

LSI Journal

The Lutheran Science Institute

October-December, 2013



Can Science in the Bible Be Used as a Witnessing Tool?

■ **Creation-Evolution—Part 3**

■ **Why Evolution is First and Foremost a Religious Belief—Part 2**

LUTHERAN SCIENCE INSTITUTE, INC.

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

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The Annual Meeting of the Institute is held the Saturday *after* Thanksgiving. At least three other meetings are held during the year at locations selected by the president. Meetings are open to

the public and announced in the LSI JOURNAL and/or on our web site.

MEETING SCHEDULE*

- ◆ 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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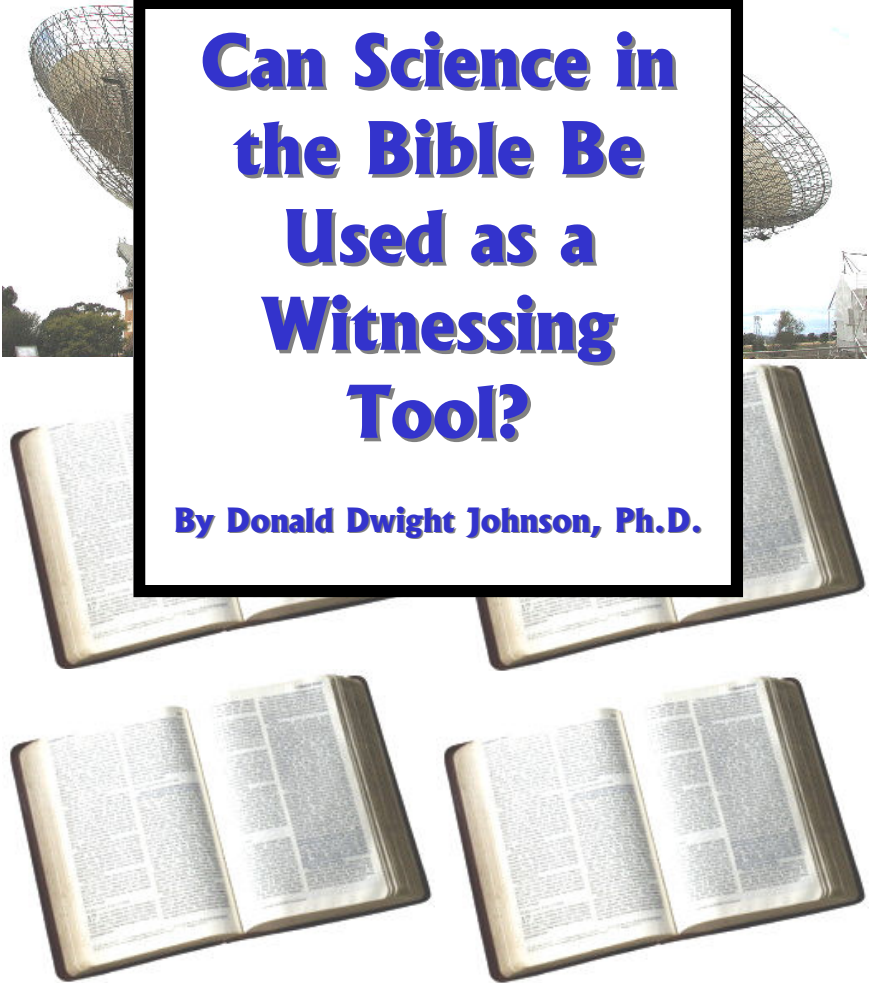
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Can Science in the Bible Be Used as a Witnessing Tool?

By Donald Dwight Johnson, Ph.D.





Have you ever had a conversation with someone who doubts the Bible as being the Word of God? Back in the early 1990s my family and I were living in upstate New York and were attending an ELCA church at a time when new policy from the ELCA headquarters was being discussed. My wife had the opportunity to ask the pastor this question: “Well, aren’t the stories in the Bible true?”

His answer was: “No, they are just moral stories.” That shocked us and we never went back to that church again. There were other families who left the church that Sunday as well. I think that this pastor forgot what Paul told Timothy about the Bible being “God-breathed”:

As for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, 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, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work (2 Timothy 3:14-17, NIV1984).

