

BODY, BRAIN AND SOUL

MEDITATIONS—DNA AND THE VOICE
THE STAR-NOSED MOLE AND
THE FLYING DRAGON

LUTHERAN SCIENCE INSTITUTE, INC.

4130 Harvest Lane
Racine, Wisconsin 53402-9562
<http://www.lutheranscience.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).

OFFICERS: () denotes remaining years in office.

PRESIDENT: WARREN KRUG (2), M.S. Educ
E-mail: WPKrug5@yahoo.com

VICE PRES.: PATRICK WINKLER (1), P.E.,
M.S.Eng., M.Div.
E-mail: runx10@gmail.com

SECRETARY: MARK GROTH (2)
Email: mgroth@wi.rr

TREASURER: CRAIG SCHWARTZ (1), MSciEd
E-mail: jcs@ecentral.com

BOARD of DIRECTORS:

PASTOR DAVID PETERS S.T.M. (2), S.T.M.
E-mail: pastor@trinityug.org

JEFFREY STUEBER (2)
E-mail: jstueber@charter.net

RON ALTERGOTT (2)
E-mail: altron@att.net

DR. DAVID GORSUCH (1)
E-mail: CGorsuch@wi.rr.com

MARK BERGEMANN (1)
E-mail: MarkBergemann@yahoo.com

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: BRUCE HOLMAN, Ph.D.
E-mail: bholman3@sbcglobal.net

EDITOR: WARREN KRUG
E-mail: admin@lutheranscience.org

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 ©1973, 1978,1984) unless otherwise noted.

Send your suggestions, comments, and manuscripts to:

LSI JOURNAL
4130 HARVEST LANE
RACINE, WI 53402-9562

or e-mail: admin@lutheranscience.org

The Annual Meeting of the Institute is held the second Saturday in October. 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*

- ◆ 2nd Saturday in January, 1:00 p.m.
- ◆ 2nd Saturday after Easter
- ◆ 2nd Saturday in June
- ◆ 2nd Saturday in October

*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.

**4 What Christianity and Modern Scholarship Say
about the Relationship Between the Body, Brain
and Soul**

By Jeffrey Stueber

We can derive some ideas about how our self (or soul) interacts with the brain and whether we are mere matter of something more.

11 Meditate on Just One of God's Works—DNA

By Cleone Weigand

It is difficult to comprehend how much information is packed into DNA.

12 A Meditation: The Voice

By Cleone Weigand

Listen to the one and only Voice that lives and brings life!

14 Weird, Wonderland and Well Designed: The Star-Nosed Mole and the Flying Dragon

These animals were not the result of mindless evolution but were designed the way they are by God the Creator

17 Best of the Blog: Ken Ham Agrees With Atheists—On One Point

20 Nuggets: Science in the Bible—Ahead of Its Time / Creating a Model of the Solar System / Effectiveness of Vaccines / Credit Card or Debit Card? Which is Better? / Should You Kiss a Frog? / Col. 1:16-17 / After Eden: Eating Vegetables / Make Your Bed / A Bolt of Reality / How Can Changing the Way You Breath Reduce Stress?

24 The Mail: Understanding 'Intelligent Design'

26 News

28 Kids' Page: Goats

30 My View: Lessons from the Royal Wedding



What Christianity and Modern Scholarship Say about the Relationship between the Body, Brain, and Soul

by Jeffrey Stueber

The Bible is not a book of neurology. It is, instead, the story of our salvation through God's interaction with mankind. We can, nevertheless, derive some ideas about how our self (or soul) interacts with the brain and whether we are mere matter or something more.

Christianity, as well as other religions like Buddhism and Theosophy, proposes that there is a soul which can exist independent of the body — a philosophy called mind/body or mind/brain substance dualism. The Bible at times indicates this. For instance, at his transfiguration Jesus talked to Moses and Elijah (Matthew

17). If Moses were only a material being, this would not have been possible — except, of course, there was some substance or being to Moses, a substance or being that survived death and could physically speak. After the fifth seal is opened in Revelation 6:9, we are told that under the altar were the souls of those who had been slain because of the Word of God and their testimony, and they called out to God asking how long before he judges the inhabitants of earth. This would be impossible unless there were

Jeff Stueber is a member of the LSI Board of Directors and a free-lance writer living in Watertown, Wisconsin. He is a member of St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church, Watertown.

some immaterial aspect of them which survived their deaths, which can still think and even speak. Atheistic materialism, on the other hand, denies this.

Jeffrey Schwartz is a research professor of psychiatry at the UCLA school of medicine. His interests include patients with obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD) – to which I can relate, as I have occasionally suffered from this malady. Its victims have the urge, however illogical, to indulge in time-consuming repetitive behaviors or are preoccupied with thoughts they cannot shut out or control (hence the obsessive nature).

Until the mid-1960s, it was believed that there was little help for people with OCD. Treatments such as electroshock, psychosurgery, drugs, and talk therapy were tried with little success, and the tide began to turn when researchers discovered that certain antidepressant drugs gave sufferers some relief. About that same time, Victor Meyer, a psychologist at Middlesex hospital in London, stumbled upon the exposure and response approach to OCD. As sufferers are exposed to what triggers their obsession the most, and they come to realize that these triggers do not harm them as much as they fear, they learn that they are able to control their

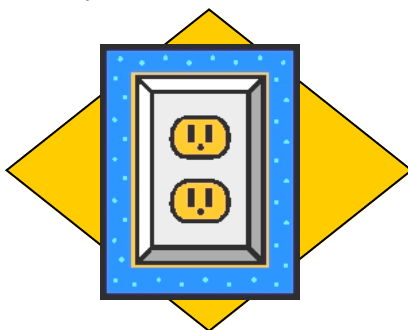
obsessions. This was the sole behavioral method of controlling OCD when Schwartz entered the fray.¹

Schwartz introduced a four-step approach in which the patients attribute their obsessiveness to faulty brain circuitry and refocus their minds on something other than their obsession. Such an approach created drastic improvements in his patients and led him to conclusions that mimic the idea of mind/brain dualism because it was the person's own willful act which changed his brain, not his brain changing itself. Schwartz does not, to my knowledge, ever use the word "soul" in this book. Instead he chooses "direct mental force" to suggest the nonmaterial force which causes brain changes. "The results achieved with OCD," he says, "supported the notion that the conscious and willful mind differs from the brain and cannot be explained solely and completely by the matter, by the material substance, of the brain."

