

LSI Journal

The Lutheran Science Institute

April-June, 2012



The Place of Reason in Defending the Christian Faith

- ☛ Cannonball Trees / Bombardier Beetles / Woolly Bear Caterpillars
- ☛ The World's First Geneticist — an Octopus?

LUTHERAN SCIENCE INSTITUTE, INC.

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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, 1:00 p.m.
- ◆ 2nd Saturday in June, 1:00 p.m.
- ◆ 2nd Saturday in October, 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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The Place of Reason in Defending the Christian Faith

—with Ministry Ideas
Regarding Creation/Evolution

By Mark Bergemann

(Part 1 of 4)

This article will be printed in four parts. Its total length will be condensed by nearly half, primarily through removal of many supporting quotations. The complete uncondensed article (including all 4 parts and an appendix) is available in the on-line LSI Journal at www.lutheranscience.org. The four parts are:

1. Introduction; What the Bible Teaches about Reason
2. Scriptural Examples of Arguments from Reason
3. Skeptics Exposed to the Gospel
4. Ministry Considerations Regarding Creation

Mark Bergemann, a retired electrical engineer, serves on the LSI Board of Directors. He is an evangelism leader at Good Shepherd's in West Allis, WI. Mark holds a B.S. from UW-Milwaukee.

Introduction

“Faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ” (Romans 10:17). Scripture is clear that people come to faith only through the Gospel in Word and Sacrament, and that unbelievers cannot understand spiritual matters.¹

As confessional Lutherans we profess: “I believe that by my own reason or strength I cannot believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to him. But the Holy Spirit has called me through the Gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, and sanctified and preserved me in true faith.”²

—What then, is the proper place of reason in defending the Christian faith?

—What are proper and improper ways to defend the faith?

—Is there benefit in telling a Christian about the scientific problems with evolution?

—Is there benefit in telling an unbeliever about the scientific problems with evolution?

This article addresses these questions from Scripture (the sole source of all true doctrine), shows supporting quotations from confessional Lutheran authors, looks at biblical examples where Jesus and his apostles used arguments from reason, and considers various ministry applications.

Part 1 – What the Bible Teaches about Reason

Reason as Friend and Foe

Martin Luther described the two faces of human reason with opposing descriptions. He saw reason as a paradox, and rightly so. Reason is a wonderful gift of God and a blessing in understanding Scripture. Reason is also a spiritual enemy that attempts to destroy our faith.

Siegbert Becker writes:

Reason is a big red murderess, the devil's bride, a damned whore, a blind guide, the enemy of faith, the greatest and most invincible enemy of God. Reason is God's greatest and most important gift to man, of inestimable beauty and excellence, a glorious gift, a most useful servant in theology, something divine. In terms like these Martin Luther gave his estimate of human reason.³

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1. Cf. 1 Corinthians 1:21—"For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe." Also, cf. 1 Corinthians 2:14—"The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned."
 2. Martin Luther, "The Small Catechism," in *The Book of Concord—Confessions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church*, trans. Theodore G. Tappert (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1959), 345. This quotation is part of Luther's explanation of the 3rd article of the Apostolic Creed.
 3. Siegbert W. Becker, *The Foolishness of God — The Place of Reason in the Theology of Martin Luther* (Milwaukee: Northwestern Publishing House, 1982), 1.

Child-like Faith

Jesus said "... unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 18:1-4). A little child is an excellent example of humble faith. As we grow older, our limited and sin damaged human reason attacks our faith and questions God. Can anyone understand the triune nature of God, or how Jesus can be both fully human and fully God? God asks that we humbly accept such teachings as true.

In its sinful state, human reason even questions the Gospel message that Jesus died to pay the penalty for our rebellion against God. In 1 Corinthians 1:18-25 we read: "The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God." In Proverbs 3:5: "Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding." In Matthew 11:25: "At that time Jesus said, 'I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children.'" We as children of our Heavenly Father pray: "Lord, lead us to be like little children with humble trust

in you alone. Amen."

Understanding Scripture

Human reason is used to understand what God tells us in the Bible. Reason enables us to study the Bible and to compare various Scripture passages. Scripture takes this as a given. Reason and language are tools God has chosen through which he gives his truth. But reason does have limits. It cannot lead us to believe spiritual truth.

Paul *reasoned* from the Scriptures, *explaining (demonstrating, opening)* and proving that the Christ had to suffer and rise again:

Acts 17:2-3. As his custom was, Paul went into the synagogue, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and proving that the Christ had to suffer and rise from the dead. "This Jesus I am proclaiming to you is the Christ," he said.