In my opinion, the following instances of science in the Bible may be helpful in witnessing to those who believe science has discredited the Bible

Witnessing Tool One: Biology and Medicine

In Genesis 17:12 God tells Abram: “*For the generations to come every male among you who is eight days old must be circumcised, including those born in your household or bought with money from a foreigner those who are not your offspring.*” So then, why does God tell Abram (later renamed Abraham) to circumcise male babies on the eighth day? It just so happens to be the day that Vitamin K is the highest in a baby. Was this explained to Abram, or did Abram

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merely do as he was told?

We did not find out about Vitamin K until 1935. Dr. Bert Thompson, when answering a question about the circumcision of baby boys on the eighth day, referred to Professor Henrik Dam who had found that vitamin K in foods helps prevent hemorrhaging in baby chicks.¹ Vitamin K, which is produced by the liver, helps coagulate the blood. Here is where it gets really interesting. On the fifth day through the seventh day of a newborn male's life, vitamin K is present in sufficient quantities to help the newborn male's blood coagulate immediately following circumcision. On day eight we see that along with prothrombin (which is elevated over 100 percent of normal in a newborn male) vitamin K helps the baby boy's blood coagulate. In a male's life this eighth day is so important medically because the newborn male has both vitamin K and prothrombin in sufficient quantities for the circumcision to be performed with practically no risk. Now it makes sense to us.

Did God do this by design, or did man figure this out first?

Clearly God knows what he is doing since he is the omniscient Almighty One who has made us and has created everything.²

Witnessing Tool Two: Ocean Springs and Ice Caps

From Job in the Bible we learn about the oceans. We find out that in the depths of the ocean there are springs that feed the ocean. This was discovered in the late 1970s. God tells us about this in Job 38:16: *"Have you journeyed to the springs of the sea or walked in the recesses of the deep?"* Though many of the ancients were accomplished navigators, we assume that they had no way of exploring the beds of the deep ocean as we do today. The many fresh-water springs on the ocean floor and the distinct channels and pathways in the ocean's depths have been a surprising discovery in modern oceanogra-



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1. HealthAliciousNess, "Henrik Dam Discovers Vitamin K," <http://www.healthaliciousness.com/articles/Dam-discovered-vitamin-K.php>
 2. Bert Thompson, *Biblical Accuracy and Circumcision on the 8th Day* (Montgomery: Apologetics Press, 1993).

phy. Yet God mentioned these facts in his message to Job.³

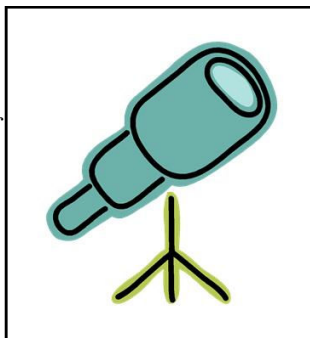
What about the polar ice caps? How would the author of Job know about the ice caps unless the author not traveled there? God inspired the author of Job and told Job himself about those ice caps in this way: “*From whose womb comes the ice? Who gives birth to the frost from the heavens when the waters become hard as stone, when the surface of the deep is frozen?*” (Job 38:29-30).

Witnessing Tool Three: Astronomy

Have you ever looked up in the sky at night, seen the stars, and wondered about the constellations? At Fort Davis, Texas, where the McDonald Observatory is located, the stars are bright, deep in the heart of Texas. Some nights you have a very difficult time finding the constellations. Today we know that the stars are millions of light years away. In fact, the closest star other than our sun is 4½ light years away. A light year is defined as the distance light can travel in a year, almost 6 trillion miles; so the closest star is about

27 trillion miles away from the Earth.

Job asks Eliphaz: “*Is not God in the heights of heaven? And see how lofty are the highest stars!*” (Job 22:12). Here Job is trying to explain to Eliphaz that the stars are vast and that God is the creator of all stars.



Did you know that some stars actually make noise? Why do we care about stars that make noise? God asks the question in Job 38:6-7: “*On what were its footings set, or who laid its cornerstone — while the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy?*” The only way we can hear the stars making noise is through radio telescopes which were invented in the 20th century.