Schwartz anticipates and refutes possible materialist objections which might assert that one

1. Jeffrey Schwartz and Sharon Begley, *The Mind & the Brain: Neuroplasticity and the Power of Mental Force* (New York: HarperCollins, 2002), 57-60.

part of the brain is changing the other. “To train people suffering from OCD requires tapping into their natural belief in the efficacy of their own willful actions. Explanations based exclusively on materialist causation are both infeasible and inappropriate for conveying to OCD patients the steps they must follow to change their own brain circuitry systematically.”²



This view of the reality of mind and brain matches normal common sense. As I write this article, I am not some mere automaton responding to the brain’s whims but a conscious agent whose choices are not preceded by a prior biological state of matter.

However, some people admit to the existence of the mind but deny it has any causative influence on the brain. Jeffrey Satinover has refuted this idea by just asking a series of questions. The atheistic Darwinian idea is that consciousness is not an ex-

ternal thing which can influence matter, but consciousness may appear as a property of matter which appears during a specific level of organization and has an adaptive benefit. However, how can something which cannot influence matter be adaptive? Perhaps, they will say, the illusion of having consciousness has adaptive benefit. However, how can a machine (whether metal or human) without a mind have illusions? A belief in consciousness is nothing more than a belief, and beliefs are products of minds.³ So if there are no minds, then there must be no beliefs that minds exist either.⁴ However, there clearly are beliefs and so we must suppose a mind exists that is independent of the brain.

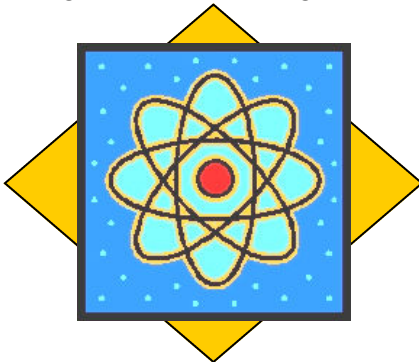
One of the objections to mind/brain dualism has been the fact that it is difficult to explain how an immaterial mind or soul can impact material matter such as a brain. Schwartz and Begley, however, lean on quantum physics for the answer. Many of us learned in school that the atom is

² Schwartz and Begley, 93-94.

³ I am not using the term “belief” in the sense of saving faith in Jesus Christ, which is the working of the Holy Spirit in the human soul, not an activity of the human mind *sui generis*.

⁴ Jeffrey Satinover, *The Quantum Brain* (New York: John Wiley & Sons, 2001), 221.

composed of electrons, protons, and neutrons which all occupy distinct ball-like shapes in the atom. At any one time you could peer into the atom to discover their locations. According to these authors, that view is incorrect. Rather, the atom is a collection of particles whose locations are not set until one observes them. This is different than the macroscopic world we live in where our observations do not change the nature of things.



Physicist Michio Kaku wrote that “It is often stated that of all the theories proposed in this century, the silliest is quantum theory.” On the other hand he adds that “some say that the only thing that quantum theory has going for it is that it is unquestionably correct.”⁵

Supposedly, this fact leaves room for free will. We can describe anyone’s brain as a system of neurons whose atoms are in

various quantum states. When we exert mental force we change the quantum state of these neurons and this change filters down (or up) into changes in the brain which produce the willed actions we witness every day.

Schwartz and Begley’s theories are farther along scientifically than anything ever proposed before. I should caution, however, that while it is easy to observe the effects of subatomic particles in some experiments, it is difficult (perhaps impossible) to observe them in the brain. Until we do that, such a theory may remain only a theory which explains what we observe in our willed actions.

Years later Mario Beauregard and Denyse O’Leary wrote *The Spiritual Brain* which also argues for the existence of an immaterial soul. They take up the topic of OCD also, though not as in depth as Schwartz and Begley. Beauregard’s and O’Leary’s arguments for its existence focus on other experimental evidence. For example, ten men between the ages of twenty and forty-two were asked to watch four portions of emotionally neutral films and four portions from erotic films.

⁵. Schwartz and Begley, 263.

At one point they were simply asked to observe the erotic movies, and at another to force themselves to downplay their feelings toward them. The participants were effective at suppressing their arousal. Brain scans revealed differences in those who did or did not suppress their reactions. Therefore, some agent or substance must be causing the changes in the brain since the experiments were the same in both instances.⁶

Beauregard and O'Leary do not let the issue rest there. They proceed to discuss near-death experiences (NDEs) and PSI (the ability to influence things from a distance with the mind) – both controversial topics. The truth of the NDE rests primarily on the fact that some people who have had so-called near death experiences seemed to have been able to view events and things which they could not have viewed normally unless they were outside their bodies. This is not a new phenomenon. In an article in *The Humanist*, John Beloff argued that evidence for life after death was significant in such a nature that humanists should admit to the existence of an afterlife and attempt to interpret it in a naturalistic framework. Beloff declared that the evidence indicates a “dualistic world where mind or

spirit has an existence separate from the world of material things” and contended that this evidence challenges Humanism much as Darwinian evolution challenged Christianity.



After the publication of Beloff's article in 1981, the American Psychological Association held a meeting to discuss the nature and origin of near-death experiences. Only one panelist contended that these experiences could be explained by natural, physical means, but he was seriously challenged by Michael Sabom and could not answer Sabom's challenge.⁷

As recently as 2010 the

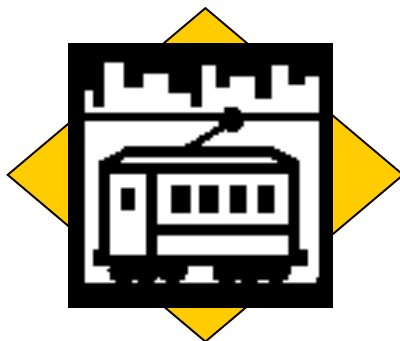
⁶ Mario Beauregard and Denyse O'Leary, *The Spiritual Brain: A Neuroscientist's Case for the Existence of the Soul* (New York: HarperCollins, 2007), 131-132.

⁷ Gary Haberman and J. P. Moreland, *Immortality: The Other Side of Death* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1992), 85.

evidence has become even bolder when Jerry Long and Paul Perry detailed nine lines of evidence which render the possibility of life after death irrefutable. Such evidence includes a woman who was blind and never saw the rings she wore, but during her NDE should could see them and give accurate information about them later. Another woman had an NDE and observed a shoe on the ledge of the hospital in which she was a patient — and she gave accurate information about the shoe.⁸ Materialists have continued to insist the explanation for this phenomenon lies in chemical imbalances in the brain.

