



What Swallowed Jonah?

- **The Mantis Shrimp and the Toucan**
- **A Natural Explanation for the Parting of the Red Sea?**

LUTHERAN SCIENCE INSTITUTE, INC.

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THE LSI Journal is published quarterly by the Lutheran Science Institute. Views expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Institute. All **Bible references** are from the New International Version (NIV) unless otherwise noted.

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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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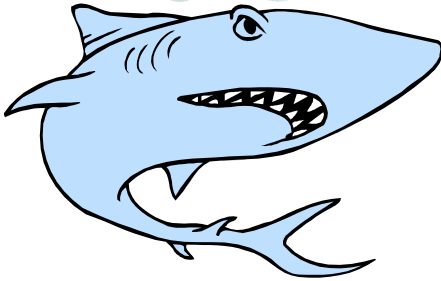
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What Swallowed Jonah?



**By
Warren
Krug**



A ferocious storm was raging on the Mediterranean Sea one day long ago, perhaps an unusually violent tempest. The winds were howling fiercely, and, as the waves were beginning to batter a certain wooden sailing vessel caught out in the middle of the sea, its increasingly frightened sailors began looking for a way to save

their lives.

The superstitious mariners figured this special storm was the

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work of their Phoenician gods. Someone had done something to anger the deities, so they thought, and it was time to call out for help. Perhaps they began to petition the god of rain and thunder known as Baal, or the god of the sea called Melgart, or the god of ships and sailing named Esmun.¹ In order to lighten the ship they began throwing cargo overboard. Still, the storm raged on.

While all this was going on, there was one man on board who apparently was not concerned. In fact, the captain found him below deck, sound asleep. “How can you sleep?” the puzzled skipper inquired of the sleeper. “Get up and call on your god! Maybe he will take notice of us, and we will not perish” (Jonah 1:6).

The sailors decided to cast lots (in those days a common practice using stones, balls, or pieces of wood) — a method which they hoped would identify the person on board who might be the target of the storm. Indeed, the one true God did direct the lot to fall on the sleeping man, correctly identifying him as the culprit.

That man’s name was Jonah, and he was a prophet of the one true God. The sailors wondered what Jonah might have done to offend his God, which offense

they reasoned must have caused the storm. Jonah admitted to them that he was running away from the LORD, but apparently he had not given them the reason why. As the sea continued to get even rougher, they inquired of Jonah what they could do to calm the storm and save their lives.



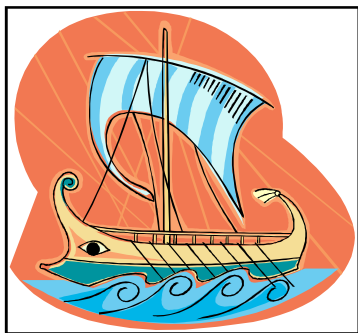
“Pick me up and throw me into the sea,” he replied, “and it will become calm. I know that it is my fault that this great storm has come upon you” (1:12).

So, what had Jonah done and why was he running away? We are told that God had ordered him to go to the great and ancient city of Nineveh to “preach against it” (1:1). Nineveh, a city of more than 120,000, was located on the bank of the Tigris River some 220 miles north and slightly west of present day Baghdad, Iraq. It was a wicked city known for its

¹ Cyril W. Spaude. *Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, The People's Bible* (Milwaukee: Northwestern Publishing House, 1987), 42.

detestable idolatry and frequent murders, and God wanted Jonah to warn the residents about their sins and the city's imminent destruction.

Jonah, however, had other ideas. He chose to disobey the LORD and flee. Why? The reason he later gave to the LORD for fleeing was that he knew that God would end up sparing Nineveh. That thought made him angry, angry that God would not destroy such a wicked city. In fact, he was so miserable thinking about God's decision that he wanted the LORD to take his life (4:1-3).



Back on the ship, the sailors were hesitating to throw Jonah overboard as he had suggested. First they tried rowing back to land, but the storm only got worse. When this didn't work, they surprisingly abandoned their deities and turned to Jonah's God, the LORD. After praying

that the LORD would not hold them accountable for killing Jonah, they did finally pick him up and throw him over the side of the ship. Just as the prophet had predicted, the raging sea now suddenly became calm (1:13-16).

Jonah didn't flounder in the Mediterranean Sea for long. As he sank into the depths, suddenly a giant fish appeared, opened its big mouth and swallowed him. For three days Jonah had to sit there in the fish's belly in great distress, giving him time to think and to pray. Now he seemed like a different person. He poured out his anguish to God, prayed for deliverance, expressed confidence in the LORD, and concluded his prayers with thanksgiving and praise (2:1-9).