Why did God want Job to know this, or was God challenging us to find the stars that sing to us through the radio

3. Henry M. Morris, *The Remarkable Record of Job: The Ancient Wisdom, Scientific Accuracy, & Life-Changing Message of an Amazing Book* (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1988), 42.

telescopes?

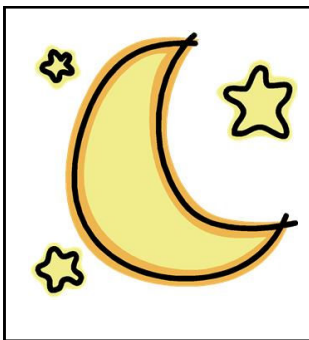
Job replies to his friend Bil-dad this way: *“He spreads out of the northern skies over empty space; he suspends the earth over nothing”* (Job 26:7). What is interesting is that until the beginning of the 20th century scientists thought that the earth had been suspended with ether, but we now know it is all about gravity.

In 1985 Dr. Michael Walthrop pointed his telescope to the North Pole and discovered that there was an empty zone of stars in a cone shape measuring 300,000 light years.⁴ How did Job know this? God was revealing to Job certain truths about his creation, and today scientists are discovering some of those very things written in the book of Job.

Is Job speaking of an eclipse of the moon when he states in 26:9: *“He covers the face of the full moon, spreading his clouds over it”*? Could be!

We read in Job 38:31-33: *“Can you bind the beautiful Pleiades? Can you loose the cords of Orion? Can you bring forth the constellations in their*

seasons or lead out the Bear with its cubs? Do you know the laws of the heavens? Can you set up God’s dominion over the earth?” God has directed Job’s attention to the heavenly constellations. In his second speech Job himself had briefly mentioned some of them.⁵ Job stated in Job 9:9: *“He is the Maker of the Bear and Orion, the Pleiades and the constellations of the south.”* In these verses



God mentions one additional group of stars, referred to in Job 38:32 as the constellations. In the Hebrew that word is in the plural and refers to a cluster of stars which scientists have still not

been able to identify with certainty.

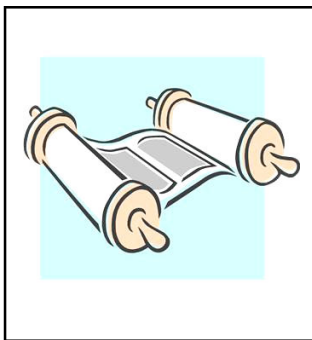
God describes the stars comprising the Pleiades as “beautiful.” He created them and other stars and describes everything he created as “very good” in the opening chapter of the Bible. As other stars and planets,

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4. Grant Jefferies, *The Signature of God* (Nashville: W Publishing Group, 1998), 139-140.
 5. Rudolph E. Honsey, *The People’s Bible: Job* (Milwaukee: Northwestern Publishing House, 1992), 302.Group, 1998), 139-140.

they are beautiful to behold, and throughout the ages they have fascinated people.⁶ Those four constellations had not yet been named, but God names them in this passage. Later in history the Greeks and Romans gave the constellations the names by which we know them now. I wonder whether they had read the book of Job?

Witnessing Tool Four: Dead Sea Scrolls

For those who do not believe that the Bible is the God-breathed Word which he gave to his chosen prophets and apostles and evangelists to write down for us, ask about the Dead Sea Scrolls (DSS). Among them were found copies of all biblical books (except Esther). Although the DSS were produced over a thousand years before our previously oldest Old Testament manuscripts — the so-called Masoretic Text (MT) — the DSS were found to have very, very few differences compared to the MT on which our modern Bibles are based. Yet how often have people changed words in some of our classic books and plays throughout history?



Conclusion

The next time you have a chance to witness to those who believe that science is the one and only truth, you might want to point them to some of the science that was used in the Bible.

Just get into a conversation; don't let it get heated or upsetting to the other person.

Rather, just plant the seed and let God water and nurture it. It just may be that the seed you plant will someday take root, and we will see another sinner won for Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. Af-

ter all, that saving knowledge of Jesus Christ, our Creator and Savior, is the real "science" behind all things!