Much has been written over the years about right and wrong, and Marc Hauser's *Moral Minds* is a recent contributor to this quest. The central idea of the book, he says, is that "we evolved a moral instinct, a capacity that naturally grows within each child, designed to generate rapid judgments about what is morally right or wrong based on an unconscious grammar of action." Part of this ability was crafted by the blind hand of evolution, he says, while other parts were added later. This "universal moral grammar," as he calls it, underlies our moral judgments, lies beneath our awareness, and is eerily reminiscent of the moral

code the Bible claims is written on our hearts.⁹



Thought experiments dominate his book. For instance, in one experiment, Denise is a passenger on an out-of-control trolley, the conductor has fainted, and the trolley is headed toward five people on the track who cannot get out of its way. Denise can turn the trolley onto a side track and save the five people but kill another person in the process (in essence, kill one to save five). In a second experiment, Frank is on a footbridge overlooking an out-of-control trolley on its way to kill five people and he can stop the trolley by pushing a large person who is standing with him

⁸ Jeffrey Long and Paul Perry, *Evidence of the Afterlife: the Science of Near-Death Experiences* (New York: HarperCollins, 2010).

⁹ For instance, see Romans 2: 12-16. St. Paul is talking about the Gentiles who have the requirements of the law of God written on their hearts. Theologians call this the inscribed law.

onto the track, thereby stopping the trolley from killing the five. Which actions are morally permissible?

Hauser's opinion of the proper moral judgments is that it is proper for Denise to divert the train onto the extra track in order to save the five, but not allowable for Frank to push the man standing with him onto the track. His reasoning gives us a hint of the moral struggles we deal with every day. Regardless of what Denise does, at least one person will die and it is moral to minimize the quantity of people being killed. The second instance seems similar to the first except the large man next to Frank is a bystander and killing him would lead to direct harm to an innocent person and there is nothing that gives the people on the track more of a right to life than the bystander.

Psychologist Lewis Petrino-vich was the first to explore how people react unconsciously to moral dilemmas such as these, with philosopher and legal scholar John Mikhail following him with his own set of trolley problems. Mikhail, as Petrino-vich, found no evidence that gender, age, national affiliation, or moral philosophies affected the moral judgments people made.

A word of caution should be given. In some instances most people react similarly to a moral dilemma while in other cases there is no unanimous opinion, because people will respond differently to moral dilemmas based on their cultural surroundings and prior moral judgments. However, Hauser concludes there is a universal moral grammar that runs through humans which we tap unconsciously.¹⁰ One could also say this moral grammar was written on our hearts, as the Bible says.

The evidence seems to indicate the existence of free will and some kind of nebulously conceived soul which can interact with the body yet be separated from it and perceive moral codes we intuitively know while in the body. In this sense, reality corresponds to the way we would expect, since the God of the Bible made us — just as his book says.

LSI



¹⁰ Marc Hauser, *Moral Minds: The Nature of Right and Wrong* (New York: HarperCollins, 2006), prologue and chapter three.

Meditate on Just One of God's Works—DNA

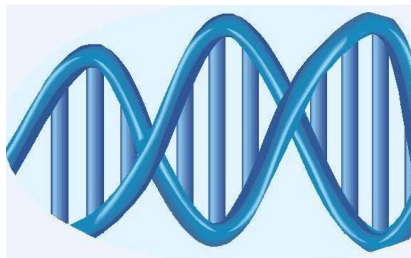
by Cleone H. Weigand

Psalms 104:24: *How many are your works, O LORD! In wisdom you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.*

It is difficult for us to comprehend how much information is packed into the DNA storage strands of living cells or to visualize how small these strands really are. Carl Wieland, M.B., B.S., editor of *Creation ex Nihilo* makes an attempt to help us with this problem in the Dec. '98 – Feb. '99 magazine which he edits. To illustrate how thin a strand of DNA really is, he asks us to imagine that the metal in a pinhead is drawn into a thin wire, so thin that it is long enough to go around the equator 33 times. That is how slender a strand of DNA really is.

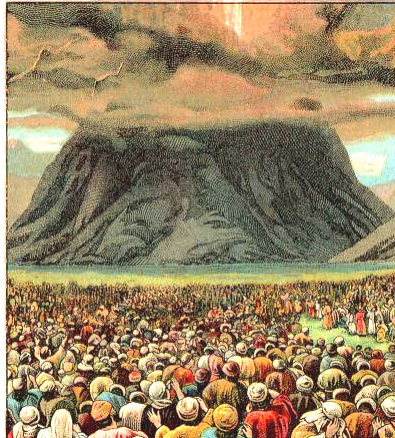
To help impress us all with the amount of information this slender filament can store we are invited to think of 1,000 books, of fine print, each containing 500 pages. This represents the amount of information stored in the DNA in just one cell in the human genome with its 23 chromosomes.

We have just taken a little time to meditate on one of God's creations, a strand of DNA. Now consider how many strands such as this have been spun by our Lord in all of the history of his creation. Then add to that all the other pieces of his marvelous creation. How can anyone, with this vision, ever dream of taking away from the Creator the glory that is his due? May we never be found in that unthankful number for we would be without excuse. 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). In addition, let us also remember that the mighty deed that brings God his greatest glory is the gift of his son as our Savior! May our praise and glory for this gift never cease! L&L



A Meditation: The Voice

by Cleone H. Weigand



Matthew 3:17: *And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."*

We are living in an age of ballooning technology. The race to provide sophisticated communications between people and people, and between people and their machines continues at a heated pace. There also are ongoing efforts to establish communications between earth people and beings elsewhere in space if there are such extraterrestrials. However, how much is being given to finding and listening to the voice of our creator and the creator of all things? About 4,000 years ago there was a man who heard a voice. The man was Abraham. The voice was the voice of God. In a test of faith, God instructed Abraham to go with his son Isaac to a mountain he would show him and there sacrifice his son. Abraham set about to obey the voice of God. Happily the Lord intervened at the last minute so that Abraham did not actually have to slay his son. The voice then spelled out promised blessings to Abraham that began with Abraham's seed and extended to all people. "And through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me." (Genesis 22:20) (NIV) →

The late Cleone Weigand passed into eternal life on Sept. 16, 2010 at the age of 77. He served at Immanuel, Mosinee, WI; St. Michael's, Fountain City, WI; and from 1977-1998 at Redemption, Milwaukee. Pastor Weigand served on the LSI Board of Directors for many years and wrote several meditations for the *LSI Journal*. His obituary and two other of his meditations can be found on the LSI website—www.luthranscience.org.

About 1,500 years later a voice from heaven spoke remarkable things to a nation made up of the descendants of Abraham. The place was Mt. Sinai. The people's leader was Moses. And this is what happened. *17 Then Moses led the people out of the camp to meet with God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain. 18 Mount Sinai was covered with smoke, because the Lord descended on it in fire. The smoke billowed up from it like smoke from a furnace, the whole mountain trembled violently, 19 and the sound of the trumpet grew louder and louder. Then Moses spoke and the voice of God answered him.* (Ex. 19:17-19) (NIV) The message God then gave them was the body of law for their nation, as well as the moral law, the ten commandments.