God heard Jonah's pleas. After three days he directed the fish to approach the shoreline where it proceeded to vomit Jonah out onto dry land (2:10). The new Jonah was willing now to obey the LORD when he came to Jonah a second time with the same command: "Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the message I give you" (3:1). Still, the prophet had a lesson to learn about God's mercy before his adventure would end.

For many people the story of

Jonah is merely the story of a man being swallowed by a great sea creature. Yet there is much more in this Old Testament book which bears Jonah's name than his encounter with the great fish! In this book God reveals himself as a truly merciful God, sparing the wicked city of Nineveh when he for good reason could have struck it down. The LORD also displayed considerable patience with his rebellious prophet who had shown anger at the thought that God would spare Nineveh and rebelled by trying to flee from the LORD in a fruitless attempt to foil God's plan.

Skeptics often jump on this Bible "story" of Jonah and the fish, rejecting it as an absurd story rather than a record of historical events. The account of Jonah surviving for three days in a fish's belly seems to them an easy target for them to discredit the holy Scriptures. But for those of us who believe that the Bible is the verbally inspired and inerrant Word of God, there is no question that a great miracle took place when the great fish swallowed Jonah and then spit him out alive on the shore three days later.

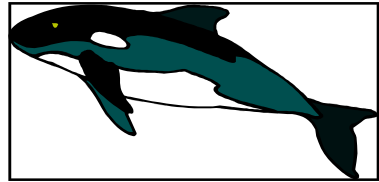
There are other miracles recorded in the book of Jonah:

- the immediate calming of

the sea

- the sudden growth of a vine
- the appearance of a worm which chewed on the vine and caused it to wither at once
- perhaps best of all, the sudden conversion of the citizens of Nineveh which moved God to spare the city.

But what exactly swallowed Jonah? Although we will never know with certainty, there seem to be three possibilities:



1. It may have been a whale.

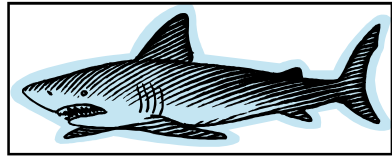
Yes, we know that according to the modern taxonomy of classifying biological creatures a whale is not considered to be a fish but rather a mammal. However, the modern classification system was not in effect when the Bible was written. Since whales live in the sea just as fish do, they were almost certainly created on the fifth day of creation along with the other sea creatures (Genesis 1:20-23). The biblical writers might have considered whales to be fish and, if so, whales would certainly be considered "great fish" (Jonah

1:17 niv)

On the other hand, we should not be led astray by the King James Version's translation of Matthew 12:40: "For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly...." "Whale" is not an accurate translation for the Hebrew words "*dâgh gâdhôl*" which means "great/big fish" (Jonah 1:17). Is "whale" a correct translation for the Greek word "*kehtos*" which the New International Version translates "fish" (Matthew 12:40)? "*Kehtos*," according to Bauer's *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature*, means "sea-monster."² Thayer's *New Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament* defines "*kehtos*" as "sea-monster, whale, huge fish."³

Not all whales have mouths large enough to swallow a man whole, but at least blue whales and sperm whales do. Sperm whales don't chew their food and have an esophagus that is as wide as 20 inches. Whales also have multi-chambered stomachs like sheep and cattle, and if Jonah had remained in the first chamber, he would not have been exposed to digestive juices — though he would have faced the danger of being crushed.⁴ Whales are mammals and need to surface

periodically in order to breathe. This may explain how Jonah was able to get air while he was inside the whale. Despite some claims to the contrary, whales — including sperm whales — do indeed inhabit the Mediterranean Sea.⁵



2. *It may have been a true fish.* Obviously we would not be

² This is William F. Arndt's and F. Wilbur Gingrich's translation and adaptation of the 4th revised and augmented edition of Walter Bauer's monumental *Griechisch-Deutsches Wörterbuch zu den Schriften des Neuen Testaments und der übrigen urchristlichen Literatur*, 2nd edition, revised and augmented by Gingrich and Frederick W. Danker (Chicago: Univ. of Chicago Press, 1979), 431.

³ Joseph Henry Thayer's translation, revision and enlargement of Grimm S. Wilke's *Clavis Novi Testamenti Philologica*, 2nd ed., 1851 (Lafayette, Indiana: Christian Copyrights, Inc., 1981), 346.

⁴ Don Landis, "Jonah and the Great Fish," *Answers*, September 5, 2006, <http://www.answersingenesis.org/articles/am/v1/n1/great-fish> (accessed August 21, 2010).