Never forget the words Paul writes in 1 Timothy 6:20-21: *"Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to your care. Turn away from godless chatter and the opposing ideas of what is falsely called knowledge, which some have professed and in so doing have wandered from the faith. Grace be with you."* L&S

6. Honsey, 302

Creation-Evolution

Q&A

Part 3

By Warren Krug

11. Were dinosaurs real, and, if so, does the Bible mention them?

Considering the large number of bones of extinct reptilian creatures called dinosaurs which are found all over the world, it would be difficult to deny that dinosaurs once existed, and there is no reason to make such a denial. Many animals that once lived no longer exist today.

The Bible does not mention dinosaurs per se because the word “dinosaur” was not coined until 1841. However, the Book of Job does mention two fierce creatures whose descriptions do not match modern animals – the *behemoth* in chapter 40, which

some Bible scholars think may have been a dinosaur of the Sauropod type, and the *leviathan* in chapter 41 which sounds like a prehistoric monster which spent time in the sea, perhaps a Kronosaurus. In addition, the Bible – particularly the KJV version – often mentions “dragons.” The many literary descriptions of dragons down through the ages closely match those of the larger dinosaurs. This raises the possibility that dragon stories and references, both biblical and non-biblical, may have originated

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from some real life interactions of humans with actual dinosaurs.¹

Bible scholars are not in agreement as to when the dinosaurs went extinct, with some believing that they did not survive long enough to make it onto Noah's Ark. However, there is considerable evidence that they not only were on the Ark (perhaps juveniles which would not have been very large) but that they may have survived even into the Middle Ages. In any event, both the scriptural and the scientific evidence testify that dinosaurs and humans were at one time contemporaries, despite what evolutionists claim.

In 2005 a scientist by the name of Dr. Mary Schweitzer reported finding a *Tyrannosaurus Rex* bone containing tissue that was still soft and stretchy. She also said she could see what appeared to be blood vessels and red blood cells.² Later, other dinosaur species were also found to have soft tissue. According to the evolution time-line, dinosaurs went extinct some 65 million years ago, but these discoveries seem to prove they survived into recent times. If it were not for secular science's dependence on an old earth and the questionable radiometric dating system, nobody would believe that soft tis-

sue could survive for millions of years without hardening or fossilizing.

Other evidence for dinosaurs having lived post-Flood include many ancient artifacts containing what look like depictions of dinosaurs. These artifacts include statues, pottery, decorations on a gate, and other artwork. One particularly interesting example is a Mesopotamian cylinder seal dated at 3300 B.C. which clearly shows what appear to be two sauropods necking, just as



1. Warren Krug, "Dinosaurs in the Bible?" *LSI Blog* (March-August, 2000), <http://lutheranscience.org/2000-DinosaursInBible1.html>
2. Wieland, Carl, "Dinosaur soft tissue and protein—even more confirmation!" *Creation.com* (May 6, 2009), <http://creation.com/dinosaur-soft-tissue-and-protein-even-more-confirmation>

modern giraffes sometimes do.³ More recent examples include cave art drawn by North American Indians which feature animals resembling dinosaurs. There are stories of dragons from cultures all around the world, including the accounts of St. George the Dragon Slayer that date from the Middle Ages in Europe. It is not far-fetched to think these fables may well have been based, at least in part, on real life experiences with large dragon-like animals – dinosaurs.

12. Were there really cavemen?

Down through the ages people have used caves for shelter. In the Bible, caves are frequently mentioned as places for habitation. Lot and his daughters lived in a cave (Genesis 19:30). David camped for a time in a cave (Judges 15) as did five other kings (Judges 10). Even today some people live in cave homes because they have found that the ground provides excellent insulation from heat and cold.

This, of course, does not mean that cavemen were brutish, grunting pre-humans. The evidence for that idea is scant, and such a belief conflicts with Genesis which leaves no room for pre-humans. Genesis teaches that Adam and Eve were created as intelligent beings.