About 1,500 years later, there was another gathering of people, this time at the Jordan River. They had the awesome experience of hearing God's voice from heaven. The voice spoke of his son who had just been baptized. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." (Matthew 3:17) (NIV)

Over time the voice promised a special nation and blessing to all people. The voice delivered the law to that special people. The voice directed all mankind to God's son, Jesus. To this list of remarkable communications from heaven, let us add one more. It was Easter morning. Mary was weeping. She was certain her master was dead and buried in an unknown place. Then she heard a voice. It said, "Mary." It was only one word, her name, but for Mary it meant her master. Jesus, who was dead, now truly lived again. It meant all he taught and promised was true! It meant Mary and all the world had a Savior. The voice she heard was the voice of God. The message the voice shared was truth, life and salvation! This voice still speaks, not from heaven but from a book, the Holy Bible. We may hear it from a tape, a reading in church, personal Bible reading, a friend's witness, from a radio service or from a computer screen. As we listen, we are in touch with God, our Creator, Jesus, our Redeemer and God's Holy Spirit, our Sanctifier. With Mary we embrace the Voice in faith!

There are those who seek the voice of truth in exacting scientific studies of the world around us. There are those who seek the voice of truth through scrupulous reasoning processes. There are those who beam antennas into space seeking to hear voices. But those made wise by the Lord turn their eyes, ears and hearts to the Bible and listen to the one and only Voice that lives and brings life! 🙏

Weird, Wonderful and Well-Designed: The Star-nosed Mole and the Flying Dragon



Star-nosed Mole

There are many strange animals in the world, and one of the strangest is the Star-nosed Mole, which lives in Eastern Canada and the northeastern USA. Like common moles, this hamster-

sized animal lives underground and digs tunnels, although it goes much deeper. It is also a good swimmer, living near water, and its tunnels often exit underwater.

However, the strangest thing about this unique mammal is the bizarre nose which gives it its name. It has a fan of 11 pairs of fleshy tentacles which are constantly moving as it searches for food. These tentacles are sensory organs containing nerve fibers. They are named "Eimer's Organs," after zoologist Theodor Eimer, who



Star-nosed Mole (left)
Common mole (bottom)



was born in Zurich, Switzerland in 1843. He studied common moles, and discovered that they had 5,000 sensory organs on their noses. If that seems amazing, then consider the fact that the Star-nosed Mole has at least 25,000 of these organs! Naturalist Peter Melzer says: "Today, we still do not understand precisely how these receptors transduce (convert) touch into the electrical signals that the nerve fibers transmit to the brain." (brainmindinst.blogspot.com).

Star-nosed Moles are practically blind, and as they move around, these sensors

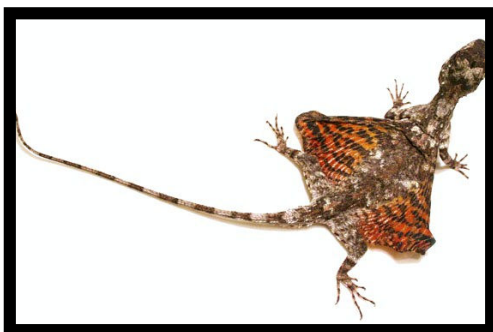
transmit signals to the brain in a similar way that blind people "read" Braille by touch. You could say that they "follow their nose."

Many human inventions use electrical sensors, and all of them are the result of intelligent design. It therefore seems obvious that the Star-nosed Mole, with its strange nose, equipped with 25,000 sensors transmitting information to its brain, could not be the result of mindless evolution. Its amazing design clearly displays the work of a wise Creator-Designer.

**Flying
Dragon**



In spite of their name, flying dragons are not dragons, and they don't really fly. They are really



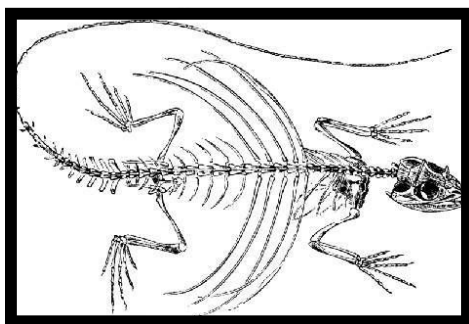
Flying Dragon

gliding lizards, and there are a number of species which live in the tropical forests of India and Asia. They spend almost all of their lives in trees, and don't often come down to the ground. They are able to glide from tree to tree, travelling as far as 8 meters (25 feet), using special "wings", which are actually extra-long ribs covered with flaps of skin.

The drawing of a skeleton (below) shows just how long those ribs are. They are not only extra long, but moveable, so that the flaps can be folded away when not needed for gliding. Flying dragons must

have been specially designed to enable them to glide. It seems impossible to believe that their extra-long ribs and flaps of skin could have gradually evolved over thousands or millions of years. These lizards would have had to evolve joints to allow the ribs to open for gliding, as well as special muscles to open and close them. Fossils of gliding lizards have been found, and they had extra-long ribs like those living today, so there is no evidence that they evolved from lizards that didn't glide.

The evidence suggests that these strange lizards were designed the way they are by God the Creator. LSI



Reprinted with permission from publications of the Creation Resources Trust, United Kingdom, Geoff Chapman, editor.

Illustrations from Wikipedia or Wikimedia Commons, credited to Michael David Hill, Alfeus Liman, and St. George Mivart (1871).



June 6, 2011 post

Ken Ham Agrees With Atheists—On One Point

Atheists are sometimes closer to the truth than are Christian apologists for evolution.

Summary: Ken Ham, founder and head of Answers in Genesis, says he is siding with atheists, for once. Ham was disturbed by a recent story in *Christianity Today* entitled “The Search for the Historical Adam” which quoted some Christian evolutionists who believe much of Genesis to be an allegory. Francis Collins of BioLogos and other scientists and theologians claim a literal view of Adam and Eve simply “did not fit the evidence,” and they suggested different theories such as that the story of Adam was a “story of Israelite origins” rather than the origin of all humanity.

Ham says these scholars were compromising “God’s Word with man’s fallible beliefs about evolution, millions of years, etc.” Ham has long advanced his belief in a six-day 24-hour creation and a literal Adam and Eve. He says that compromising on Genesis opens a dangerous door, and Christians must preserve the Bible’s authority as 100% true through a strong teaching of the first book.