⁵ According to the website of CIBRA (Centro Interdisciplinare di Bioacustica e Ricerche Ambientali), "The Mediterranean Sea" (Pavia, Italy: Università Degli Studi Di Pavia, August, 2005), http://www-3.unipv.it/cibra/edu_Mediterraneo_uk.html (accessed August 21, 2010).

thinking of minnows or goldfish if we were considering a fish big enough to swallow a man. However, great white sharks and whale sharks have large enough mouths to swallow a person. Whale sharks at up to 60 feet in length are the largest fish in the world. Their mouths can open as much as 5 feet in width.⁶



Great white sharks are reportedly the largest predatory fish on earth, growing more than 20 feet in length and weighing up to 5,000 pounds. They have an exceptional sense of smell and are known to beach themselves on shore just as whales do. Great white sharks are able to swallow animals as large as sea lions and small whales.⁷

3. It could have been a special one-of-a-kind creature. This possibility is raised by the reference in Jonah 1:17 in which the Lord was “preparing a great fish” (KJV) or “provided a great fish” (NIV). Obviously, a special

fish could have been designed just for this one occasion in such a way that any questions regarding Jonah’s survival for three days inside it might be satisfactorily answered. We might speculate that a specially created fish might have been planned by God to live only a few days and not need a digestive system because it would not be eating. Maybe it could also have had a special internal organ that would produce oxygen like a scuba diver’s aqualung.

However, even if God had chosen an existing creature, He would have had to give it instructions regarding where to find Jonah and how to keep him alive until it was time to cough him up. God also would have had to prepare the fish’s innards so Jonah would not be seriously injured.

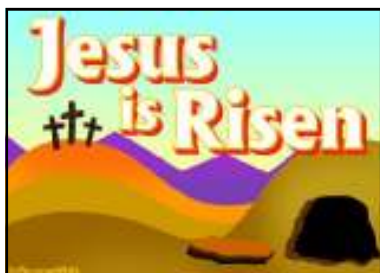
Two other questions are sometimes raised when considering Jonah’s story. First, are there other accounts, in recent times, of people being swallowed by animals and surviving? Yes, but none of them can be verified.

⁶ Landis, *loc. cit.*

⁷ According to the website of the National Geographic Society, “Great White Shark,” n.d. <http://animals.nationalgeographic.com/animals/fish/great-white-shark.html> (accessed August 21, 2010)

One story involves a James Bartley, a whaler on the *Star of the East*, who it has been said survived being swallowed by a whale, but it must be stressed there is no proof for the accuracy of this legend.⁸

Second, is it possible that Jonah actually died inside the fish and was afterwards resurrected? Reasons for entertaining this (perhaps novel) idea include the words which Jonah prayed from within the belly of the fish: “In my distress I called to the LORD, and he answered me. From the depths of the grave I called for help, and you listened to my cry” (2:2). Also, consider the words of Jesus in Matthew 12:40 (previously cited in the King James Version): “For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth (NIV).” Of course, it



is pure speculation to think that Jonah also died and was raised to life just because Jesus later died

and was raised back to life. Besides, Jonah must have remained alive inside the fish at least as long as it took for him to offer his fairly lengthy prayer (all of Jonah chapter 2).

So, what swallowed Jonah? As for the type of creature, we can not be assured of anything beyond that it was a large marine creature — probably a fish, sea monster, whale or shark. However, something else had swallowed Jonah, something that swallows all of us — sin. His pride, disobedience, lack of respect for his own life, and his lack of compassion in not wanting to see the wicked people of Nineveh spared by God or even converted to faith in the LORD made it necessary for him to be the subject of another of God’s lessons.

After God had spared Nineveh, a disgusted Jonah built himself a shelter for protection from the hot sun and then sat down. To offer him even more protection, God caused some type of vine, perhaps a gourd or a castor oil plant (also known as the palmcrist and *palma christi*) which has large leaves, to pop up overnight so that by the next day

⁸ Landis, *loc. cit.*

he had considerable shade.⁹ The following morning God sent a worm to chew on the plant, which quickly withered. He also provided a scorching wind and a blazing sun to beat down on Jonah's head to the point where the prophet began to faint. "It would be better to die than to live," Jonah moaned (4:3). The LORD explained to Jonah that his concern for the vine should have caused him to have had even more concern for the 120,000 citizens of Nineveh "who cannot tell their right hand from their left" (4:11) and who were spiritu-



ally dying. If "120,000" refers only to young children, then the total population of the city would have been considerably larger.¹⁰ It is to be hoped Jonah took to heart the lessons which God was teaching him. ❧❧

Jesus Discusses Jonah

For as **Jonah** was a sign to the Ninevites, so also will the Son of Man be to this generation.

Luke 11:30

The men of Nineveh will stand up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it; for they repented at the preaching of **Jonah**, and now one greater than **Jonah** is here.

Luke 11:32



Well Designed : The Mantis Shrimp and The Toucan



Mantis Shrimp



Toucan

-Mantis Shrimp-



antis shrimps are marine crustaceans, and despite their name are not true shrimps. These colorful creatures live mostly in tropical waters and can be up to 36 cm

(14 in.) long.