On the road to Emmaus Jesus *explained (interpreted, translated)* the Scriptures to his disciples: "Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself (Luke 24:26-27).

August Pieper writes:
Human reason is the external vessel into which God poured his truth clothed in human speech and brings it to our consciousness.⁴

Lyle Lange says:
Reason can be used to study God's Word, think about it, treasure it, share it with others, and arrange the truths of Scripture in an orderly way to present them to others.⁵

Reason as Judge

Reason should never be used to sit in judgment over the Scriptures, nor to invent doctrine. Our human reason must submit to the Word of God (the Scriptures) and be an obedient captive to Jesus Christ. As St. Paul states in 2 Corinthians 10:5, "We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ." August Pieper says:

God's Word requires absolute imprisonment of the reason as judge of divine secrets under the obedience of Christ. Nowhere in Scripture are we permitted or commanded to sit in judgment on the truth or possibility of a statement of God⁶

We must not go beyond what Scripture reveals about the hid-

"Human reason is the external vessel into which God poured his truth clothed in human speech and brings it to our consciousness."

—August Pieper

den and secret things of God. Using reason to explain God's ways apart from or beyond Scripture easily leads to false teaching. Romans 9:20-21 asks,

"But who are you, a human being, to talk back to God? Shall what is formed say to the one who formed it, 'Why did you make me like this?' Does not the potter have the right to make out of the same lump of clay some pottery for special purposes and some for common use?"

Reason as Defender

Reason is completely inadequate when used to defend the

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4. August Pieper, "Scripture and Reason," *The Wauwatosa Theology*, trans. James Langebartels (Milwaukee: Northwestern Publishing House, 1997), 1:159.
 5. Lyle W. Lange, *God So Loved the World — A Study of Christian Doctrine* (Milwaukee: Northwestern Publishing House, 2005), 15.
 6. A. Pieper, 160-161.

Christian faith. Nowhere does Scripture ascribe such power to reason. To the contrary, God tells us in 1 Corinthians that the words of human wisdom are empty of power, that the unbeliever cannot know God or understand spiritual matters, that the wisdom of this world, human wisdom, finds God and his plan of salvation to be foolishness.

1 Corinthians 1:17-25. For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the Gospel — not with words of human wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power. For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written: “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate.” Where is the wise man? Where is the scholar? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. Jews demand miraculous signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than man’s wisdom, and

the weakness of God is stronger than man’s strength.

1 Corinthians 2:4,5,14. My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit’s power, so that your faith might not rest on men’s wisdom, but on God’s power. ... The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.

Richard D. Balge writes:

But we must always remember that repentance and remission of sins are to be proclaimed, not argued.⁷

Siebert W. Becker declares:

“The Christian faith is not to be defended by rational argumentation.”⁸

Warnings About “Proving” Doctrine

Rational arguments should never be used in an attempt to prove any article of faith, such as creation. The

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7. Richard D. Balge, “Preaching Repentance And Remission of Sins — With Application to Personal Witnessing,” *Wisconsin Lutheran Quarterly* 75:2 (April 1978): 106.
 8. Becker, 238.

power to turn hearts and minds to God and his teachings is found only in the Gospel as found in Word and Sacrament.

Scripture Defends Scripture

Scripture is the very Word of God and as such is self-authenticating. Scripture itself is the best defense of Scripture and the best defense of our faith. In 2 Timothy 3:15-16 we read: “and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.” While in the desert, Jesus used Scripture three times in his apologetic with Satan: “It is written.” (Matthew 4:1-11 and Luke 4:1-13).

Use of Reason in Ministry to Christians

God has chosen to strengthen and grow our faith only through the Gospel in Word and sacrament. However, Scripture does show that arguments from reason can help believers better understand spiritual truths. In places like 1 Corinthians chapters 9 and 15, Paul uses argu-

“But we must always remember that repentance and remission of sins are to be proclaimed, not argued.”

—Richard D. Balge

ments from reason when addressing believers. (See “Part 2 – Scriptural Examples of Arguments from Reason.”) Reason can also be used to help believers see the logical inconsistencies that are often apparent in unbelief.

Francis Pieper writes:

Such rational arguments serve to show how frivolous are the judgments of unbelief against the divinity of Scripture. These arguments may be used to good advantage also in the case of Christians who are afflicted with doubts as to the divine character of Scripture. These doubts arise from the unbelieving flesh of the Christians, and through these rational arguments the flesh of the Christians is outwardly checked and subdued.⁹

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9. Francis Pieper, *Christian Dogmatics* trans. H. W. Romoser et al. (St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1950), 1:311.