Collins’s website, on the other hand, claims to represent the harmony of science and faith, and Collins found no conflict in viewing Genesis as “a poetic and powerful allegory.” In his view, God could have used the Adam and Eve account to advocate for a spiritual and moral nature. He also believes science has shown anatomically modern ancestors of humans numbering some 10,000 individuals emerged perhaps 100,000 years ago — long before the Genesis account would have occurred. Other evangelicals such as Peter Enns and Dr. Bruce Waitke are in agreement.

Christianity Today said if AiG's claims are true, "[it] would... demolish Darwinism because such a brief chronology offers no time for evolutionary processes to occur." The magazine called this "the major theological battle in Christianity in the 21st century" and, as if to support Ham's fears, said the "emerging science" could challenge traditional Christian views regarding humans being made "in the image of God," original sin and the Fall, the genealogy of Jesus in the Gospel of Luke, and, significantly, Paul's teaching that links a historical Adam with redemption through Christ (1 Corinthians 15:22).

For his part, Ham referred to a post featured on American Atheists which said "No Adam and Eve means no need for a savior...It also means that the Bible cannot be trusted as a source of unambiguous, literal truth. It is completely unreliable, because it all begins with a myth, and builds on that as a basis. No Fall of Man means no need for atonement and no need for a redeemer. You know it." Ham noted it was a sad day when atheists understood Christianity better than did many Christians.

This summary was based on an article found at...

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/ken-ham-agrees-with-atheists-on-literal-view-of-adam-and-eve-50773/>

Comment: I have said it before that groups like Francis Collins's BioLogos and Hugh Ross's Reasons to Believe are more dangerous than atheists because they present themselves as true evangelical organizations. But Jesus warned, "Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves" (Matthew 7:15). An outspoken atheist like Richard Dawkins, who comes to us as a wolf dressed like a wolf, is much less of a threat because he is so rude at times most Christians are not likely to be deluded into adopting his opinions.

Without evidence to the contrary, I must believe that the scholars involved with BioLogos and Reasons to Believe really do believe

that evolution is an established principle of science and are looking for reasons not to give up on Christianity entirely. But if we listen only to them, we will be fooled. As the *Christian Post* article makes clear, evolutionism, whether dressed in religious or secular garb, invariably can lead to confusion regarding the origin of sin, the creation of the soul, and the need for a Savior.

Here is where the leading creationist organizations are coming to the rescue. Answers in Genesis, the Institute for Creation Research, Creation Ministries International, the Creation Research Society, and other creationist groups are doing good work in exposing the flaws and pseudoscience in evolutionist thinking. They make BioLogos and Reasons to Believe completely unnecessary. While creation science can never scientifically prove such creationist beliefs as the existence of Adam and Eve or creation in six 24-hour days (which must be accepted by faith), it is showing that there are no scientific reasons for abandoning our commitment to a literal Genesis.

Many creationist scientists indicate they were once evolutionists. A book called *Persuaded by the Evidence* includes testimonials of dozens of scientists and other educated persons who, for scientific reasons, gave up on the theory of evolution. In many cases, it appears their subsequent searching for the truth led them to the Bible and a new life in Christ. I, myself, for a short time in college was under the influence of a theistic evolutionist biology professor before seeing the light, so I know where these former evolutionists are coming from.

Let's pray that the BioLogos and Reasons to Believe folks and all other theistic evolutionists might see how their efforts are hurting the Lord's work. God willing, they may yet be led to take another look at His Word and find the truth. "For nothing is impossible with God" (Luke 1:37). And that includes the possible conversion of evolutionists, even the *Christian* ones.



NUGGETS

Science in the Bible—Ahead of Its Time

The Bible may not be a science textbook, but the science in it is completely factual—not a surprise to Bible believers.

Job 26:7 (“He spreads out the northern skies over empty space; he *suspends the earth over nothing*.”) Many ancient people believed the earth was sitting on the back of Atlas or a turtle or an elephant.

Job 28:25 (“Have you journeyed to the *springs of the sea* or walked in the recesses of the deep?”) Modern science now knows there are thousands of underwater springs.

Job 36:27-28 (“He *draws up the drops of water*, which distill as rain to the streams; the *clouds pour down their moisture* and abundant showers fall on mankind.”) This hydrological cycle wasn’t discovered until the 17th century.

Genesis 22:17a (“I will surely bless you and make your descendants as *numerous as the stars in the sky* and as the sand on the seashore.” Before the telescope was invented, people could see only a few hundred stars with the naked eye. Now we know there are 300 billion stars in our Milky Way galaxy alone.



Psalms 8:8b (“...and the fish of the sea, all that swim *the paths of the seas*.”) It wasn’t until the 19th century that the ocean’s paths or currents were charted.

Leviticus 17:11a (“For the *life of a creature is in the blood*...”)
We now know that our blood obviously keeps us alive, but for centuries physicians practiced “blood letting” in an attempt to heal the sick.

Source: David Cloud, Fundamental Baptist Information Service, reprinted in
Christian News

Creating a Model of the Solar System

Using fruits and vegetables, one can create a model of our Solar System with the sun and planets proportionally sized and at appropriate distances from our star.

Select a **pumpkin** for the **sun**. Choose the following fruits and vegetables for the planets:

a **tomato seed** for **Mercury** (50 feet from the pumpkin)

a **pea** for **Venus** (75 feet)

a **pea** for **Earth** (100 feet)

a little **raisin** for **Mars** (175 feet)

an **apple** for **Jupiter** (550 feet)

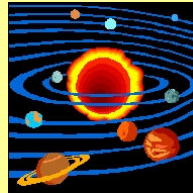
a **peach** for **Saturn** (1,025 feet)

a **plum** for **Uranus** (2,050 feet)

and a **plum** for **Neptune** (3,225 feet).

Keep Pluto, the ex-planet, in the fridge.

Source: *Parade* (5/29/2011)



EFFECTIVENESS OF VACCINES

Within the last century vaccines have drastically cut the number of reported cases of many diseases as shown below:

Smallpox -- 100%

Polio - 100%

Diphtheria - 100%

Mumps - 96%

Tetanus - 93%

Whooping cough - 92%

Hepatitis A - 87%

Chicken pox - 85%

Acute hepatitis B - 80%



Source: *Consumer Reports On Health*
(February, 2011)

Credit Card or Debit Card? Which is Better?

DEBIT CARDS can keep someone from overspending because one can't spend more than what is in his/her checking account. They can also prevent surprises such as forgotten bills that come due at the end of the month, higher interest rates, penalties, and over-the-limit fees.

CREDIT CARDS can protect cardholders because they are not held responsible for fraudulent charges on their cards. In addition, in the case of a major purchase such as for appliances, if the item turns out to be defective, the cardholder can dispute the charges. Credit cards if used responsibly can help improve a person's credit score.