Mantis shrimps have amazing eyes. In fact, after a recent study, scientists say they have the most incredible eyes in the whole animal

kingdom. Their eyes are mounted on stalks, which can move independently. Each eye contains 10,000 clusters of photo-receptor cells and can see in 12 colors, unlike humans who can only see in 3 colors. Their light-sensitive cells work in a similar way to CD and DVD players, only much better. Dr. Nicholas Roberts, who took part in a study of mantis shrimps from the Australian Great Barrier Reef, said his work revealed for the first time “the unique design and mechanism of the mantis shrimp’s eye.” He wrote in the journal *Nature Photonics*, “It” really is exceptional — out-performing anything we humans have so far been able to create....This natural mechanism, comprised of cell membranes rolled into tubes, completely outperforms synthetic designs.” Dr. Roberts believes that by mimicking the eyes of these creatures human engineers will be able

to create improved optical devices such as CD and DVD players.

CD and DVD players did not come into existence without intelligence, so it is impossible that a system which “out-performs anything humans have so far been able to create” could do so. The mantis shrimps’ amazing eyes could never have been produced by evolution. Here is clear and unmistakable evidence for intelligent design by an all-wise Creator.



-Toucan-



oucans are clumsy-looking birds, ranging in size from 36 cm (14 in.) long

to 63 cm (25 in.) long in the largest species, the Toco Toucan. The most noticeable thing about them

is their brightly-colored, oversized beak, which is sometimes as long as their body and four times as large as their head. Marc Meyes, a material scientist and professor of mechanical and aerospace engineering grew up in the forests of Brazil 40 years ago and was fascinated by the structure of toucans' beaks which he sometimes found.

Science Daily (November 30, 2005) reported that Dr. Meyers had closely analyzed the toucan's beak and found that inside the outer shell the beak is like a honeycomb, with lots of air spaces. He said it was "optimized to an amazing degree for high strength and very little weight. It's almost as if the toucan has a deep knowledge of mechanical engineering." In fact, the beak is so well designed for lightness and strength that makers of cars and aircraft plan to copy its design to make "ultra-light aircraft and vehicle components with synthetic foams made with metals and polymers." Dr. Meyers describes it as a "high-energy impact-absorption system" that carmakers hope to copy to make panels that will

provide better protection for motorists involved in car crashes.

Evolution over long periods of time can't explain the origin of the toucan's large, yet light beak structure, and there is no evidence that toucans evolved from ancestors with smaller beaks. If the honeycomb pattern had changed gradually from a solid beak, the birds would have found it difficult to fly because their beaks would have been too heavy. This is another excellent example of a divine design that human engineers are happy to copy. LSI



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Sept. 22, 2010 post

The Parting of the Red Sea Possible, New Study Confirms

Scientists find that strong winds could have separated the waters to create a dry path.



Summary: "Mother Earth" could have parted the Red Sea as described in the book of Exodus, a new study confirms. A strong east wind (Exodus 14:21), blowing overnight, could have swept water off a bend where an ancient river is thought to have merged with a coastal lagoon along the Mediterranean Sea. This would have exposed mud flats and created a dry passage.

"People have always been fascinated by this Exodus story, wondering if it comes from historical facts," team member Carl Drews said. "What this study shows is that the description of the waters parting indeed has a basis in physical laws."

Drews and his colleagues used models which demonstrated that a wind of 63 mph (101 kph) and lasting for 12 hours could have pushed back

waters estimated to be 6 feet deep. That might have created a dry passage about 2 to 2.5 miles (3.2 to 4 kilometers) long and 3 miles (4.8 km) wide. The models also show that the water could have been pushed back into both the lake and the river channel, creating barriers of water on both sides of the newly exposed mud flats and thus matching the account in the Bible.

As soon as the winds stopped, the waters would come rushing back and drowning anyone on the mud flats. According to Exodus, Pharaoh's army was drowned by waters rushing back into the sea as the soldiers were pursuing the escaping Israelites. Drews said the simulations match "fairly closely" the Exodus account. The parting of the waters and their subsequent return can be understood through fluid dynamics, he added. The scientists identified a possible site for the crossing south of the Mediterranean Sea, about 75 miles (121 km) north of the Suez reef, a site that has drawn the attention of other groups.

A similar phenomenon can be found on Lake Erie near Toledo, Ohio where water will recede several feet when a strong wind blows.

(Illustration from <<http://thebiblerevival.com/clipart.htm>>.)

To read the entire article visit <<http://www.livescience.com/environment/wind-possibly-parted-red-sea-100921.html>>.

To read a longer and more detailed account of the study, visit <<http://environmentalresearchweb.org/cws/article/yournews/43776>>, and for the original lengthy and technical article visit <<http://www.plosone.org/article/info:doi/10.1371/journal.pone.0012481>>.