Siegbert Becker says:

While Luther believed it was ridiculous and downright blasphemous to presume to defend Scripture with rational argumentation, yet he also believed it was perfectly proper to point out the logical weakness in the attacks made on Scripture whenever the opportunity to do so presented itself.¹⁰

Armin Schuetze writes (*note: the word “facts” is here used with the common definition of “known truths” and not with the scientific meaning of “possible/likely explanations of observed phenomena”*):

Let’s sum up how we [Christians] can equip ourselves in our struggle against this subtle danger [of evolution]. ... We will train ourselves to distinguish between scientific *facts* and mere *possible explanations* of observed phenomena. ... We will not permit ourselves to become blind to the inconsistencies in evolutionism, to its contradictions of some scientific laws, to its broad conclusions often based on a minimal of evidence. (Italics in original)¹¹

Use of Reason in Witnessing to Unbelievers

The power to turn hearts and minds to God and his teaching is solely in the Gospel as found in Word and Sac-

raments. The Gospel message provides the only medicine for a soul who, through the law, sees its own lost condition. Arguments from reason do not in any way increase the effectiveness of the Gospel in bringing souls to faith.

Even so, Jesus repeatedly used arguments from reason to silence unbelieving religious leaders who sought to trap him with questions. Peter and Paul preceded their Gospel message with arguments from reason. (These are covered in part 2.)

Rational arguments in and of themselves are worthless in witnessing to unbelievers, but are of worth if they provide a point of contact with the unbeliever, giving opportunity to share the Gospel message. Reason may be useful in silencing certain objections to the validity of Scripture, but reason and non-biblical evidence at best provide a short introduction or a point of contact.

10. Becker, 176

11. Armin Schuetz, “The Dangers of Evolution and How to Meet Them,; in *Truth UnChanging — is Evolutionism The Answer?*, ed. Werner Franzmann (Milwaukee: Northwestern Publishing House, 1967), 83.

Presentation of Law and Gospel should not be delayed.

Adolph Hoenecke:

One great service that reason can render in the area of refutation is that it can make the irrationality and untenability of the opposing claim evident. We see the Lord himself using reasonable arguments in refuting his adversaries (Luke 11:17-18).¹²

Siegbert W. Becker says:

The Christian faith is not to be defended by rational argumentation. But again, this does not mean that we are not to employ reason in the struggle with enemies of the faith. Every argument of reason can be overthrown with an argument from reason. We may use reason to show the unbeliever the untenableness of his position and the unwarranted nature of his conclusions.¹³

David Vallesky says:

The presentation of some rational arguments for the Bible's trustworthiness may result in the person being willing to give its message a hearing.¹⁴

Francis Pieper writes:

Such rational arguments serve to show how frivolous are the judgments of unbelief against the divinity of Scripture. ... Arguments of reason, historical arguments, etc., can be of service in the conversion of a person by inducing

**“One great service
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—Adolph Hoenecke**

those outside the church to read or hear the Word of God itself and so come to faith in the Word by operation of the Holy Ghost through the Word.¹⁵ L&S

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12. Adolph Hoenecke, *Evangelical Lutheran Dogmatics*, trans. James Langebartels and Heinrich Vogel (Milwaukee: Northwestern Publishing House, 2009), 1:270-271.
 13. Becker, 176.
 14. David J. Vallesky, *We Believe—Therefore We Speak, The Theology and Practice of Evangelism* (Milwaukee: Northwestern Publishing House, 1995), 32.
 15. F. Pieper, 311.

Weird and Wonderful and Well Designed

The Cannonball Tree, a relative of the Brazil Nut, grows in tropical South America, the Caribbean and India. It gets its name from its round fruits which burst with a loud sound when they fall. Its flowers are orange, scarlet and pink in colour, and form large bunches measuring up to 3 meters (10 feet) long.

The flowers (below, right) produce two types of pollen; fertile pollen and sterile pollen — sometimes known as fodder pollen. Bees are attracted by the sterile pollen in the centre of the flower, which they use for food. As they do so, they brush against the fertile pollen on the outer petals. This clever arrangement ensures that the bees take the pollen to flowers on other trees, which is vital, since the trees are not self-pollinating. The two kinds of pollen are in just the right place to fit the shape of the foraging bee.

Can evolution through accidental mutations really explain how this originated? Did the plant “learn” how to reward bees by producing sterile pollen? It has all the hallmarks of design by an intelligent Creator.

