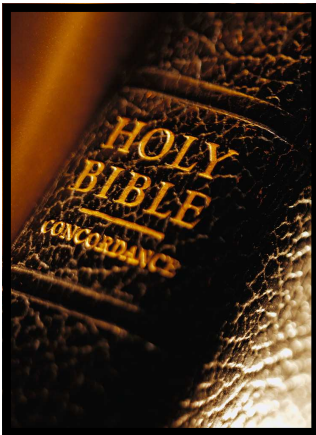




The Gap



Theory

*Is the National Geographic Jesus
Your Jesus?—Part 2*

*God Answers Prayers Through
Medical Science*

LUTHERAN SCIENCE INSTITUTE, INC.

4130 Harvest Lane
Racine, Wisconsin 53402-9562
<http://www.lutheralscience.org>

The mission of the Lutheran Science Institute is to learn, share, and promote the glory of God as revealed in His holy Word and demonstrated in His created world, beginning with the pastors, teachers, and laity of the WELS (Wis. Ev. Lutheran Synod) and the ELS (Ev. Lutheran Synod).

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The Annual Meeting of the Institute is held the Saturday *after* Thanksgiving. At least three other meetings are held during the year at locations selected by the president. Meetings are open to the public and announced in the LSI JOURNAL and/or on our web site.

MEETING SCHEDULE*

- ◆ 4th Saturday in January, 1:00 p.m.
- ◆ 2nd Saturday in June, 1:00 p.m.
- ◆ Last Saturday in October, 1:00 p.m.
- ◆ Saturday *after* Thanksgiving in November, 1:00 p.m.

*Dates, times, and locations subject to change.
Additional meetings may be scheduled. Check with the president, secretary, or editor or see our web site for verification.

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Science now knows that many of the pillars of Darwinian theory are either false or misleading. Yet biology texts continue to present them as factual evidence of evolution.

Misconceptions About Creationists

There are many misconceptions about creationism, some held by creationists themselves and some intentionally advanced by their opponents.

The Gap Theory

By Darrel Kautz



The view of origins known as the “Gap Theory” is an attempt to harmonize the long ages of evolution with Genesis 1:1-2. It originated in 1814 with Dr Thomas Chalmers of Edinburgh University, Scotland. The theory was popularized in the *Scofield Reference Bible* of 1917, and is advocated today by such men as Arthur Gustance and R. B. Thieme Jr.

In its classical form the Gap

Theory “proposes a complete and perfect creation of both universe and earth in Genesis 1:1, a ruin of the earth during a chronological gap between 1:1 and 1:2, and a subsequent recreation beginning with Genesis 1:3.”¹

In its more fleshed-out form, the theory may be expressed as follows. “In the far distant date-

The late Darrel Kautz was an LSI member and former high school teacher. Reprinted from his book, *The Origin of Living Things*, with permission of the family.



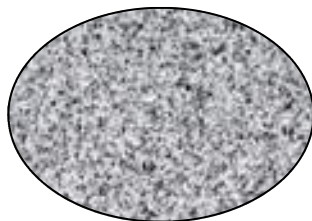
less past, God created a perfect heaven and perfect earth. Satan was ruler of the earth which was peopled by a race of ‘men’ without any souls. Eventually, Satan, who dwelled in a garden of Eden composed of minerals (Ezek. 28), rebelled by desiring to become



like God (Isa. 14). Because of Satan’s fall, sin entered the universe and brought on the earth God’s judgment in the form of a flood (indicated by the water of 1:2), and then a global ice-age when the light and heat from the sun were somehow removed. All the plant, animal, and human fossils upon the earth today date from this ‘Lucifer’s flood’ and do not bear any genetic relationship with the plants, animals and fossils living upon the earth today.”²

The credibility of the Gap

Theory has been explored in depth by Weston Fields in his book *Uniformed and Unfilled*. On the basis of a detailed analysis of the linguistic and grammatical features of Genesis 1:1-2, Fields concludes that the Gap Theory, with its stress on ruin and restoration, is not exegetically possible. Genesis 1:2a consists of a noun clause which is explanatory to the main verb of 1:1; that makes 1:2a a description of the earth as it was created originally, and not how it became subsequent to creation. The “and” or “now” (Hebrew *waw*) at the beginning of 1:2 is copulative or connecting in function, not a word denoting sequence; it describes a state contemporaneous with the action of 1:1. “The grammar of verse two forces us to say that the earth was *created* unformed and unfilled, while the Gap Theory alleges that it should say the earth *became* unformed and unfilled *after* (perhaps centuries after) it was created! It is grammatically impossible.”³



Followers of the Gap Theory insist that the verb *hayeta* in 1:2a must be translated as “became”

or “had become” instead of “was” — “Now the earth *was* formless and empty.” However, that verb is a copulative; it connects the subject (earth) with the predicate (formless and empty). “It is the mistranslation of this word which has, perhaps, added more to the ranks of gap theorists than any one factor”⁴ The use of the pluperfect tense (had become) for the meaning of *hayeta* would postulate an unformed and unfilled earth even before the earth was created!