Comment: It is always interesting when secular scientists come up with discoveries or theories that tend to support those historical accounts in the Bible which skeptics are quite eager to dismiss as fairy tales. Bible-based Christians though accept the account of the Red Sea crossing as truth first and foremost because the Bible describes it as history, whether or not the secular world is willing to do so.

As one who grew up on the shores of Lake Erie just north of Toledo, I can attest to the fact that on occasion strong winds can cause waters to

recede from the shoreline for a time only to have flooding occur when the waters rush back in. This situation is due to the western end of the lake being so shallow. Of course, I never witnessed or heard of anything like the Red Sea crossing happening there. Still, the scientists in our story are suggesting the same principle could have been in effect at the time Moses led the Israelites across the Red Sea.

Even if we would concede that there may be a scientific explanation for the parting of the Red Sea, it is foolish to say "Mother Earth" did it. God clearly was in charge of the whole event. He directed the Israelites to approach the sea at just the right place. He had to have the waters recede long enough for all the Israelites to cross safely. Then He had to stop the winds at just the right time to cause the waters to return and prevent the pursuers, the Egyptian army, from catching up to the Israelites.

The Red Sea event can provide a picture of a much more important happening in our lives--the salvation of our souls. Just as the evil Pharaoh's army was about to catch up to God's chosen people, the children of Israel, God sent a flood of water to wash away the soldiers and save the Israelites. In the same way, just as the evil Satan is after our souls, God has sent His Son, Jesus Christ to die for our sins, shedding His blood in order to wash away all our sins and save us from the old evil Foe (Acts 22:16; Revelation 7:15). That is something far more important to remember than what scientists have to say about the Red Sea crossing.

—Warren Krug, blogger

Question of the Day

Can tsunamis occur in the Great Lakes?



No, the Great Lakes aren't big enough for the huge walls of water associated with tsunamis to develop. However, storms with high winds and sudden changes in air pressure as well as an earthquake can create something called a *seiche*, which can produce waves as large as nine feet.

Source: Marilyn vos Savant in *Parade* (August 22, 2010)

New Scopes Trial Film In Theaters Soon

Alleged, another Hollywood film based on the Scopes trial is expected in theaters soon. Starring Brian Dennehy as Clarence Darrow, the film more accurately portrays the "monkey trial" than the *Inherit the Wind* film and is not as biased against Christianity. Producer Fred Foote noted how the Darwinian beliefs promoted by *Inherited the Wind* can be used for nefarious purposes such as purging of the human gene pool.—*Answers* (July-September, 2010)



Scientists Push Back Origin of Life

The origin of life on Earth according to evolutionists has been pushed back by some 600,000,000 years. A paper published in *Nature* says an asteroid bombardment assumed to have occurred from 3.8 to 4.5 billion years ago would not have sterilized the habitable zone on Earth as previously believed. Therefore life could have originated as early as 4.4 billion years ago, not 3.8 billion years. No explanation was given as to how chemical evolution could have produced living cells from non-living chemicals.—*Nature* (5/21/09) - quoted in *Creation* (July-Sept., 2010)

Ape-Human Gap Widens

While it has often been stated that humans and chimpanzees share up to 98% of their DNA, it has now been found that one region of the Y chromosome differs by more than 30%. Because evolutionists believe both humans and chimps inherited their DNA from a common ancestor, they thought there would be very little difference. Now they are looking for mechanisms to explain the "rapid evolution."—*Answers* (July-September, 2010)

'Stone Age' People May Have Included Surgeons

"Stone Age" people may have practiced surgery, according to an archaeological discovery in France. Archaeologists studying the 7,000-year-old remains of an elderly man found in an ancient tomb at Butheir-Boulancourt, France, determined his left forearm had been surgically amputated while the patient was anaesthetized. Moreover, the wound was cleaned afterwards in sterile conditions. The man survived the operation but continued to suffer from osteoarthritis.—*Daily Mail* (January, 2010)—quoted in *Creation* (July-Sept., 2010)

New Hope for Paralytics

People suffering from paralysis or neurodegenerative disease could soon have their speech or even mobility restored because of a brain-computer link called BrainGate. The system uses a sensor implanted into the brain that has already shown paralyzed people can perform simple tasks such as moving a computer cursor. A current trial is evaluating BrainGate's safety outside the lab.—*Discover* (July/August, 2010)

Bad Coughing Habits

About 1 out of every 4 people observed coughing or sneezing in public failed to cover their mouths, according to a report at an international conference on diseases. And less than 5% of people covered their mouths using recommended methods. Individuals are encouraged to cough or sneeze into a tissue or into their elbow to avoid getting a virus on their hands and spreading it to nearby surfaces. More attention has been paid to this problem since the H1N1 influenza pandemic that started in 2009.—*Science Daily* (9/12/10)