The Cannonball Tree



The Bombardier Beetle



The Bombardier Beetle is a tiny insect that shoots hot, smelly liquid, with a loud, popping sound, at any creature which threatens it. It simply turns around and blasts off, using two movable nozzles at its rear end. How does it do this? Inside the beetle's body are two storage chambers (reservoirs) which contain two chemicals — *hydroquinone* and *hydrogen peroxide*.

When it is threatened, the beetle squeezes the two reservoirs, forcing the chemicals into a combustion chamber, where they are mixed with water and another chemical, which heats them to boiling point. Special valves close to prevent the liquid going back into the reservoirs, and scalding the beetle's insides. It then fires this nasty, boiling liquid at the amazing speed of up to 500 pulses a second, rather like a machine-gun, sending any would-be attacker, whether a frog, mouse or ant, scuttling away.

It seems impossible that the bombardier beetle's amazing mechanism could have evolved gradually. Even if it somehow "discovered" how to make the two chemicals, it would have needed the reservoirs to store them. But why would it evolve them before they were needed? And all of this would be useless to the beetle unless it had also evolved the chemical which makes the others hot, and the combustion chamber to mix them in. Then, it needed to have the special valves to prevent the hot mixture going back into its body — which would have killed the beetle — and the two moveable nozzles with their special muscles to shoot the mixture out. Without them, the beetle would explode!

Scientists at Leeds University recently did special research into the Bombardier Beetle, and from this study hope to be able to design better fire extinguishers and fuel injection systems for engines. This insect is like a wonderfully designed machine, part of God's creation, not the result of chance evolution.



The Woolly Bear Caterpillar

Most people know about the life cycle of butterflies and moths. They lay eggs which hatch into caterpillars. After a while the caterpillars spin a cocoon around themselves and later a butterfly or moth emerges. This usually happens in a few weeks or months.

However, in the Arctic there are caterpillars which live for years before they turn into moths. They are called Woolly Bear Caterpillars which hatch from the eggs of a type of Tiger Moth.

One species takes 14 years to become a fully-fledged moth! How does it survive for so long? Amazingly it freezes solid! First its heart stops beating, then its gut freezes, then its blood, followed by the rest of the body. And it does this every year for 14 bitter Arctic winters before it goes through the chrysalis stage and turns into a moth. The moths feed for a few weeks during the short Arctic summer, and lay their eggs before dying. The eggs hatch, and the whole cycle begins again.

Woolly Bear caterpillars only survive the bitter cold because their bodies make a special “anti-freeze.” This couldn’t have evolved gradually, otherwise they wouldn’t have survived even one winter. We believe that God, the Creator, designed them the way they are.



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Monday, January 9, 2012

Was an Octopus the World's First Geneticist?

Scientists discover a species of octopus can manipulate its RNA in order to survive chilly polar waters.



Summary: Cold temperatures normally slow organisms down because all molecules move slower under such circumstances, including the proteins that send “movement” messages along nerve cells. But one species of octopus that has relocated into the chilly waters of the Arctic and Antarctic Oceans has been found to actually be able to manipulate its genetic material in order to keep moving.

The chilly-water octopus has the ability to “edit” its RNA (intermediate protein-making molecules) to provide a short term solution that allows greater flexibility than if it were to alter its

DNA, a process referred to as a genetic mutation. Scientists had known about RNA editing and how it can help electricity-conducting ion channels in the body to open and close, but they hadn't previously seen it happen in response to an environmental cue like temperature.

The researchers compared two octopi species, the *Pareledone* species from an area in the Antarctic where water temperatures average 35.2 degrees Fahrenheit (1.8 degrees Celsius) and the *Octopus vulgaris* from Puerto Rico with its 86 degree Fahrenheit waters (30 degrees Celsius). They analyzed the genes that regulate when a brain cell sends a message. The scientists found little difference in the signals between the two species.

"What really surprised us, when we cloned [looked at the code of] the genes, they were virtually identical between the Antarctic and the tropical octopus, after millions of years apart in very different temperatures," a researcher named Rosenthal said. It isn't any differences in the genes that allow adaptations to the cold, but the important factor is how the organisms edit their RNA.

RNA is the intermediate form of DNA that produces proteins which tell the body how to function. The RNA of the cold-water octopi was changed before they were made into proteins. When editing did not take place, the cold water ion channels opened 14 times slower and closed 60 times more slowly in cold water compared to warm waters. But with RNA editing, the channels worked and allowed the octopus to keep its nerve signals moving relatively quickly even in chilly waters.

(Photo of an *Octopus vulgaris* from [Wikimedia Commons](#), credited to albert kok.)