There is nothing in the words “formless and empty” which point to a scene of judgment — some evil state brought about by the fall of angels. Those words simply depict the condition of planet earth when it was first brought into existence in its *unfinished* state and prior to its completion on succeeding creation days.



Gap theorists appeal to Isaiah 45:18 in support of their view; that text states, in part, that God did not create the earth to be

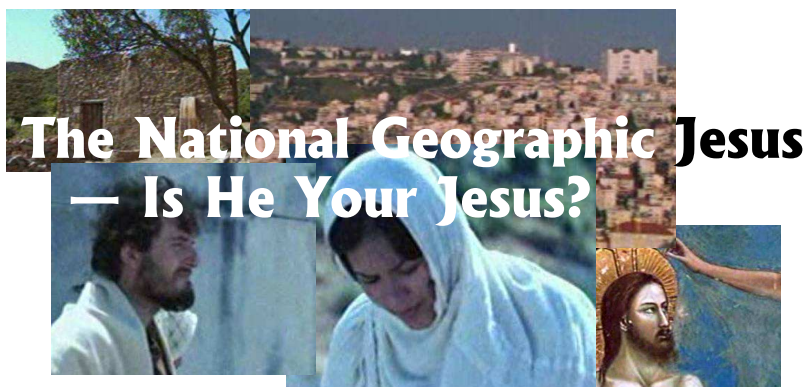
empty but to be inhabited. They assert that since the earth in Genesis 1:2a was *tohu* (formless), that then the earth must have become that way *after* the initial creation. The earth could not, it is affirmed, have come from the hand of God in the condition described by the word “*tohu*.” The reasoning, however, is fallacious.



The Gap Theory is devoid of linguistic and grammatical support. Genesis 1 portrays only one creation, not two creations. Neither is there any trace of sin, Satan, or judgmental destruction in that chapter. Creation, in all of its parts, was judged by the Creator Himself as being *exceedingly good* (Gen. 1:31). There were no imperfections at all in nature — as there are today in consequence of the events of Genesis 3. LSI

References

1. Fields, Weston, *Unformed and Unfilled* (Presbyterian & Reformed, 1976), p. 7
2. *Ibid.*, pp. 85-86
3. *Ibid.*, p. 88
4. *Ibid.*, p. 88.



The National Geographic Jesus — Is He Your Jesus?

Part 2

By Warren Krug

Editor's note: Some time ago the National Geographic cable TV channel presented a look at the "lost years" of Jesus, the years about which the Bible is basically silent. In Part 1 of this two-part series we evaluated the program's description of Jesus' baptism, his relationship to John the Baptist, and his childhood.

The appearance of Jesus

“There is almost no written evidence of Jesus' life before he turns 30. We can't be sure what he did for a living, *whether he was married or had children*. We don't even know what he looked like,” reports the narrator.

If the Bible mentions Jesus' mother and siblings on a number of occasions, we certainly would expect the Scriptures to have mentioned his wife and children

if he had any.

As for his appearance, that does remain a secret. Early Christian artists in the third century painted images of Jesus on the walls of catacombs, but Professor Jonathan L. Reed of the University of La Verne says they likely used Roman gods as templates. One picture of Jesus shows him with long hair but no beard.



It is also true that as

The author is the editor of the LSI Journal.

Christianity spread, the appearance of Jesus changed with the location. Europeans, for instance, made Jesus look like a European.

Jesus, however, was a Galilean. According to Reed, he would likely have had dark hair, a stubby beard, and fairly dark skin from being out in the sun. Would Jesus have had long hair? St. Paul in 1 Corinthians 11:14-15 says, “Does not the very nature of things teach you that if a man has long hair, it is a disgrace to him, but that if a woman has long hair, it is her glory?” Draw you own conclusion.



Nazareth

Modern day Nazareth in northern Israel is the country's largest Arab city with nearly 60,000 citizens, 2/3 Muslim, 1/3 Christian.

However, at the time of Jesus it probably was a very small and insignificant village. Reed says that the name doesn't show up in the Bible until the Gospels. My search of a Bible concordance supports this statement.

Prof. Jodi Magness of the University of North Carolina thinks the Nazareth of Jesus' day was probably agriculturally based and had only a few hundred residents.

The Church of the Annunciation in modern Nazareth is thought to have been built near the spot where Jesus' family lived. A century ago monks excavated the church's crypt and found the remains of an ancient village. They found water cisterns and grain silos cut into the bedrock. But not much was found to give an idea of the type of homes the first century citizens of Nazareth lived in.

Today archaeologists are exploring the remains of a nearby Galilean town that was abandoned in the first century but which offers clues to the nature of Galilean homes at the time.

According to Mordechai Aviam of the University of Rochester, these homes were built of rock and mud and covered with plaster outside and inside. Simple homes may have been covered with mud plaster.

The Jewish book, the Talmud, informs us that most men worked as shepherds or farmers while the women stayed at home baking bread, making and washing clothes, and generally doing maintenance tasks. The farmers probably had all they could do to

provide enough olives, grain, and vegetables to keep their families fed.

Sepphoris

Sepphoris is a name that doesn't appear in the Scriptures, but it plays an important part in this National Geographic documentary.