Warn of Battery Dangers

Since 1985 there has been a sevenfold increase in serious complications from children swallowing button cell batteries, from about a dozen cases a year then to nearly 100 cases per year now. Chemical reactions triggered by the batteries can damage vocal cords and gastrointestinal tracts and lead to death. Batteries with numbers 2032, 2025, and 2016 account for more than 90% of the serious injuries.—*Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* (6/1/10)

Resistance Training Benefits

Regularly lifting weights—resistance training—once or twice a week appears to help older women retain a sharp mind. A January study involving 155 women ages 65 to 75 found that those who participated in resistance training had up to a 12.6% improvement in conflict resolution, decision making and concentration skills while those who did not suffered a slight decline.—*Mayo Clinic Health Letter* (July, 2010)



Mercury Found in Tuna

Researchers at the U. of Nevada in Las Vegas found more than half of 302 cans of tuna sampled had high levels of mercury. If consumed regularly, that amount of mercury could prove harmful to women and children. Low-mercury fish include pollock, salmon, and tilapia.—*Consumers Report On Health* (May, 2010)

Many Stem Cell Frauds

Numerous fraudulent claims of stem cell cure treatments has inspired the International Society for Stem Cell Research to launch a new website. The site, www.closerlookatstemcells.org, helps patients determine whether an organization offering a stem cell cure is legitimate or is merely preying on patients' hopes.—*Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* (6/6/10)



Shingles Increases Risk of Strokes

Having shingles increases the risk of having a stroke within a year by 30%–400% if its eye-related (ocular) shingles. People who have had shingles should exercise regularly; eat a low-salt, low-fat diet; avoid smoking; and, if necessary, take medication to control blood pressure and cholesterol. This will reduce the stroke risk.—*Bottom Line Personal* (July 1, 2010)

New Airborne Wind Turbine Tested

California-based Makani Power has tested a 10-kilowatt-scale prototype of an airborne wind turbine with a wingspan of about 16 feet. Tethered to the ground with a long, flexible cable, the turbine's flight is controlled by a computer. The company claims its flying generator sweeps through far more wind than does a traditional stationary wind turbine and eliminates the need for large, unsightly towers.—*Discover* (June, 2010)

LPDs May Replace LCDs

Laser phosphor displays (LPDs) may soon replace LCDs as the most popular format for computer displays. In this new technology, lasers are used to "excite" phosphors which quickly emit red, green, and blue colors to create high-resolution images. Developer Prysm says LPDs consume up to 75% less power than other display technologies.—*Smart Computing* (March, 2010)

Scientists Investigate The Red Color of Mars

The red color of Mars may have come about rather recently. Laboratory researchers were able to form the mineral hematite, which gives the Martian dust its reddish hue, by gently tumbling quartz sand in glass flasks for seven months and then adding powered magnetite, an iron oxide present on Mars. This activity simulated the idea that wind erosion on Mars could have ground down rocks to produce the reddish stain over time and suggested Mars hasn't always been red.—*space.com* (9/21/09) - quoted in *Creation* (July-Sept., 2010)

Weightlessness Weakens Astronauts

After six months on the International Space Station, astronauts can become as weak as 80-year-olds, according to a new study. While Marquette U. biologist Robert Fitts, who led the study, says the astronauts' muscles can recover after a few months back on Earth, there is concern over how the astronauts might function in emergencies where full strength is needed. However, Fitts says a space gym with the right equipment can help prevent the problem.—*apnews.myway.com* (8/20/10)

NASA to Visit the Sun

NASA is planning to send a spacecraft to a place not yet visited by a probe—the Sun. An unmanned car-sized craft costing around \$180 million will hopefully obtain valuable data about the Sun before being destroyed by sizzling temperatures exceeding 2,550 degrees Fahrenheit. A huge carbon-composite heat shield not yet built will offer the instruments some protection from the heat and radiation as the craft enters the Sun's atmosphere. Instruments aboard the spacecraft will include a solar wind particle detector, a 3D camera, and a device to measure the magnetic field.—*BBC News* (9/3/10)

More News Briefs Online

Why might blind people soon be able to drive cars?

What two major traumas did a Carolina man survive?

What mistake did Thomas Jefferson almost make?

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NUGGETS

Children and Health — Myths and Reality

Myth #1--*Heavy doses of multivitamins can help prevent colds.* Multivitamins can help children who are deficient in certain nutrients, but various studies show they do not reduce the risk of catching a cold.

Myth #2--*Eating carrots can improve a child's vision.* Although carrots are rich in beta-carotene which the body converts to vitamin A, an important nutrient for good eyesight, eating carrots won't do much to improve poor vision.