Source: Jennifer Welsh, "How Octopi Deal With Chilly Waters", *LiveScience*, (January 5, 2012), <http://www.livescience.com/17767-octopi-adapt-chilly-waters.html>

Comment: Gregor Mendel, the Austrian friar who lived from 1822 to 1884, is given the credit for founding the new science of genetics, even though the significance of his work was not fully

recognized until much later. So, it's remarkable that the lowly octopus which, according to most secular scientists, evolved during the Cambrian period (542 to 483 million years ago) appears to know something about the subject.

It's not only that the octopus is at least somewhat genetics-savvy, but even more amazing is the observation that it actually has some control over its genes. (Consider that we humans can't directly control our RNA in order to feel warmer; all we can do is shiver, or put on a coat.) Even the secular researcher Rosenthal seemed impressed by this apparent ability of the octopi when he said, "From the standpoint of the organism ... it gives you good options because you can decide to change protein function now or you don't want to. You don't have to stick to exactly what your gene says."

How many examples of the amazing intelligence and abilities of mere animals such as this one will it take to convince even the most stubborn naturalist that there must be a Supreme Intelligence who built these remarkable talents into the fabric of these creatures? Sadly, many scientists and others have hardened their hearts to the point they will never admit the obvious. But God has a warning for all who refuse to see Him in His creation.

"The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. 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 1:18-20).

Such a warning need not bother anyone who will confess his sins and come to Jesus Christ for forgiveness and the promise of eternal life in heaven. **"Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him" (John 3:36).**



Hunger Didn't Kill Otzi

Otzi, the "Iceman," who is claimed to have lived 5,300 years ago, did not die from hunger, new evidence indicates. Discovered in a glacier in the Tyrolean Alps in Italy, Otzi's mummified body was so shriveled his internal organs were sometimes hard to find. Now a researcher has located his stomach which contained remnants of goat meat and grains, showing he did not die of hunger. He did have a wound from an arrow in his left shoulder.—*Discover* (December, 2011)

Reptile Bird is 'Older' Than Archaeopteryx

For many years, *Archaeopteryx* was considered by secular scientists as the earliest example of birds evolving from reptiles. Now Chinese scientists have discovered a fossil with "feathers" which they have dated as older than *Archaeopteryx*. Moreover, researchers have concluded that neither the new fossil they have named *Xiaotingia zhengi* or *Archaeopteryx* is directly related to modern birds.—*Answers* (Jan.-Mar., 2012)

Planet Has Two Suns

For the first time astronomers have spotted a planet orbiting two different suns. The discovery was made by NASA's Kepler telescope. The planet which scientists are calling Tatooine is about the size of Saturn and is frigid and inhospitable. It is about 200 light-years from Earth.—*news.yahoo.com* (9/15/11)

Turtle Survived Where Dinosaurs Didn't

Paleontologists still attribute the extinction of dinosaurs to a meteor impact and/or volcanic eruptions. However, scientists have discovered a new thin-shelled turtle fossil which proves turtles survived the dinosaur extinction. Many other species including lizards such as monitor lizards also are found in "dinosaur rocks," which raises the question of why dinosaurs couldn't survive the catastrophe.—*Creation* (January-March, 2012)

Japanese Tsunami Hit Antarctica Ice Shelf Hard

The 2011 Japanese tsunami broke off large chunks of ice from Antarctica, a study has shown. Satellite photos show 48 sq. mi. of ice broke off the Sulzberger Ice Shelf that had remained stable for 46 years before the tsunami hit. The waves generated by the 9.0 magnitude earthquake in Japan sped about 8,000 mph across the Pacific causing ice to break off the Sulzberger shelf and float in the ocean. The largest measured about 4 miles by 6 miles.—*BBC News* (8/9/11)

Insect Pests, Diseases Were a Danger After 9/11

Dozens of foreign insects and plant diseases invaded the U.S. in the years following 9/11 because authorities were too focused on preventing another attack. The pest explosion threatened the nation's food supply. Hundreds of agricultural scientists who were responsible for stopping invasive species at the border were assigned instead to anti-terrorism duties.—*My Way* (10/10/11)

Don't Work Too Much

A recent study showed people who worked more than 11 hours a day had a 67% higher risk for heart disease compared to people who worked only 7 or 8 hours each day. People who do work long hours can cut their risk by eating a healthy diet, exercising, and maintaining healthy blood pressure, blood sugar and cholesterol levels.—*Mika Kivimaki, PhD—quoted in Bottom Line Personal* (9/1/11)

Coffee and Cancer

Coffee appears to protect against aggressive cancers of the breast and prostate. Women who drank more than 5 cups of coffee a day had a 57% lower risk for the worst kind of breast cancer and men who consumed six or more cups daily had a 60% lower risk for lethal prostate cancer.—*Michael F. Roizen, MD—quoted in Bottom Line Personal* (10/1/11)