Sepphoris was a city built by King Herod Antipas who was



appointed king of Galilee by the Romans in 4 B.C. It lay just some 4 miles from Nazareth. Herod wanted it to become one of the finest cities in the empire. Called the “ornament of the Galilee”, it was a center of economic and cultural life and the biggest city in Galilee at the time of Jesus.

Archaeologists have found no pig bones in the ruins of this city which means the inhabitants ate no pork and which also means it was a Jewish city. Still the influence of Greek and Roman culture here was strong.

The documentary imagines Jesus visiting “bustling Sepphoris” on occasion to look for work

(if he was a common laborer) or to shop in the markets. Here he would have become familiar with the “mainstreams of Roman culture.”

Reed says the construction of Sepphoris along with the port city of Tiberius was bad news for the lower classes, the peasants. The lower classes paid for building the two cities out of their own pockets. Herod Antipas sent his tax collectors throughout the region, stirring up considerable anger, as we well know from the Scriptures.

The Zealots, Sadducees, and Pharisees

The Zealots (“daggermen”) were organized by a man named Judas of Hezekiah as an armed resistance movement. They wanted to stop the erosion of the traditional Jewish way of life.

Their “first act was a tax revolt in Sepphoris.” Although the revolt was crushed by Roman troops, the insurgency grew. By the time of Jesus, they were doing guerilla warfare and focused their attention on Jerusalem.

The divisions in Jewish society caused by groups such as the Zealots “must have influenced Jesus.” It is surprising the program didn't mention that Jesus chose a member of this rebel group to be his disciple, Simon the Zealot. (Matthew 10:4; Mark

3:18; Luke 6:15; Acts 1:13)

One of the Jewish groups that stirred up the anger of the Zealots was the group of temple authorities known as the Sadducees. Borg says they were “native collaborators who worked with the Roman empire to make sure that the taxes, the tribute to Rome was paid.” The Zealots often “targeted high priests for assassination” for allowing foreign interference in the sacred Temple.

Then there were the Pharisees, “the lay sages...who left us the Talmud and the Jewish rabbinic tradition’, according to Prof. Lawrence H. Schiffman of New York University.

The Pharisees “encouraged stricter observance of Jewish law. This was the world that Jesus knew and saw in Nazareth and in Sepphoris. These competing religious strands must have been woven into his head and mind.”

“But the Bible does not say Jesus went to any of these groups,” this program informs us. On the contrary, we do know from the Scriptures that the Sadducees and Pharisees were frequently denounced by Jesus and also by John the Baptist. See Matthew 3:7, Matthew 16:6, Matthew 16:12, Matthew 22:34; Matthew 3:7; and Matthew 23:13 for examples.

Thus, if Jesus was influenced by the Sadducees and Pharisees,

it was only to point out how they had strayed from God’s truth.

The Mikvah

Now back to the question of why Jesus came to John the Baptist to be baptized. Not satisfied with the answer Jesus gave to John in Matthew 3:15, the theologians and archaeologists behind this National Geographic production looked for a different answer more pleasing to them.

Much is made of the ritual baths of the Jews called mikvahs. In fact, the Jerusalem Temple was surrounded by pools of water thought to be mikvahs. Magness tells us, “the pilgrims entering the Temple first would have needed to immerse themselves in order to be ritually pure.” Bodily secretions, touching dead bodies, or even certain reptiles would make one impure and in need of a ritual bath.



Professor Magness in a mikvah

It is possible, Magness says, that Jesus could have gone through this ritual whenever he would make his annual pilgrim-

age to Jerusalem at Passover. And “Jesus had probably immersed in a mikvah several times in his youth.”

So what drove Jesus to be baptized by John? The program presents some possible evidence that a certain cave about 8 miles west of Jerusalem near where legend has it that John the Baptist was born may have been used by John for the purification rites.

“These rituals of inner purification could be what drove Jesus to come to John.” In other words, Jesus came to John to be purified! But purified of what?

The National Geographic Channel concludes this portion of the documentary with the following statement: “The Bible paints John as someone who simply prepared the way for Jesus, but *the real connection between them may not have been what’s written in the Bible.*”

That statement gives us a good clue as to how to evaluate the whole program.

In Summary

So, was Jesus a mere mortal easily influenced by the events of his day and the people around him?

First, remember Jesus is the “holy one” (Luke 1:35), “a lamb without blemish or defect.” (1 Peter 1:19) Any influence upon Jesus during the “lost years”

would not have caused him to even think about sinning.

Second, we are told in Luke 2:52 that the young Jesus “grew in wisdom and stature.” This means that in his state of humiliation He did not always make use of his divine omniscience but increased his knowledge over time just like any other young man. Thus, anything Jesus had to learn from his experiences as a young adult does not detract from his standing as the one and only God-man.