Source: *USA Weekend*

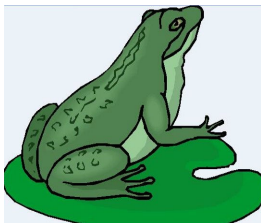


MORE NUGGETS

Should You Kiss a Frog?

Kissing a frog may work in fairy tales, but not in real life. The salts and oils in human skin can irritate a frog's skin, so it could cause the animals severe problems or even death. Going in the opposite direction, frogs can transmit tapeworm cysts and salmonella poisoning to humans. On the other hand, touching frogs or toads will not give a person warts.

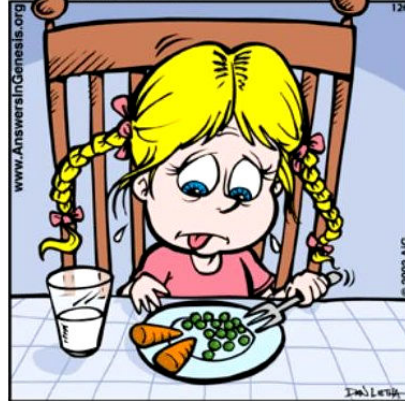
Source: Edmonds, Devin, *Frogs and Toads*, quoted in (*Racine Journal Times* (4/17/2011))



For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.
Col. 1 : 16-17

AFTER EDEN

by Lietha



Sally was sure that IF there had been forbidden **VEGETABLES** in the Garden of Eden instead of forbidden fruit, Adam & Eve wouldn't have eaten them.

Source: answersingenesis.org

MAKE YOUR BED



People who make their bed every day are 19 percent more likely to say they get a good night's sleep, says a National Sleep Foundation survey.

Source: *Spry* (April, 2011)

A Bolt of Reality

A particularly delightful anecdote concerns the time just after (creationist Prof. Brian Stone's) arrival from his native Wales to take up his professorial chair. He learned that the engineering faculty sponsored fortnightly talks on non-engineering subjects, which were usually attended by 40 or so students.

With only a week to the next talk, the speaker cancelled. Hearing that their new professor was a creationist, one of the faculty asked him to speak on the topic "Is evolution scientific?"

When the time arrived, the 180-seat windowless auditorium was filled and overflowing, with academic staff as well as students turning out to hear the upstart new professor. Brian remembers thinking, "There could be professors from the departments of geology and biology here for all I know." He says he suddenly knew how the Israelite scouts felt, like grasshoppers in comparison to the giants inhabiting the land they were meant to capture (Numbers 13:32-33).

"I was somewhat apprehensive—my stomach wasn't quite where it should be. The chairman tried to ease the tension with a joke as he introduced me, but it didn't really work."

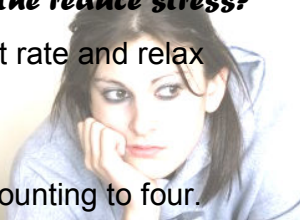
Suddenly, just as he reached the microphone, there was a huge clap of thunder outside and the entire room was plunged into darkness—with the exception of one spotlight still shining its narrow beam directly onto Prof. Brian Stone. The "ice was broken" by gales of laughter when Brian's first words were, "Well, now you know what you're up against!"

Source: <http://creation.com/prize-winning-professor-rejects-evolution>

How can changing the way you breathe reduce stress?

Taking deep breaths can slow the heart rate and relax muscles. Follow these four steps:

1. Breathe in slowly counting to four.
2. Hold your breath for four seconds.
3. Exhale slowly through pursed lips counting to four.
4. Rest for four counts without inhaling.



Source: Therese Borchard, quoted in *USA Weekend* (April 2-4, 2010)

► The Mail

Understanding 'Intelligent Design'

In his LSI article ("Intelligent Design: Obvious and Yet Inadequate", May-June, 2007), Rev. (Robert) Hein took the position that Intelligent Design was "inadequate." I think he limits his charge of inadequacy to the fact that ID does not readily identify the "Intelligent Being" as the Christian Triune God, and it fails to preach God's Law and Gospel. His whole paper ended — in my understanding of what he was writing — as downplaying the whole purpose and definition of the term ID. The term can, of course, refer to a "technical/political movement" in which various ideas and arguments are proposed, but it should be *primarily* understood, as the term clearly states — "intelligent design," i.e. the design under consideration was made by an intelligent being, period.

If a piece of space junk was found, and it was obviously machined and had an inscription on it, it would be correct to state that it was designed and made by an intelligent being, period. That is exactly how ID should be used relative to our arguments against the lie of evolution. First of all,

our main concern in this anti-evolution effort is the spiritual welfare of *our* children as they attend science classes in public high school, colleges and in the work place. In this aspect of our (WELS) outreach to our children, our church and church families are doing the instruction. Therefore, the correct identification of the Intelligent Designer *is* made. In regard to atheists, we should understand that the *very first small step* toward their conversion to the Christian faith is to recognize the existence of a very powerful, intelligent being in the universe. Once the atheist recognizes that this powerful, intelligent being exists we can expect him to wonder what his relationship is to this intelligent being. That is when we can begin to introduce him to our God and His Law and Gospel. Any attempt to introduce him to our Triune God and His salvation prior to his recognition of a supreme being would be counter-productive and useless and may even cause him to totally reject our God permanently. We should limit our use of the term ID to the general definition of each word.

Regarding Rev. Hein's charge as to the inadequacy of ID and his reference to Psalm 19, do the heavens declare in Psalm 19 a Triune God, God's Law and Gospel, our inability and unwill-

ingness to obey this law? Does it inform us of our damnation for not obeying this law? Does it declare salvation through Jesus Christ? The answer to all of these questions is NO. So then why is the term ID judged to be inadequate if Psalm 19 isn't adequate?

The term ID is our trump card in this whole battle over the devil's lie of evolution. We have a God-glorifying argument against evolution. Let's use it effectively to God's glory and with our Lord's blessings and with the help and guidance of the Holy Spirit.

With respect to "natural knowledge" of God, to interject this logic into a comparison with ID is incorrect and disruptive to the most accurate scientific and theologically correct argument against evolution. That we have a natural knowledge of *a* god is what mankind used to justify making idols and the Indians the "Great Spirit." Natural knowledge of God is what is "inadequate" far more-so than ID. To compare ID to the inadequate "natural knowledge" arguments simply plays into the hand of the devil in his efforts to retain evolution instruction of our children and their eventual damnation. Our church leaders must not use this self-destructive argument of inadequacy in our battle

to disprove the evolution lie.