Marriage and Cancer

Married people may be more likely to survive cancer than people who have never married. A researcher from Norway studied more than 440,000 people between 1970 and 2007 and found never-married men were 35% more likely to die from cancer than men who never married, were divorced or were widowed. Never-married women were 22% more likely to die from cancer. The findings apply to 13 common cancers.—*Bottom Line Personal* (2/15/12)

Aspirin May Prevent or Even Treat Cancer

A growing body of research suggests taking aspirin once a day not only may prevent cancer but perhaps in some cases even treat it. A new study finds people who took a daily low-dose aspirin for at least three years were 25% less likely to develop cancer than those who didn't take aspirin. After five years, the risk of death from cancer dropped nearly 40%. The reduced risk of death may be due to a decrease in cancer's ability to spread to other organs. More research is needed before aspirin can be recommended to reduce the risk of cancer.—*news.yahoo.com* (3/21/12)



Nicotine Patch May Help With Cognitive Problems

A nicotine patch may be the answer for older people who suffer from mild cognitive impairment, according to a study. Researchers used a patch and a placebo on memory and other brain functions in 74 people with an average age of 76. None were current smokers. After six months of testing the nicotine group showed improvement in memory, mental processing and attention. This group recovered 46% of what would be normal performance on long-term memory while the placebo group declined 26%—*the (Racine) Journal Times* (1-11-12)

Don't Blame Ben Franklin

Benjamin Franklin can't be blamed for the Chinese tallow trees that have overrun thousands of acres of tall grass coastal prairie on the U.S. Gulf Coast. Franklin had been under a cloud because he did import such trees to America. However, genetic testing shows his trees were not the ancestors of those which are proliferating wildly. In fact, his trees have behaved relatively well.—*world-science.net* (7/28/11)

E-Books Top Print Books

Kindle e-books are now officially outselling all print books including paperbacks and hardcover editions, Amazon has announced. For every 100 print books sold, Amazon sells 105 Kindle books. The ratio would be even greater if free e-books given away were counted. The trend toward replacing print books with e-books is helping reduce the carbon footprint.—*news.yahoo.com* (5/19/11)

No Cancer-Phone Link

The biggest study ever conducted to examine the possible link between cell-phone use and cancer found no evidence for any such connection. Danish researchers studying more than 350,000 people found no difference between people who used cellphones for about a decade and those who didn't. Cellphones do emit some radiation, but it is not the same kind as found in some medical tests or in radon in soil.—*(Racine) Journal Times* (10/21/11)



Flying Safer Than Ever

During the past 10 years there have been 153 fatalities on airplane flights, a rate of only two deaths per 100 million passengers. Airplanes have never been safer. Just a decade earlier, passengers were 10 times as likely to die when flying on an American plane. At the start of the jet age, the rate was 133 out of every 100 million passengers. From 1962 to 1971 there were 1,696 fatalities. However, Russia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Somalia still have rather high rates.—*Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* (1-1-12)

Older Not Always Better

When violinists listened blindfolded to various fiddles, they made a surprising discovery. Contradicting conventional wisdom, the old acclaimed violins made by Stradivari or Guarneri del Gesu did not sound better than quality modern instruments. Claudia Fritz from the U. of Paris who participated in the test said the idea that the older violins sound better because of some manufacturing secret is just "in people's minds." Only 8 of 21 subjects chose an old violin as the one they would like to take home.—*Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* (1-3-12)

More News Briefs Online

Voyager I is still flying. How far out in space is it now?

What simple test can predict longevity in older folks?

Why is the government reducing the recommended amount of fluoride in water?

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



NUGGETS

SAGAN'S PROBLEM

"Several years ago, Carl Sagan declared to me through correspondence his full confidence in the Big Bang theory and its billions of years, but he



The late Carl Sagan —
Well-known evolution-

admitted to one major problem. He couldn't understand where the laws of nature came from. He realized that his view of origins depended upon the laws of nature being present first. Yet he had no explanation for their origin because he didn't believe in God."

—Larry Vardiman, Ph.D.,
Acts&Facts (March, 2012)

GIRAFFE FACTS

Can run at up
to 34 mph.

Unlike most quadrupeds,
they walk by moving both
legs on the same side of the
body together.

No two have
the
same brown
markings.

A group of
giraffes
is known as a
"journey."

NASA studied the tough skin
on giraffe legs in developing
special "gravity suits."