Third, Jesus’ mission was stated to Joseph right before his birth. Jesus came “to save his people from their sins” (Matthew 1:21) or, as he said, “to seek and to save what was lost.” (Luke 19:10) No influence upon Jesus during the “lost years” would have caused him to reconsider for one moment why he came down to Earth. No event or sinful human could have succeeded in doing what Satan had failed to accomplish. (Matthew 4)

The real Jesus is a far more beloved and impressive Jesus than the one portrayed by the National Geographic documentary. The National Geographic Jesus could never have come down from heaven to suffer and to die for our sins and to open heaven’s gate to us. Thanks be to God that we know the authentic Jesus Christ! 🙏



NUGGETS

Bedbugs are Back

Bedbugs, or at least stories about bedbugs, are back in the news.



More than 400 articles about these bloodsuckers have appeared in print within the past five years.

The bugs seemed to have been basically eradicated in the 1950s due to the now-banned pesticide DDT, but with an increase in travel, they have made a comeback.

Some facts about bedbugs:

- ✓ Formal name: Cimex lectularius.
- ✓ Size 1/5 inch across
- ✓ Feed every 3-5 days
- ✓ Usually feed between 3 and 4 a.m.
- ✓ Will feed on any mammal and even some birds
- ✓ Live about a year
- ✓ Not likely to spread disease

—(Racine) Journal Times

“I do not want to believe in God. Therefore I choose to believe in that which I know is scientifically impossible, spontaneous generation leading to evolution.”

Dr. George Wald
Quoted in a publication of
the Creation Resources

SO YOU THINK YOU KNOW EVERYTHING?

- ☐ “Stewardesses” is the longest word typed with only the left hand.
- ☐ “Lollipop” is the longest word typed with only the right hand.
- ☐ No English word rhymes with month, orange, silver, or purple.
- ☐ “Dreamt” is the only English word that ends with “mt.”
- ☐ Our eyes are always the same size from birth, but our nose and ears keep on growing.

It doesn't hurt to take a hard look at yourself from time to time, and this should help get you started.

During a visit to the mental health hospital, a visitor asked the director what the criteria was which defined whether or not a patient should be institutionalized.

"Well," said the director, "we fill up a bathtub, then we offer a teaspoon, a teacup and a bucket to the patient and ask him or her to empty the bathtub."

"Oh, I understand," said the visitor. "A normal person would use the bucket because it's bigger than the spoon or the teacup."

"No," said the director. "A normal person would pull the plug. Do you want a bed near the window?"

DID YOU PASS, OR DO YOU WANT A
BED NEXT TO MINE?

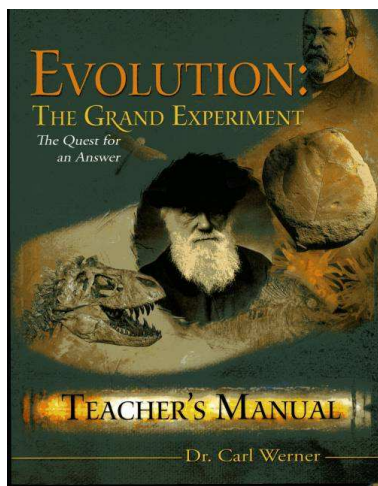
—thanks to Craig Schwartz



► Book Review

Werner, Dr. Carl, *Evolution: the Grand Experiment: Teacher's Manual*, Green Forest, AR: New Leaf Press, © 2008, 252 pages.

A Good Thing Becomes Even Better



Earlier this year we reviewed the book, *Evolution: the Grand Experiment*, and were greatly impressed by the logical and systematic way it revealed the almost complete lack of any scientific support for the theory of evolution in regards to biology and the alleged evolution of the various animal and plant groups.

Our recommendation was despite the fact that the book doesn't mention creationism, the

Bible, or rarely God. In fact, because it avoids any religious slant, it could be the perfect book to use in situations such as a confrontation with someone who along the line got turned off to religion or with an atheistic teacher. In theory, the book could be used legally in a public school system, though it's doubtful the powers that be would allow it.

Now a companion teacher's manual has been published. This full-sized paperback edition contains objectives, discussion questions, and several tests for each of the 19 chapters as well as sectional exams and a final exam.

Also, it appears that DVDs are being developed for use with this course by a group called the Audio Visual Consultants. There is a Web site listed, www.TheGrandExperiment.com, which is a bit confusing because it appears to be a link to Amazon.com.

It is this reviewer's opinion that this course could be used in religious and nonreligious schools alike, although Christian teachers will want to provide the biblical creation background.

We are including both books in our lending library. Teachers can review them for a small charge before deciding whether or not to buy them from the publisher.

—wpk

► LSI News

Next Meeting in Watertown, Wisconsin

Jeffrey Stueber has made arrangements for the Board of Directors to meet at St. John's in Watertown. The meeting will be at **5 p.m.** June 14. St. John's is located at 5th and Cady Streets, and the meeting will take place in the basement. The church can be reached by taking the Highway 26 exit from I-94, going north to the city, turning right on Main Street (Highway 19), turning left on 6th street, then turning left on Cady Street one block to the church.

Planning to Watch the New Movie *Expelled*?

Ben Stein is a writer, commentator, game show host, and comedian, but there is a very serious side to his new movie, *Expelled*, scheduled to be released in theaters April 18.