Myth #3--*Looking at books in dim light will damage a child's eyes.* Reading in low light as well as staring at a computer screen may cause eye fatigue but it will not cause any damage to a child's eyes.



Myth #4--*It's okay for a baby to sleep on his side.* Healthy babies should always be put to sleep on their backs, not stomachs or sides, in order to reduce the risk of sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS).

Myth #5--*Cuts and scrapes need fresh air to heal.* A covered wound will actually heal faster with less scarring than an uncovered one--in both kids and adults.

A Healthier Halloween

Consider giving out these treats instead of candy:

- Stickers or temporary tattoos.
- Crazy pencils or erasers.
- Gently used children's books.



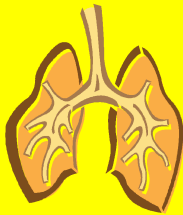
Consider selling a portion of your child's collection of Halloween candy to a dentist for distribution to our troops overseas. Participating dentists can be found at <http://www.halloweencandybuyback.com/>

Source: *Spry* magazine (October, 2009)

Real 'Vestigial Organs'

Proponents of evolution sometimes still point to so-called "vestigial organs" as being the result of evolutionary changes. More than 100 organs once thought to be useless leftovers of evolution are now known to be essential. Yet, there are some genuine vestigial organs which are the result of *ontogeny* (development) and not evolution. For example, adult mammals have vestiges of the circulatory system that once connected with their mothers' placenta and shunts (channels) that re-routed the blood to the lungs at birth.

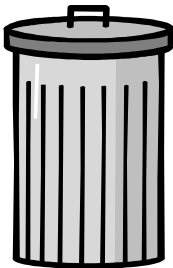
Source: Jonathan Sarfati, *The Greatest Hoax on Earth? Refuting Dawkins on Evolution*



Closing Minds in Israel

Israel's chief scientist in the Ministry of Education, Gavriel Avital, has come under severe attack because he has encouraged students to critically examine evolutionary teachings. Avital said, "There are those for whom evolution is a religion and who are unwilling to hear about anything else. Part of my responsibility, in light of my position with the Education Ministry, is to examine textbooks and curricula." However, there were immediate calls from faculty members at Hebrew University and a leading newspaper *Haaretz* for Avital's dismissal. A member of the staff at Tel Aviv University compared Avital's comments to support for the flat earth theory or the idea that the sun revolves around the earth.

Source: *Creation*
(July-September, 2010)



RETRIEVING DELETED FILES!?

Caller: 'I deleted a file from my PC last week and I just realized that I need it.

So, if I turn my system clock back two weeks will I get my file back again?'

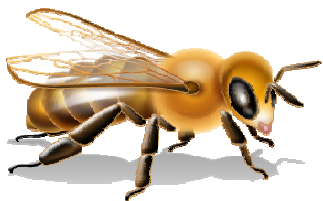
A bit of humor sent to the editor via e-mail



MORE NUGGETS

All About Bees

- ◆ A flourishing hive will have from 60,000 to 100,00 bees.
- ◆ It takes 4 pounds of nectar to produce a pound of honey.
- ◆ A bee must visit more than 2,600 flowers and fly back and forth to the hive for a total distance of up 850 miles.
- ◆ It takes 8 pounds of nectar to make 1 pound of beeswax.



Source: Susan Brackney's "Plan Bee,"
quoted in *(Racine) Journal Times* (8/6/10)

"Publication Bias"

Bad measurements are not the biggest source of wrongness in scientific studies. That honor would have to go to "publication bias"--journals' tendency to eagerly publish the small percentage of studies that produce exciting, surprising, breakthrough results. Of course, the most likely explanation for why one team of researchers comes up with surprising results while several other teams get less-publishable, boring results is that the one team screwed up somewhere.

Source: *Discover* (July/August,

Oh, the depth of the
riches of the wisdom
and knowledge of God!
How unsearchable his
judgments, and his
paths beyond tracing
out! (Romans 11:33)

France Tops 'Quality of life' Survey

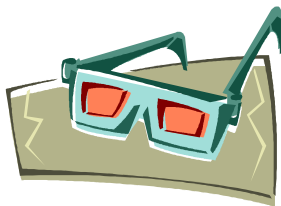
According to the staff at *International Living* magazine, based on health care, leisure and culture, France is the world's best place to live. Australia and Switzerland came in second and third, respectively. Out of 194 countries rated, the U.S. came in seventh.



Source: <http://internationalliving.com>

3-D TELEVISION ON ITS WAY

- ◆ This year about 1.1 million of the 37 million televisions shipped to dealers in the U.S. will be 3-D capable.
- ◆ A new 50-inch 3-D plasma will cost about \$2500 compared to \$1500 for a similar-sized HDTV.
- ◆ To view 3-D TV, special battery-powered glasses costing about \$150 each will be needed and the glasses won't be compatible across brands. However, they will provide a superior picture to the polarized glasses being used in theaters.
- ◆ About 65% of people who have seen 3-D movies in theaters want the technology in their homes.
- ◆ 3-D television programs will come slowly. ESPN's 3-D network is scheduled to premier in June and three other 3-D channels are planned for 2011.