How to Make an Ape-Man

Evolutionists use one of three methods to make an ape-man, an imagined ancestor of both humans and apes.

1. Combine ape fossil bones with human fossil bones and declare the two to be one individual--"an ape-man."
2. Emphasize certain humanlike qualities of fossilized ape bones, and with imagination, upgrade apes to be more humanlike.
3. Emphasize certain apelike qualities of fossilized human bones, and with imagination downgrade humans to be more apelike.

—Dr. David Menton, *Answers Update*

9 WAYS TO HELP PROTECT YOUR EYES

- Have regular eye exams, every two years up to age 60, every year after that.
- Wear sunglasses (those that block 100% of ultraviolet rays which can cause eye cancer, inflamed corneas, or cataracts).
- Wear safety goggles for work and play when objects could be flying.
- Control your blood sugar if you're a diabetic.
- Take contacts out when you sleep so oxygen can reach your eyes.
- Eat an eye-healthy diet which includes antioxidants and lutein. Fruits, vegetables (especially the dark green kind), and fatty fish are good foods for eye health.
- Quit smoking.
- Take a computer break, every hour or so.
- Don't rub your eyes which can cause debris to damage the surface of your eyes.



Source: *American Profile* (December 19-25, 2010)

Factors Involved in Strokes

Canadian researchers have identified five risk factors involved in more than 80% of strokes. They are—

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| ① high blood pressure | ④ poor diet |
| ② smoking | ⑤ physical inactivity |
| ③ abdominal obesity | |

When adding five other risk factors, 90% of strokes are covered. They are:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| ① blood lipids (fats) | ④ depression |
| ② alcohol intake | ⑤ heart disorders |
| ③ stress | |

Source: *Duke Medicine Health News* (Volume 11GN)



THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF SKUNKS

In addition to their ability to spray predators with their obnoxious odor, skunks have other remarkable features. They can see in almost total darkness. Even more amazing, a mother skunk has the ability to delay a fertilized egg from implanting for up to 200 days, until spring when the baby's survival is more likely.

Source: *Answers Update*



Allies of Evolutionists



"I have found that the most effective

allies for evolution are people of the faith community. One clergyman with a backward collar is worth two biologists at a school board meeting any day!"

—Eugenie Scott, executive director of the evolutionist National Center for Science Education speaking about theistic evolutionists, quoted in *Creation Ministries International Update* (November, 2011)

AFTER EDEN

by Dan Lietha



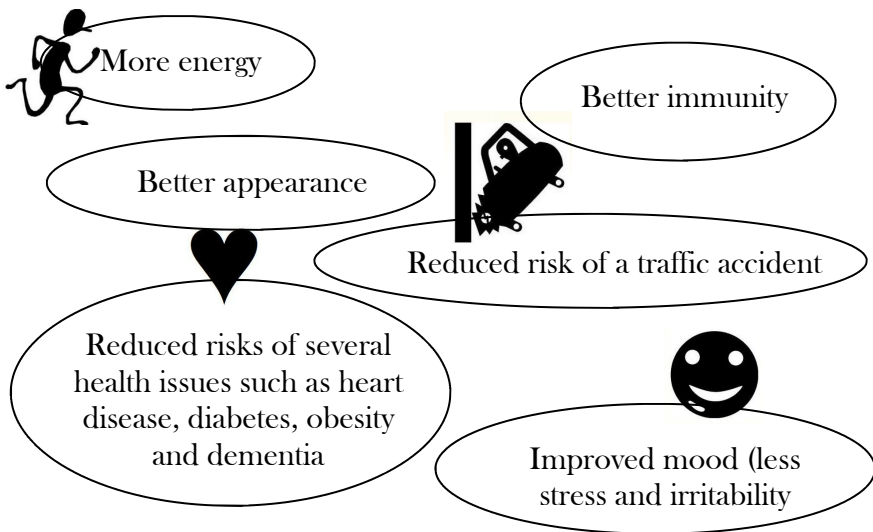
<http://>

Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.

—Colossians 3 : 9-10

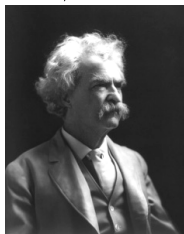
Advantages of a Good Night's Sleep

Getting the recommended 7-9 hours of sleep a night can provide the following benefits:



Source: *USA Weekend* (October 7-9, 2011)

**I'VE BEEN THROUGH
SOME TERRIBLE THINGS
IN LIFE, SOME OF WHICH
ACTUALLY HAPPENED.**



Mark Twain,
quoted in
*Cleveland Clinic
Men's Health
Advisor*
(October, 2011)

Fossils and Human Origins

"Evolutionary scientists do not have consensus about human origins. The fossil record of apes and humans is sparse, and the interpretation of almost every specimen is debated."