Of the so-called cavemen, Neanderthals are the best known. Recent research has uncovered interesting facts about these early humans. They had all the physical features needed to talk normally; they cooked their food; they wore make-up; they made tools as advanced as those of other humans of the time; and – most important of all – DNA evidence indicates that they interbred with other humans, confirming they are the same species or race as are we.⁴ One computer rendering of a young female Neanderthal based on a specimen shows her with fair skin, red hair, and not looking much different from some young lady in your town.⁵

13. What about human evolution?

Contrary to what some people still think, most evolutionist

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3. "Ancient Dinosaur Depictions," Genesis Park. <http://www.genesispark.com/exhibits/evidence/historical/ancient/dinosaur/>
 4. Warren Krug, "Neanderthals Live on in Modern Humans," LSI Blog (July 25, 2011), <http://www.lutheranscience.org/11-07-25.html>
 5. "Computer-Assisted Paleoanthropology," University of Zurich, <http://www.aim.uzh.ch/morpho/wiki/CAP/N3>

scientists do not believe humans evolved directly from apes. Instead they believe that there was a common ancestor from which humans and apes evolved separately. Secular scientists are on a mission to try to find this common ancestor in the fossil record; but Dr. David Menton says, “The field of paleoanthropology and the evolution of man is more fraught with controversy among its proponents than probably any other field of evolutionary studies.”⁶

For example, a fossil known as Lucy (*Australopithecus Afarensis*) was for a long time considered to be a human ancestor, close to the historical point where the family tree of humans and apes supposedly separated. However, according to Dr. Menton, some Israeli scientists recently studied an *Au. Afarensis* specimen and have concluded that its jaw is too apelike to be considered an ancestor of humans. The reality is that the Lucy fossil consists of only 47 of the original 207 bones, and most of those bones are merely small fragments. So it is not surprising that artistic representations of what Lucy may have looked like vary widely, all the way from ape-looking to almost human-looking.⁷ Similar stories can be told about other alleged human ancestors.

In an effort to prove the human evolution theory, mainstream science has been vulnerable to several hoaxes involving alleged human ancestors. We’ve all heard of the Piltdown Man, which turned out to be a forgery. Then there was the Nebraska Man which was – as it was eventually admitted – based on a single tooth, and that was the tooth of an extinct pig! Perhaps the most comprehensive and best researched book on the subject of human fossils from the creationist viewpoint is entitled *Bones of Contention*. Just reading reviews of this book online can be very informative.⁸

Obviously, apes in many respects look similar to humans, and much is made of the similarity in the DNA of these two creatures. However, the often

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6. Dr. David Menton, “Farwell to ‘Lucy’,” *Answers in Genesis* (April 18, 2007) <http://www.answersingenesis.org/articles/2007/04/18/farewell-lucy>
 7. Doug Henderson, “Bringing Lucy to Life,” *Answers* (January-March, 2013) <http://www.answersingenesis.org/articles/am/v8/n1/bringing-lucy-to-life>
 8. Marvin L. Lubenow, *Bones of Contention: A Creationist Assessment of the Human Fossils*, http://www.amazon.com/Bones-contention-Creationist-Assessment-Fossils/productreviews/0801065232/ref=dp_top_cm_cr_

reported 98.5% DNA similarity is exaggerated because it does not compare everything.⁹

The differences between the two species are obvious. Humans can talk, are inventive, have a love for the arts, bury their dead, have a conscience, etc. Most important, only humans have an eternal soul and a need for the Savior. Adam and Eve were fully human, and the first promise of a Savior was made to them as representative of what would become the entire human race. There is no reason to doubt that the original ancestors of both humans and apes were created on the sixth day of creation, but they were created as separate ancestors who have reproduced according to their separate kinds.

14. Who was Cain's wife?

Bible skeptics have in the past tried (and sometimes succeeded) in making Bible believers look silly due to a lack of knowledge on the part of the Christians. One particular question is still sometimes asked, and not all believers have a ready answer: "Who was Cain's wife?" Cain did have a wife (Genesis 4:17), and yet the only named children of Adam and Eve – Cain, Abel and Seth – were all males. The solution to this puzzle is found in the fact that Genesis tells us that Adam and Eve had other children after

Seth was born, both sons and daughters (Genesis 5:3). So, it is likely Cain married a sister or, less likely, a niece.¹⁰

It wasn't necessary for there to have been another race of humans or semi-humans to have furnished Cain with a wife – ideas advanced by some people who don't accept Genesis as literal history.