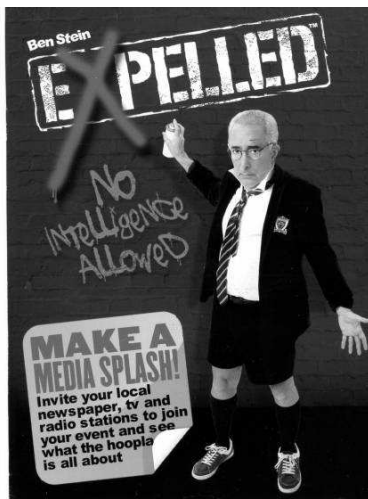
A publicity piece about the movie says, "STOP ATHEISM IN OUR SCHOOLS! STAND UP AND BE HEARD! Ben Stein's upcoming movie *EXPULLED* reveals that thousands of scientists, teachers and students are being silenced and expelled for questioning atheistic Darwinism and new scientific

evidence of design in nature (as opposed to random, unguided 'mutation').

"It is time to stop the academic suppression.

"Ben Stein's *EXPULLED* can launch a major debate in the public square, and lead to legislation that will allow students to learn about the "holes" in Darwin's theory, and alternative scientific theories on the origins of life."

If you have seen or are planning to see the movie, please consider sending us a review.



"I found *EXPULLED* riveting, eye-opening, even astonishing. Ben Stein does a masterful job of exposing the ruthlessness of evolutionists who will go after anyone who challenges or merely questions Darwinian orthodoxy."

Ken Ham,
Answers in Genesis

Doctor Discovers Fetuses Can Feel Pain

When Kanwaljeet Anand was a medical resident at a neonatal intensive care unit in a hospital in Oxford, England 25 years ago, he was bothered by the appearance of babies returning from the operating room—gray skin, shallow breathing, weak pulses. He discovered the babies were not being given anesthesia by the surgeons who thought the newborns' nervous systems were too immature to sense pain. However, even preterm infants grimace when pricked by a needle, Anand says. His work is being cited by pro-life groups who say fetal pain is another reason for opposing abortion. Today, adequate pain relief is given to even the youngest infants.—*www.nytimes.com* (2/10/08)

FDA Warns About Ortho Evra Patch

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration issued a new warning in January that use of the birth control patch, Ortho Evra, carries a higher risk of serious blood clots for women who use it than for women using birth control pills. The government agency cites the results of a new epidemiological study showing an increased danger of blood clotting that could potentially lead to a lung embolism. As a result, the agency said it has approved changes to the labeling for the Ortho Evra patch, to better warn women and their doctors of the potential risk.—*FDA Press Release* (1/18/08)—*reported in Clearly Caring* (March-April, 2008)

Abortion Leads to Stress

Women who have experienced abortion have high levels of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) according to the journal *BMC Psychiatry*. A study of 155 women in South Africa looked at symptoms both before and after they aborted a child. One-fifth of the women were found to have high rates of PTSD after abortions with the rates rising 61% over the next three months. A study in 2004 found 65% of American women reporting symptoms of PTSD which they attributed to their abortions.—*LifeSiteNews* (2/14/08)

Pharmacist Sanctioned

A state appeals court in Wisconsin has upheld sanctions against a pharmacist in Menomonie, Wisconsin who for religious reasons refused to sell birth control pills to a college student and also wouldn't transfer her prescription elsewhere. The woman was able to get the pills two days later but missed the first dose of the prescription. She then filed a complaint with the state Department of Regulation and Licensing. Neil Noesen, the pharmacist, is a devout Roman Catholic.—*(Racine) Journal Times* (3/26/08)

Muslims Pass Catholics

There are now more Muslims in the world than there are Roman Catholics, the Vatican newspaper says. As of 2006, the Catholic percentage of 17.4% of the world's population is stable while the Muslim percentage of 19.2% is rising because Muslims tend to have large families. However, when counting all Christians, the percentage rises to 33%.—*www.usa today.com* (3/30/08)

Firstborn Kids Do Better

New research has confirmed that firstborn children generally get more attention from their parents than do their siblings. A study involving more than 15,000 children showed firstborns spent more quality time with parents on such activities as homework, meals, reading, playtime, sports, arts, religion and conversation. This discovery may explain the reason why oldest children on average get better test scores, more education, and higher-paying jobs.—*(Racine) Journal Times* (3/23/08)

Happy Marriages Mean Less Stress

A happy marriage can be good for your blood pressure, but a stressful one may be worse than remaining single, says an assistant psychology professor at Brigham Young U. The study involving 204 married and 99 single adults who recorded their blood pressure at random times over 24 hours. The married participants also filled out questionnaires about their marriages. Spouses who reported low marital satisfaction averaged blood pressures five points higher than single adults.—*news.yahoo.com* (3/20/08)

It's Better to Give

According to the Bible, it is better to give than to receive. Science now agrees. People who made gifts to others and to charities reported they were happier than those who didn't share. Although previous studies showed that having more money can increase happiness, how people spend their money is a more important factor.—*(Racine) Journal Times* (3/21/08)