Rev. Hein goes on to say — as I understand what he is writing — that all mankind has a natural knowledge of God — our WELS God — and therefore we and *all mankind* do not need any further proof of God's existence. To quote him in part, "Natural knowledge tells all people that God exists." He then goes on to quote some Bible passages. The "natural knowledge of God" is more accurately stated as "the natural knowledge of *a* god" as shown by the world's idols, not the true Triune God. Yes, ID may be understood to identify *a* god, and yes it is inadequate in identifying the true Triune God and His salvation, but identifying the true God and His salvation is not the purpose of the term ID. As I stated previously, ID is *only* the first small step in the process of converting *atheists* to Christianity and its salvation through Jesus Christ. With respect to our children who are instructed in our Christian faith and to those who do not know our God, ID is the best scientific proof positive against the evolution lie and for a scientific and theological proof of creation. We should not underestimate the value of this ID term.

John Woidke
Farwell, Michigan

► News

Favor Assisted Suicide

Voters in Zurich, Switzerland have rejected two measures that would have banned assisted suicide. One initiative to ban assisted suicide completely was rejected by 85% of 278,000 ballots cast while a second initiative to ban it for foreigners was turned down by 78%. Political and religious conservatives had pushed the measures.—*Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* (6/16/11)

Stop Execution Drug

Pentothal (*sodium thiopental*), the only American-made drug used in U.S. executions, will no longer be produced. Manufacturer Hospira Pharmaceuticals says it was afraid it would be held liable if used in Italy, where it has a plant, because Italy bans capital punishment. The drug is used to put inmates to sleep before two other drugs paralyze their hearts. At least five states which allow capital punishment are running short of the drug.—*livescience.com* (1/21/11)

Earth Always Had Water

Some scientists are reconsidering the generally accepted idea that the early earth formed as a hot molten blob billions of years ago. If that is true, it is difficult to explain where water came from under those conditions. Late last year *New Scientist* published an article titled "Earth May Have Had Water from Day One." Computer studies have shown water was present in the earth's raw materials.—*Answers* (April-June, 2011)

Dogs Understand Us Better Than Do Chimps

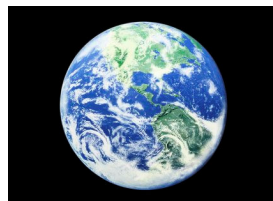
Despite the claim that chimpanzees are the closest living relative of humans, it turns out that dogs are much better at understanding people. After examining dogs for 15 years, canine researchers at Duke U. have conclude that dogs "have figured out how to read human behavior and human gestures better than any other species has, even chimpanzees."—*Answers* (April-June, 2011)

Cat Sets New Record For Loud Purring

London's Smokey the Cat has established a new record for the loudest purr ever recorded. According to Guinness World Records, the 12-year-old tabby's purr was recorded as reaching 67.7 decibels, equal to the cooing of an angry dove. Guinness also said the pulses of blue and fin whales which can reached 188 decibels are the loudest animal sounds known while a typical lawn mower emits 90 decibels.—*Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* (5/10/11)

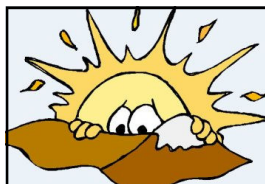
Saber-Tooth Animal Was a Vegetarian

Scientists have been surprised by the discovery of the remains of a saber-toothed animal which was a vegetarian. About the size of a dog, the "mammal-like reptile" (*Tiarajudens eccentricus*) had five-inch long upper canine teeth which it likely used for fighting. The research leader, noting how rare saber teeth are in plant eaters, complimented "nature" for being so creative in providing a single solution for several life tasks.—*My Way* (3/24/2011)



Japanese Earthquake Shortens Our Day

A day on Earth is now shorter thanks to the massive Japanese earthquake. But while the tremor has shifted the Earth's mass and accelerated the Earth's spin, it has shortened the day by only 1.8 microseconds. A microsecond is one-millionth of a second. Another discovery was that the Earth's "figure mass" (the axis around which the Earth's mass is balanced) moved 6 and a half inches.—*livescience.com* (3/13/11)



Greenland Sun Arrives Two Days Early

Sitting above the Arctic Circle on the coast of Greenland, the western coastal town of Ilulissat in western Greenland had not seen the sun for much of the winter. But then the sun seemed to peek over the horizon—two days earlier than its usual Jan. 13 arrival time. Scientists are divided over the cause for the phenomenon, citing possible explanations including an optical illusion caused by atmospheric conditions. The surprise appearance of the sun was not repeated elsewhere.—*Yahoo News* (1/18/11)

Russia Conducting a Simulated Trip to Mars

A planned 520-day simulated trip to Mars and back has reached its halfway point. In Korolyov, Russia, six men emerged from their cramped quarters in heavy space suits to plant flags on a simulated Red Planet. According to the deputy head of the Russian space agency, all systems are working normally and the crew is feeling fine. Psychologists worry about how such a long confinement could stress out the men, and medical or technical emergencies could still end the experiment early.—*Yahoo News* (2/14/11)

Neanderthals Lived as Long as Other Humans

Anthropologists, noting the rarity of older Neanderthals in the fossil record, have suggested these early humans did not live as long as other primitive humans. But a new study indicates they in fact did. In his analysis of Neanderthal fossils and those of other humans, anthropologist Erik Trinkaus of Washington U. in St. Louis found roughly the same number of 20-to-40 year olds and adults older than 40 in both groups.—*livescience.com* (1/11/11)

GM Cropland Expands

The amount of the world's farmland devoted to growing genetically modified (GM) crops continues to grow, up 10% last year to about 10% of the world's arable land area. GM use grew fastest in Brazil but is most common in the U.S. and is being seen more often in developing countries. GM crops are engineered to make them more disease resistant and better able to tolerate herbicides.—*BBC News* (2/22/11)

More Exercise = Fewer Colds

People who exercise five or more days a week spend 43% less time with cold symptoms. This was the conclusion of a study of 1,002 adults by the British Journal of Sports Medicine. Those who worked out regularly and did come down with the sniffles reported less-severe symptoms.—*Consumer Reports on Health* (February, 2011)

Coffee May Relieve Pain

Coffee may help relieve pain. The caffeine raises the body's level of dopamine which helps counteract pain by causing pleasurable sensations in the body. Caffeine also narrows swollen blood vessels in the brain which are associated with some headaches such as migraines.—*Robert Kaniecki, MD, quoted in Bottom Line Personal* (5/1/11)

Fruits and Vegetables Not as Nutritious Now

Nutrition can still be found in carrots and other fruits and vegetables today, but sadly fruits and vegetables presently are not nearly as nutritious as those grown decades ago. The main culprit for this deteriorating situation is soil depletion. Modern intensive agricultural methods have stripped nutrients from the soil and the situation appears to be getting worse each year.—*(Racine) Journal Times* (5/1/11)