Some people object to the idea that Cain may have married his sister. Aren't there laws against close relatives marrying, they remind us, because of the increased chance for producing children with biological deformities? Certainly that is the case today, but it doesn't mean it was the situation in the earliest history of the world. God's law against close relatives marrying was not given until the time of Moses (Leviticus 18-20).

Down through the ages errors have been increasingly cropping up in the genes of peo-

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9. David DeWitt, "Greater Than 98% Chimp/Human DNA Similarity? Not Any More," *Technical Journal* (April 1, 2003) <http://www.answersingenesis.org/articles/tj/v17/n1/dna>
 10. Ken Ham, "Cain's Wife — Who Was She?" *Answers in Genesis* (September 13, 2007) <http://www.answersingenesis.org/articles/nab/who-was-cains-wife>

ple. These genetic errors are not the same for all humans, but the closer the relationship of father and mother, the greater the odds are that some mistakes will be the same. Physical deformities occur to children when both father and mother have the same errors in their genes. Thus, when there is not a close relationship, it is much less likely that the same error could be inherited from both parents and show up in their child(ren). In the case of the earliest humans such as Adam and

Eve – who were created perfect – and their immediate descendants, there was far less time for these genetic errors to emerge, and therefore far less chance of a deformity even when very close relatives married. LSI

Coming:

15. Is there any evidence for the “Big Bang”?

16. Is there life in space?

17. Why is starlight a problem for creationists?

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Why Evolution is First and Foremost a Religious Belief

by Jeffrey Steuber

Part 2



The New Age Movement

The New Age movement boasts a move away from traditional religions to something new, although at times its followers know not what that something is. One thing is certain, though, and that is the fact this movement is built upon the rock of biological evolution – with a spiritual twist, of course.

Each follower is entitled to do his or her own thing, but for any religious movement to have some bedrock there has to be some leaders that take prominence. Gary Kah, critic of global governance, says one name that is praised continuously in New Age writings is Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, a Jesuit priest.¹ In 1965, John Kobler put Teilhard's total book sales over a million copies.

In France the Association of the Friends of Teilhard de Chardin boasted roughly a thousand members, sponsors, lectures, symposiums, and week-long conventions. Cult-like followings celebrated him in Italy, Germany, England, Belgium, and South America. The Paris Museum of Natural History opened a wing full of Teilhard documents and memorabilia. Despite negative reactions to him among Christian conservatives, The Vatican pavilion at the Brussels World's Fair in-

1. Gary Kah, *The Demonic Roots of Globalism: En Route to Spiritual Deception*, (Lafayette, Huntington House, 1995), 85.

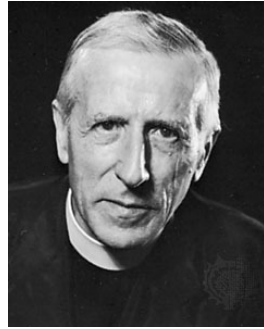
Jeffrey Stueber is a member of the LSI Board of Directors and a free-lance writer living in Watertown, Wisconsin. He is a member of St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church, Watertown. Photo from Wikimedia Commons.

cluded his portrait in a gallery of the century's greatest men.²

What disturbed some Christians was the fact for Teilhard evolution was not some mere hypothesis but the key to the whole meaning of existence as an irreversible process planned by God. Its goal is development from the primordial state called "Alpha" to the "Omega Point" which is equivalent to God. Kobler states that what was bothersome in Teilhard's theology was that nowhere did he acknowledge spontaneous creation by God. If evolution achieves the transition from the primitive to absolute perfection, what remains of divine grace without which we can achieve salvation? Teilhard's critics also attacked him on scientific grounds because he ascribed consciousness to matter in a way that smacked of nothing but mysticism which is unverifiable by any scientific instrument of observation.³

The following two paragraphs express his faith not in God as sovereign being but in evolution and the world:

If, as a result of some interior revolution, I were to lose in succession my faith in Christ, my faith in a personal God, and my faith in spirit, I feel that I should continue *to believe* invincibly in *the world*. The world (its value,



CHARDIN

its infallibility and its goodness) – that, when all is said and done, is the first, the last, and the only thing in which I believe. It is by this faith that I live. And it is to this faith, I feel, that at the moment of death, rising above all doubts, I shall surrender myself.⁴