Canadian Creationists

A recent poll in Canada found 26% of Canadians believe God created humans within the last 10,000 years, 34% believe God used evolution to create humans over millions of years, and 29% think evolution occurred without help from God.—*Answers* (January-March, 2008)

Profanity Hurts Profits

The Nielsen Co. says a new study shows that PG-rated movies with the most profanity make the least money. An analysis of movies released between the fall of 2005 and the fall of 2007 showed that films averaging 0.8 on a 10 point profanity scale averaged \$69 million while those that scored 2.8 on the scale averaged only \$38 million. "Parents are choosing PG films for their kids that have very, very low levels of profanity," an expert said. Sexuality and violence seemed to have less to do with success than the language.—*Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* (3/14/08)

Tigers on the Decline

The population of India's rare Royal Bengal tigers has dipped to 1,411, much lower than the estimated 3,700 believed to exist just 5 years ago. Researchers blamed the decrease on poaching and the loss of quality habitat and prey. The government has announced it was forming a "tiger protection force" to guard sanctuaries.—*news.yahoo.com* (2/12/08) -



Dead—Now Alive

Zach Dunlap was declared dead four months ago after an ATV accident, and doctors were about to remove his organs for transplant when he moved a foot and a hand. His movements were in response to a pocketknife being scraped across his foot and pressure applied under a fingernail. Despite some memory problems, Dunlap says he feels pretty good now but recalls doctors at a Wichita Falls, Texas hospital pronouncing him dead.—*Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* (3/25/08)

Baby Baboons Do Better If Dad's Around

New research shows that baby baboons, like human children, do better when dad is around. Princeton U. scientists studying yellow baboons in Kenya found that male behavior was unpredictable, some wandering regularly from group to group, but others staying with the same group for years. With the father around, young baboons tended to mature faster and were less aggressive, the effect stronger in juvenile males than it was in females—*www.nature.com* (2/4/08)

King Penguins in Danger

King penguins in the Antarctic could be wiped out if the continent continues its warm-up, according to a French study. The tiny warming of the Southern Ocean caused by El Nino has already negatively affected the bird's ability to survive. King penguins are second in size among penguins only to the emperor penguin. About 2 million breeding pairs are thought to exist.—*news.yahoo.com* (2/11/08)

The Bad Side of Stronger Cars

Modern cars with reinforced steel construction and other safety aids are better able to protect their occupants in crashes, but the greater protection comes at a cost—it's becoming harder and more dangerous to free injured drivers and riders from those vehicles. Hydraulic cutters may not be able to shear through roof posts, and pressurized gas canisters used to inflate air bags can explode if pierced by cutting tools. This is making it take much longer sometimes to free injured riders and get them to a hospital. Cities and counties are having to spend tens of thousands of dollars to buy more powerful equipment.—(*Racine Journal Times* (3/20/08))



Hollywood Going 3-D In a Big Way

Hollywood has announced deals to convert up to 10,000 movie theater screens with digital technology capable of offering films in 3-D. Deals have been reached with Disney, 20th Century Fox, Paramount, and Universal Pictures to finance and equip screens in the U.S. and Canada during the next three years. A Hannah Montana & Miley Cyrus concert 3-D movie pulled in \$31.3 million in its opening weekend despite the fact it could only be shown on 683 screens. At least 30 more 3-D movies are in the works.—*www.cnn.com* (3/11/08)

New Jet Pack Helps People Fly Like Birds

A new invention is allowing people to fly like birds. Called the Gryphon and invented by a Swiss pilot, the device consists of a rigid 5 foot 9-inch wing attached to the flyer's back and is powered by a jet pack. Designed with the military in mind, the Gryphon kicks in a few moments after a paratrooper is dropped from a plane. So far, no winged jet pack exists that would allow ground-to-air flight.—*Discover* (February, 2008)

Car Runs on Air

French engineer, Guy Negre, has promised that within a year he will start selling a car that runs on compressed air, producing no emissions in city driving. For longer trips, the compressed air driving the pistons will be boosted by a fuel burner that can use all kinds of liquid fuel, getting up to 120 mpg. Called the OneCAT, it will be a five-seater with a fiberglass body. The tanks can be filled with air from a compressor in three minutes. At first, the car will be sold only in India.—*news.bbc.co.uk* (2/13/08)

Stealth Bomber Has First Ever Crash

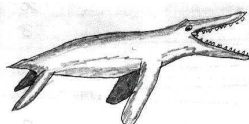
For the first time ever, a B-2 stealth bomber has crashed. The aircraft crashed shortly after taking off along with three others from an air base in Guam. Both pilots ejected safely. There were no injuries on the ground or damage to buildings but the accident produced clouds of black smoke. The crash is being investigated by the Air Force. All 21 stealth bombers are based at Whiteman Air Force Base in Missouri.—*www.cnn.com* (2/23/08)

Microbes Turn More Deadly in Space

A recent experiment conducted on the Atlantis space shuttle and published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* warns that ordinary microbes could become even more dangerous in space. A salmonella bacterium was found to have become more virulent after just 83 hours in space. The microbes were seen encasing themselves in a protective coating that was resistant to antibiotics.—*Discover* (February, 2008)