Heavy Use of Regular Soda Linked to Diabetes

A survey of 40,000 men designed to determine a relationship between various types of drinks and type 2 diabetes has come to some conclusions. A heavy use of regular soda resulted in a 24% higher risk of diabetes compared to those who drank no soda while diet soda appeared not to affect the odds and coffee use even lowered the risk. A previous study suggested coffee reduces the risk by decreasing inflammatory factors.—*Nutrition Action* (May, 2011)

'Diabetes Belt' Mapped

Areas of the United States where diabetes is especially prevalent have been identified. Researchers using county-by-county mapping have determined that the so-called "diabetes belt" runs through Tennessee, Kentucky and W. Virginia with another path going from Louisiana through Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia and S. Carolina. Pockets of high rates of obesity can be found in other states also. Characteristics common to all the areas include obesity, sedentary lifestyles, and large populations of African-Americans.—*sciencenews.org* (3/7/11)

More News Briefs Online

Are inventors getting closer to an invisibility cloak?

What is scary about electronic faucets?

How popular are e-books?

Spark plugs may be on their way out, but what will replace them?

Find these and still more News Briefs online at www.lutheranscience.org

Goats

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.”

Matthew 25:33

Jesus is here talking about the great day when He will be coming back to earth to judge all people. He will divide the goats (unbelievers) from the sheep (believers) before taking only the believers to heaven.

What are goats? Goats are rudimentary mammals which are closely related to sheep. A rudimentary animal is one which softens plants it has just eaten in its

first stomach, then coughs it up (it's called *cud* now) and chews on it again before swallowing it a second time. Other rudimentary animals include giraffes, cattle, deer and many more.



Irish Goat

What do goats look like?

Goats are hairy animals usually having two horns. They also often have beards, even the female goats.

How is a goat different from a sheep? Most goats have horns while many sheep don't. That may be why Jesus chose goats to represent unbelievers. A goat's tail usually stands up while a sheep's tail hangs down. While most sheep grow thick hair (wool) that needs to be sheared every year, goats usually can go

without having their hair sheared.

What do goats eat? Unlike sheep which prefer to graze on grass and clover, goats would rather eat leaves, twigs, vines, and shrubs. However, they *don't* eat tin cans or cardboard boxes.

How many different kinds of goat breeds are there? There are more than 300 different kinds. The tame goats we see are descended from wild goats that lived in Eastern Europe and Southwest Asia.



A Kid

What names do we give to male and female goats? A male goat can be called either a buck or a billy. A female goat is referred to as

a doe or a nanny. Young goats are called kids, but you knew that already, didn't you?

Why are goats valuable to humans? In many parts of the world goats are used for their milk, meat, hair, and skins. They also can make good pets.

Hearing God's Word in home devotions, church and Sunday school is the best way of making sure we are "sheep" when Jesus comes back to take us to heaven.

Activity: Use words from the bottom to fill in the rows to make a new word.

▼

				E			
A							
					S		
				A			
			E				

▲

SHEEP	BEARD	MEAT	BUCK
CLOVER	TAIL	KIDS	

► My View



Lessons from the Royal Wedding

Prince William and Catherine, now the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, were married April 29. The ceremony was held in a stately cathedral, Westminster Abbey, and featured grand music and dress. No temptation to want to get up and dance wildly in the aisles here!

But the most pleasing part of the service may have been the comments by the dean of the abbey, the Very Reverend John R. Hall, prior to the exchange of vows. With marriage currently under attack and “marital relations” so common outside of marriage, he wisely ignored these current trends in his comments:

“Dear Beloved, we are gathered here in the sight of God and in the face of this congregation to join together this man and this woman in holy matrimony, which is an honorable estate instituted of God Himself, signifying unto us the mystical union that is betwixt Christ and His church, which holy estate Christ adorned and beautified with His presence and first miracle which

He wrought in Cana of Galilee and is commended in Holy Writ to be honorable among all men and therefore is not by any to be enterprised nor taken in hand inadvisably, lightly or wantonly but reverently, discreetly, soberly and in the fear of God, duly considering the causes for which matrimony was ordained.

“First, it was ordained for the increase of mankind according to the will of God and that children might be brought up in the fear and nurture of the Lord and to the praise of His holy name. [I wonder what the famous homosexual celebrity and his “partner” thought of point #1.]

“Secondly, it was ordained in order that the natural instincts and affections implanted by God should be hallowed and directed aright that those who are called of God to this holy estate should continue therein in pureness of living.

“Thirdly, it was ordained for the mutual society, help and comfort that the one ought to have of the other both in prosperity and adversity.”

Did this impressive event affect any of the millions or billions of the world’s people who watched it? God willing, over the short term at least, marriage, holy living and love for God’s Word might have regained some of their lost luster. ❧❧

—Warren Krug, editor

LUTHERAN SCIENCE INSTITUTE / APPLICATION FORM

Please complete form and mail with payment to: Mr. Craig Schwartz,
1710 Ulster St., Denver, CO 80220-2053

MEMBERSHIPS:

1. **Voting membership** (WELS or ELS, 18 years of age or older, must subscribe to the Statement of Belief and Objectives in the Constitution)
2. **Groups** (congregations, schools, organizations)
3. **Associate** (non-WELS/ELS, non-voting)
4. **Foreign** (outside the USA)
5. **Electronic memberships*** (half-price. *Shown below in parenthesis*)
* All publications will be delivered via e-mail in .pdf format.
6. **Student** (currently enrolled in high school or college or under age 18)
7. **Free One-Year Church Membership** for LSI-designated door offerings
8. **Bundled** (at least five copies for one year to a single address)

RATES: Circle membership & length desired and check ☐ new or ☐ renewal.

	One year	Three years	Ten years	Lifetime
Voting	\$18 (\$9)	\$42 (\$21)	\$120 (\$60)	\$200 (\$100)
Group/ Associate/ Foreign	\$25 (\$12.50)	\$60 (\$30)	\$165 (\$82.50)	\$275 (\$137.50) Not valid for groups
Student	\$5 (\$2.50)	—	—	—

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

E-MAIL _____ PHONE (____) _____

Signature _____ DATE _____

INDIVIDUALS, please also fill in the following:

CHURCH _____ CITY _____

DEGREES (if any) _____ FIELD or MAJOR _____

BUNDLED SUBSCRIPTION: _____ copies (5 minimum) x **\$6** (for one year) = \$ _____

LUTHERAN SCIENCE INSTITUTE

4130 Harvest Lane

Racine, Wisconsin 53402