If we Christians wish to retain in Christ the very qualities on which his power and our worship are based, we have no better way . . . of doing so than fully to accept the most modern concepts of evolution. . . . By disclosing a world-peak, evolution makes Christ possible, just as Christ, by giving meaning and direction to

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2. Teilhard de Chardin, *Building the Earth*, (New York, Avon, 1965), 16-17.
 3. Ibid, 22, 26-27.
 4. Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, *How I Believe*, (London, William Collins Sons, 1969), 19-20.

the world, makes evolution possible. . . . Now I realize that, on the model of the incarnate God whom Christianity reveals to me, I can be saved only by becoming one with the universe. Thereby, too, my deepest "pantheist" aspirations are satisfied, guided, and reassured.⁵

Chardin was also mentioned in Marilyn Ferguson's *The Aquarian Conspiracy* which was about a spiritual transformation in the 1980s led by a powerful but leaderless network. As mentioned earlier, there are two brands of evolution – gradual and rapid - and advocates of both oppose creationism. Ferguson admits that gradual evolution has proven inadequate to explain life's origin and development and leans toward punctuated equilibrium as a model. She joins this to the concept of holism which is a drive toward greater complexity and integration between various parts – those parts being all of us in a semi-divine New Age god. This world view supposedly induces greater cooperation among people because we learn to see ourselves as connected in new and better ways and will not harm other life forms if it turns around and harms us. Well, the 1980s have come and gone and the world is just as dangerous as before which makes her book a bit of a promise unfulfilled.⁶

Chardin influenced Barbara Marx Hubbard, a former Jewish agnostic, who described herself before New Ageism as in "a spiritual tabula rasa - a blank slate with no religious beliefs." Her family definitely gave her no help. When she asked her father what religion they were, he merely said they were Americans and she was to do her best. Like humanists, she believed humans were progressing by knowing more, but the dropping of the atomic bombs in Japan ruined that because she realized with more knowledge could come more power to destroy. Along came Teilhard into her life in a literary sense. Reflecting on the experience, she related that "It was an epiphany for me." Hubbard entered the world of the occult when, in 1980, she rented a house in Santa Barbara to write a book on the evolutionist perspective. Near a monastery she supposedly heard the voice of Jesus saying that she had the power "of a natural Christ." (When New Agers reference Christ,

5. Ibid, 79-81.

6. Marilyn Ferguson, *The Aquarian Conspiracy: Personal and Social Transformation in the 1980s*, (Los Angeles, J. P. Tarcher, 1980), 156-162.

they are not referencing the person of Jesus as God but a semi-divine ability they possess.) Gary Kah believes she was in touch with evil spiritual beings just as I do. As far as religious philosophy, Hubbard is a thorough pantheist – a philosophy that also derives its strength from evolution.⁷

A designing, creative intelligence animates the universe. It is symbolized by the core running through the evolutionary spiral. As we mature on a personal and spiritual level, this intelligence becomes personal and conscious through us. God, the creative force of the universe, becomes person as us, yet is never subsumed or limited by us. When we look at the intelligence of the whole system - the design of every atom, molecule, and cell - there appears to be something more at work than can be attributed to particles alone. The assumption here is that there is a system of consciousness that transcends its parts, is imminent within them, yet is more than those parts.⁸

Ufos are also a major part of the New Age religion and subject to the same evolutionary progress as us. However, New Agers suppose that by the time messages are received by these aliens, they will be more advanced than us technologically, socially, and morally – thanks to constant Darwinian progress of course. We

ought to trust them then, and endless literature is devoted to the flying saucer cult.