Find Sea Monster Fossil

A fossilized "sea monster", discovered on the Arctic island of Spitspergen in 2006, is the largest marine reptile ever found. Nicknamed "The Monster," the pliosaurus would have measured 50 feet from nose to tail. It could have picked up a small car in its jaws and bite it in half. It is 20% larger than the previous record-holder, a *Kronosaurus* found in Australia.—*news.bbc.co.uk* (2/27/08)



Kronosaurus

2000-Pound Rodent Fossil Discovered

Scientists in Uruguay have found the fossil remains of a 2000-pound rodent, the largest ever found. The new species of rodent has a well preserved fossil skull, small teeth, and weak jawbones. The largest living rodent is the South American capybara which can weigh in at about 125 pounds.—*news.yahoo.com* (1/16/08)

Crusaders Left Mark

Medieval crusaders left their mark in the Middle East, in the form of faint genetic traces. The Genographic Project, a major effort to track human migrations through DNA, found some Christian men in Lebanon carrying a Western Europe DNA signature. Thousands of Europeans passed through Lebanon between the 11th and 13th centuries as part of four Crusades.—*news.bbc.co.uk* (3/27/08)

More Little People Fossils Discovered

A South African anthropologist says he has discovered skulls and bones of 26 small-bodied humans in island caves in the South Pacific. The people lived 1,000-3,000 years ago in Palau he says. If his findings indicate that humans tend to dwarf in island settings, this may support the idea of some anthropologists that the Indonesia "hobbit" was a dwarf human and not a separate species.—*www.nature.com* (3/10/08)

A Siberia-America Link?

Native people in the Americas can be genetically linked to people indigenous to Siberia, new research has found. The study supports the theory that humans first traveled to America over a land bridge across the Bering Strait. Scientists at Stanford U. studied genes of 938 people from 51 places and looked at some 650,000 DNA locations in each person. One important finding was the genetic similarities between the Yakut people in Siberia with native populations in Mexico, Central America, Colombia and Brazil.—*news.yahoo.com* (2/21/08) - from Reuters

Fewer Tangles in Curly Hair

Contrary to what one would expect, curly hair produces fewer tangles than straight hair. A French physicist got hairdressers to count the tangles in the hair of 123 straight-haired people and 89 curly heads. The result: straight hair had an average of 5.3 tangles, nearly twice that of curly hair. The research showed the greater the angle of intersection of strands of hair, the greater the chance of producing a knot. Curly hair intersects more often but at less steep angles.—*Discover* (2007)

Haiti's Poor Eat Dirt

As food prices in Haiti rise, the poor who can't even afford a plate of rice have taken to literally eating mud. Cookies made of dried yellow dirt from the country's central plateau mixed with salt and vegetable shortening have long been prized as an antacid and source of calcium. Doctors say that the dirt can contain deadly parasites or toxins but can also strengthen the immunity of fetuses in the womb to certain diseases. Malnutrition is also a risk.—(*Racine*) *Journal Times* (1/30/08)

Sad Shoppers Spend More

Unhappy shoppers tend to spend more, according to a new study released by four universities. Study participants watching a sadness-inducing video were willing to pay up to four times more for a bottle of water than were other subjects, \$2.11 compared 56 cents. This "misery is not misery" phenomenon was documented in a similar study done in 2004—www.cnn.com (2/8/08)

Per Cent of Male Babies In U.S., Japan Declines

In the U.S. and Japan the proportion of male babies born since 1970 has been declining. The U.S. has seen a drop of 17 males per 10,000 births while the drop is 37 males in Japan. Moreover, the percentage of male fetal deaths between 1972 and 1999 rose from just over half to nearly two-thirds. Some scientists suspect the reason for this trend is chemicals such as arsenic, mercury, pesticides, and solvents in the environment.—*Discover* (January, 2008)

High Tech Census Fails

U.S. census officials are considering a return to paper and pencils after learning that some census takers couldn't figure out how to use their new fancy hand-held computers. Technology problems could add as much as \$2 billion to the cost of the 2010 census and affect its accuracy. Census officials are being blamed for poorly spelling out the technical requirements for the computers and for poorly training the temporary workers hired to take the census.—*Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* (3/26/08)

Seed Vault Opens

The Svalbard Global Seed Vault, a bunker in a frozen Arctic mountainside north of Oslo, Norway, has begun accepting its first seeds. Known as the "Doomsday Vault," the facility is expected to one day hold seeds from almost every variety of most every important food crop on Earth. Stored indefinitely at -8°C, the seeds will provide an "insurance policy" for the world's diversity of crop strains.—www.nature.com (2/26/08)

Dementia Stats

A detailed analysis of a representative sample of 856 seniors age 71 and older concluded that 22% had begun to see their mental faculties decline. That translates into 5.4 million Americans. This figure doesn't include the 3.4 million who have full dementia such as Alzheimer's. The total of 8.8 million means about a third of the 25 million Americans in this age group suffer some cognitive impairment. The study involved psychological and neurological tests and interviews with close family members.—*Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* (3/24/08)