Source: *Answers* (October-December, 2011)

Silver

Then one of the Twelve—the one called Judas Iscariot—went to the chief priests and asked, “What are you willing to give me if I hand him over to you?” So they counted out for him thirty *silver* coins. Matthew 26:14-15 (NIV, 1984)

Judas Iscariot, a disciple of our Lord Jesus Christ, was willing to betray his master for 30 silver coins. How could he have thought that silver coins were more important than staying faithful to Jesus? For this great act of betraying Jesus, Judas is known as one of the world's worst sinners.

What is silver? Silver is a metal which shines with a bright white color. It is written as **Ag** by scientists from its name, *argentum*, which means “bright and shining” in the Latin

language.

Why is silver called a precious metal? Compared to other metals, silver is less affected by heat and acids. This feature helps make silver valuable, and along with the metals gold, platinum, iridium and palladium, silver is called a precious metal.



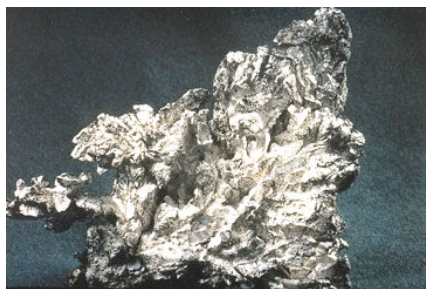
Old Roman Silver coin

What are the main uses for silver? In addition to being used in making coins, silver has long been used in making jewelry. It also has been used in making cups and other dinnerware. Forms of silver have been used in camera film, mirrors, some engines, and some batteries. Dentists have also used silver in

filling cavities in teeth, but it is not used as often today.

How common is silver?

Silver is not a common metal. Of all the elements (substances) found in the ground, it is only the 68th most common. It is found in many places but only in small amounts, often mixed with other elements.



A chunk of silver

When did the United States stop making silver coins? The last American coins to contain mostly silver have the date “1964.” Some coins which are less than half silver were minted (made) after that date. Today no new coins, even those that look silvery, have any silver in them.

Are silver coins valuable? Coins that have

real silver in them can be very valuable, but only an expert that buys and sells coins can tell you for sure how much they are worth. **Never clean or polish silver coins because that could destroy their value.**

Sources: Wikipedia.com

Grolier Multimedia Encyclopedia

Activities:

1. Some people say white toothpaste can clean silver. With your parents' permission, try rubbing a dab of white toothpaste on some real silver that is dirty looking to see if it will help clean the item. For larger jobs use baking soda and a wet sponge.

2. If coins being made today have no silver in them, what metals are they made of? Check out this website to find the answer:



Old silver lamp

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_coinage



How Not to be Surprised

When we receive a gift for Christmas or our birthday, we may like to be surprised.

There are many other times, however, when we don't like surprises. A teacher who finds numerous additions and subtractions on a daily basis to her class roster; a vice-president of a company who finds his duties constantly changing; a coach who mistakenly thinks he has the opposing team figured out.

Then there are those scientists who accept the establishment theory of how we and the universe got here. They surely don't like surprises that call their theory into question.

Yet, in the current issue of *Creation* magazine, one can read a number of news items which refer to surprises like these. For example...

Evolution theory holds that the Earth, the other planets and the sun all formed from the same nebula. But investigator Kevin McKeegan says, "This is a surprising result" when he discovers that NASA's Genesis mission found "anomalous" differences between the sun and planets.

Most astronomers believe the "bulge" seen around the middle of so many spiral galaxies are the result of collisions during their formation. But *New Scientist* magazine says there are now "nagging doubts" about how these galaxies formed because so many "slimline" spiral galaxies without the bulges have been discovered.

A team of scientists finds remarkably preserved fossils of 80 baleen whales buried together in a desert in Chile. By ignoring Noah's Flood, the researchers are "stunned" by the discovery and wonder how so many of the whales could have been buried so quickly and how they managed to get so far inland.

I think scientists who believe the Bible have had to put up with far fewer surprise. The extreme rarity of "transitional animals" in the fossil record. No surprise. The amazing complexity found in living creatures. No surprise. The discovery of how fine-tuned our universe is. No surprise.

While *Origin of Species* and current scientific documents are manmade and subject to error, the Word of God isn't. And when the Good Book tells us of God's plan of salvation, we especially know we won't be surprised. "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved" (Acts 16:31)

—Warren Krug, editor

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