Source: *Parade* (4/18/2010)

Amazing Mace

A mechanic who worked out of his home had a dog named Mace. Mace had a bad habit of eating all the grass on the mechanic's lawn, so the mechanic had to keep Mace inside.

The grass eventually became overgrown. One day the mechanic was working on a car in the backyard and dropped his wrench, losing it in the tall grass. He couldn't find it for the life of him, so he decided to call it a day.

That night, Mace escaped from the house and ate all the grass in the backyard. The next morning the mechanic went outside and saw his wrench glinting in the sunlight. Realizing what had happened he looked toward the heavens and proclaimed, **"A grazing Mace, how sweet the hound, that saved a wrench for me!"**

—from the newsletter of Christ Lutheran Church, Desert Hot Springs, CA



A Sieve

"For I will give the command, and I will shake the house of Israel among all the nations as grain is shaken in a sieve, and not a pebble will reach the ground." Amos 9:9

God often had to warn his people, the Children of Israel, when their sins became especially great. Here the Lord speaks through His prophet Amos at a time when the people of Israel were worshipping idols and doing other shameful things.

The Lord uses a picture of a farmer to show that sinful people will fall through the sieve and be thrown away or forgotten, but the good pebbles or good grain (faithful people) will not be allowed to fall to the ground and be lost.

What is a sieve? A sieve

is a device having many small holes which is used for separating different kinds of matter that are mixed together. Small pieces of material will fall through the holes while the larger pieces do not. A sieve is sometimes called a *sifter*.

What is a strainer? A strainer is a kind of sieve used in separating a solid material from a liquid. For instance, after cooking spaghetti, you can use a strainer to pour out the water while saving the pasta.



A plastic colander. Colanders are often made of metal.

What is a colander? A colander is a sieve shaped like a bowl which is used as

a strainer in cooking.

What is a flour sifter? A flour sifter is used in baking. As the flour is sifted, air will be added to it to increase its volume (the amount of space it takes up).



A flour sifter.



A tea strainer.

What is a tea strainer? As the name suggests, a tea strainer is used for making tea. The strainer is placed over or into a teacup to

catch the tea leaves. It is used when tea is made in a teapot with the tea leaves still in the water.

What are some other kinds of sieves? A window screen can let the fresh air in while keeping the bugs out. A furnace filter will trap the dust while letting fresher air move through the house. A paper coffee filter can remove things from the coffee people don't want to drink.

Source: Wikipedia

On the Last Day God will be doing some separating like a sieve. The people who have faith in Jesus as their Savior will be separated from unbelievers. The happy believers will then be taken to heaven.

Activities

1. If your parents brew coffee or tea, watch them use a filter or strainer.
2. Mix together some sand and small pebbles. Then use a screen to separate the pebbles from the sand.



Looking Outside the Fishbowl

Stephen Hawking is a world famous physicist who often makes interesting and widely published comments, many of which are quite astute.

For instance, he recently raised a warning flag regarding the efforts some scientists are making at trying to discover intelligent life in space. He cautioned an alien species might turn out to have hostile intentions.

One might wonder though about some remarks he recently made which were printed in the September 12 *Parade* magazine. He was asked: **What can a goldfish teach us about the nature of reality?**

Hawking answered, "Because it lives in a round bowl of water, a goldfish sees a distorted picture of the outside world. It would have a different picture of reality than we do. But how do we know that we have the right picture? We might also be in some giant goldfish bowl. There is no unique picture of reality. The goldfish's view is as valid as our own."

This is, in my opinion, a very insightful answer. Unfortunately, evolutionists including Hawking himself often do not take such wisdom to heart.

The dogmatic statements made by Darwinists often conflict with the idea that we live in a fishbowl and that scientists may not really have a grasp on reality.

These secularists act like they *know* the universe began in a Big Bang some 13.7 billion years ago. They *know* all living things have descended from a original single-celled organism. They *know* natural selection and mutations can create new lifeforms, even if they can't explain how.

However, we regularly read about new discoveries overturning long-established "truths." Secular scientists including Hawkins himself should take his advice and be cautious when making claims about times long gone or places far away.

But there is One who can be dogmatic about places and times outside our "fishbowl" because He indeed lives outside our fishbowl and, in fact, He created the fishbowl in the first place. He is, of course, our Creator.

God has told us everything we need to know about the life beyond—a wonderful, perfect world called heaven, which will be ours when we come to faith in Jesus Christ as our Savior. LSI

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