Flat Colon Growths Worse Than Polyps

Scientists are finding out that flat growths on the walls of colons are 10 times as likely to be cancerous as the more familiar knobby polyps. A study reported in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* reported that these pancake-like growths were only 1/4 as common as the polyps but far more likely to be cancerous and more difficult to spot because they tend to blend in with surrounding tissue. Colorectal cancer is the nation's second leading cancer killer.—*Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* (3/5/08)

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SULFUR



“Then the Lord rained down burning *sulfur* on Sodom and Gomorrah—from the Lord out of the heavens.” Genesis 19:24 (NIV)

We know that the Lord God is very patient and slow to get angry (see Psalm 86:15), but his patience does have limits. The sinful people of the Old Testament cities of Sodom and Gomorrah found that out the hard way. When they refused to give up their very sinful ways, God

destroyed them by sending burning sulfur down from the skies.

What is sulfur? Sulfur is a chemical but not a metal. In chemistry it has the number 16 and is abbreviated with the symbol S.

What does sulfur look like? In its basic form, it is yellow and a solid.

It can also be found in minerals such as sulfide and sulfate.



A sulfur crystal

What is sulfur used for? Sulfur is used in fertilizers, gunpowder, matches, insecticides (chemicals that kill insects) and fungicides (substances that can kill or limit living things called fungi.) Sulfur crystals are

often collected by mineral collectors because of their bright colors and shapes.

What does sulfur smell like? Sulfur in its pure state is odorless or almost odorless, but in the form of hydrogen sulfide, it can smell like rotten eggs. When burned, sulfur can take on the odor of burnt matches.

What is sulfur called in some older Bibles? In the King James version (KJV) of the Bible sulfur is called “brimstone.”

Is sulfur safe? Forms of sulfur such as carbon disulfide, carbon oxysulfide, hydrogen sulfide, and sulfur dioxide must all be handled with care. These substances can lead to damage to the lungs, eyes, or other tissues or even to death if too much is breathed in or consumed.

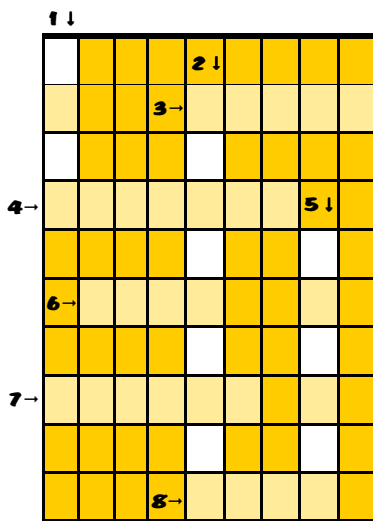
What is acid rain? A chemical called sulfur dioxide can be formed from the burning of coal or oil. When sulfur dioxide reacts

with water and oxygen in the air, acid rain can be formed. Acid rain is harmful to the soil and water.

—Source: wikipedia

We who believe in Jesus as our Savior no longer need fear that God will destroy us in flames as He did Sodom and Gomorrah. Praise God!

Activity. Complete the crossword puzzle.



Sodom was destroyed because of its (1). The KJV calls sulfur (2). Burned sulfur smells like (3) matches. (4) is a mineral that contains sulfur. Sulfur crystals have bright (5). Too much sulfur can hurt the lungs or (6). Sulfur has a (7) color. Hydrogen sulfide smells like rotten (8).



God Answers Prayers Through Medical Science

Probably most of our readers, especially in Wisconsin, have heard the sad story of the 11-year-old girl, Madeline “Kara” Neumann, who died March 23 because her parents refused to take her to a doctor.

The parents, though not active members of any church, are very religious. For the health of their family they seem to have been relying exclusively on prayer and not doctors or medicine.

Madeline died of diabetic ketoacidosis, a condition in which her body produces too little insulin. She may have been ill for 30 days or so with symptoms including nausea, vomiting, thirst, loss of appetite and weakness.

Her mother said she noticed a tiredness “within the past two weeks,” but Madeline seemed to be recovering just before she died. Doctors say the diabetes was treatable.

One can sympathize somewhat with the family which includes three other children. They have lost a daughter and sibling,

and, of this writing, the parents may still face criminal charges. They did what they thought best.

It isn’t clear why the parents relied strictly on prayer. They say they have nothing against doctors and indeed have doctor friends

But this case and other similar cases show that the message needs to get out—medical science can be a gift from God and a way that He answers prayers.

God through medical research has allowed cures for many diseases such as smallpox and polio that once ravaged mankind. Likewise, the life expectancy of Americans has increased to the point that our founding fathers would have been amazed.

The medical profession is not perfect, of course, especially when it is used for such procedures as abortion on demand or the dispensing of illegal drugs.

However, the Bible doesn’t condemn doctors or medicine. Jesus, in fact, seemed to give them his approval when He said, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick.” (Matt. 9:12 NIV). Also, St. Luke was a physician (Col. 4:14) and St. Paul advised taking a little wine for stomach problems. (1 Tim. 5:23)

Yes, the best way to treat ailments is prayer AND the best of medical science. Then leave the outcome to God. 🙏

—Warren Krug

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