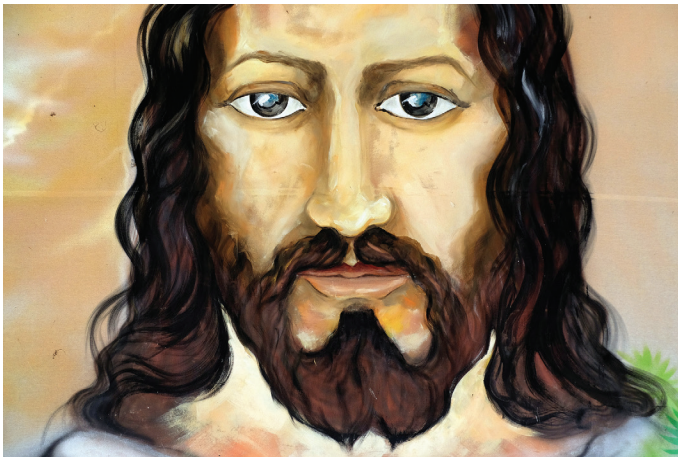
With the ultrasound requirement, when a woman sees her baby moving its limbs and making facial expressions, she may decide not to have the abortion. One of the problems with abortions is that many women have guilt and psychological reactions in later years. The ultrasound may avoid some of that.

The U.S. Supreme Court decision in a Louisiana abortion law case is apparently why Planned Parenthood conceded defeat. The Court struck down the Louisiana law, but Planned Parenthood seems to be concerned that wording in Chief Justice John Robert's opinion might justify other restrictions on abortion. Thus, the State of Indiana and Planned Parenthood of Indiana and Kentucky agreed to ask U.S. District Court to dismiss the lawsuit and end the injunction.



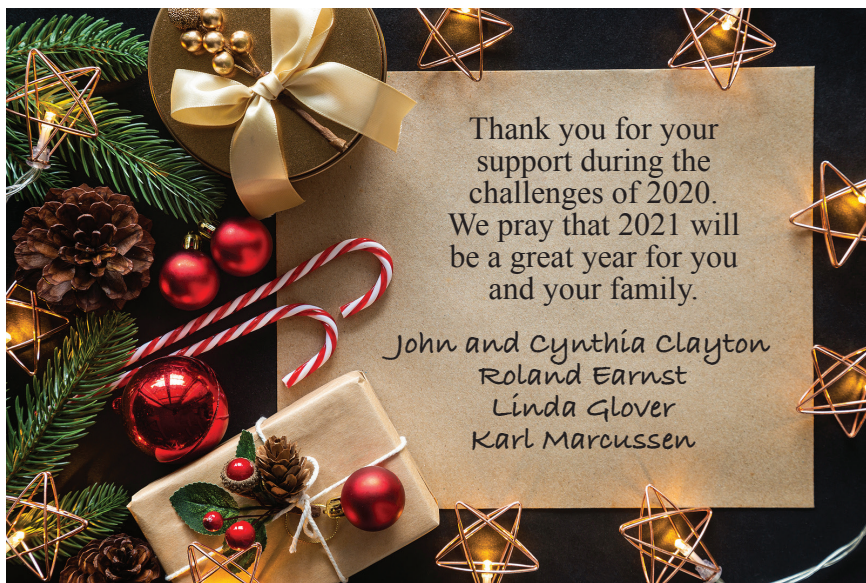
WOULD YOU RECOGNIZE JESUS?: Interestingly, people portray Jesus according to their culture. Some artwork shows him as a light-skinned, blue-eyed, Scandinavian. I have seen pictures showing Jesus as a black-skinned, dark-eyed African. I have also seen pictures showing him as a man with typical oriental facial features. The closest picture physically is one that shows Jesus with characteristic Jewish features.

The fact is that all of these pictures are correct. However, all of them must fit the description of Matthew 25. In that passage, Jesus gives six different scenarios that tell us how you could recognize Jesus in someone standing before you. Those six scenarios describe Jesus as being one who is hungry, thirsty, a stranger needing a place to sleep, naked, sick, and imprisoned. Jesus tells his followers who had taken care of people with these problems that Jesus was the one they had treated well (Matthew 25:35–40). Many people are looking for Christ with the wrong standards as to how to recognize him. Source: Buck



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Thank you for your support during the challenges of 2020. We pray that 2021 will be a great year for you and your family.

John and Cynthia Clayton
Roland Earnst
Linda Glover
Karl Marcussen

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15f. Total Distribution	12,193	12,037
15g. Copies Not Distributed	999	1,312
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Signed—Karl H. Marcussen, Managing Editor, October 5, 2020

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 quarterly journal, the **Does God Exist?** program offers DVDs, CDs, 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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