I've noticed a strange attraction of not only New Agers but nonreligious evolutionists toward these aliens as if they serve as new gods to worship. For instance, Robert Jastrow (who previously was quoted as a philosophical materialist), suggests that as we contemplate a future message from aliens, "we must remember that when the eagerly awaited message arrives, it is likely to be from a nonhuman form of intelligent life - creatures as far removed from humans in the evolutionary scale as humans are removed from the crawling creatures of the sea."⁹ Similarly, James Christian says, "[I]n countless cosmic ecosystems there will be some species that have evolved into complex forms and attained advanced stages of perception, consciousness, awareness, and abstract

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7. Barbara Marx Hubbard, *Conscious Evolution: Awakening the Power of Our Social Potential*, (California, New World Library, 1998), 22. Kah, 119-124.
 8. Hubbard, p. 91
 9. Robert Jastrow, *Journey to the Stars*, (New York, Bantam, 1989), 195.

rational capability plus qualities of consciousness quite beyond what man has so far developed or can at present imagine.”¹⁰

In addition, there is a strong arm of the New Age movement that embraces more personal divine power. Science fiction fans may have caught Patrick Stewart’s introduction to the movie *X Men*: “Mutation. It is the key to our evolution. It has enabled us to evolve from a single-celled organism into the dominant species on our planet. This process is slow, normally taking thousands and thousands of years. But every few hundred millennia, evolution leaps forward.” New Agers agree with this precept and, I believe, Ben Zeller adequately sums up their position: “Though numerous other understandings of human nature exist within the New Age movement, all agree that some form of the divine exists within the self, and all similarly look to practices of self-development as central to cultivating knowledge of that divine essence. This fact reveals one of the most important commonalities across all New Age approaches: the New Agers possess a strong belief in individual human evolution. Evolution within the New Age worldview does not mean biological evolution in the Darwinian sense. Rather, New Agers believe that individual hu-

man beings ideally evolve over their lifetime (and multiple lifetimes), achieving greater and greater awareness of their divine natures.”¹¹

What we have in the New Age movement, then, is a religion that prides itself on each member doing what feels best because its members aren’t happy with any existing religions. They do, however, desire power, whether it’s through ESP or telekinesis or simply the ability to create your own reality ala Shirley Maclaine. However, they mistakenly think that with more power comes more peace and this ignores the innate sinfulness of man. What a beautiful lie – the same as in humanism that can’t comprehend why science has not given us peace yet. ❧

Next: Evolution and Politics

10. James Christian, “The Story of Life: Earth’s Four-Billion Year Beginning”, James Christian, ed., *Extra Terrestrial Intelligence: The First Encounter*, (New York, Prometheus, 1976), 21.
11. Benjamin Zeller, “Human Nature and the Purpose of Existence,” www.patheos.com/Library/New-Age/Beliefs/Human-Nature-and-the-Purpose-of-Existence.html (accessed January 1, 2013)

Friday, September 6, 2013

Unborn Babies Can Recognize Language



These children have more ability than we might imagine

Summary: A growing fetus can hear sounds while in the womb and can understand them well enough to remember them after birth, new research implies. The sound-processing parts of a baby's brain becomes active during the last trimester of pregnancy, and sounds can be heard fairly well through the mother's abdomen.

A 1988 study had indicated newborns were able to recognize the theme song from their mother's favorite soap opera. Another study involving American and Swedish newborns suggested the American babies understood Swedish vowel sounds to be foreign while Swedish newborns felt the same about English vowels.

Eino Partanen of the U. of Helsinki and his team wanted to go beyond just studying the behavior of infants. He decided to outfit babies with EEG sensors to search for neural traces of memories from the womb. Partanen explained that after hearing a sound often enough, a person will form a memory of it, a memory which becomes active upon hearing that sound again. This memory can be detected as a pattern of brain waves in a baby, even one who is sleeping.

In the study women, during their last few months of pregnancy, were exposed several times a week to a recording. The recording included a made-up word, “tatata,” which was repeated many times and interspersed with music, sometimes with the middle syllable varied. Upon birth, the babies had heard the made-up word more than 25,000 times on average. Then when they were tested, the brains of the newborns indicated they recognized the word and its variations. However, babies in a control group did not recognize the word.

The neural signal for recognizing the vowel and pitch changes in the made-up word was strongest in the infants whose mothers played the recording the most often. These babies also were better at recognizing differences in the syllables, such as vowel length. “This leads us to believe that the fetus can learn much more detailed information than we previously thought,” Partanen said.

(Thanks to Brent Nemmers for suggesting this story.)

(Illustration of fetuses from Wikimedia Commons, by Leonardo da Vinci.)

To read the entire article, goto <http://winteryknight.wordpress.com/2013/08/30/new-study-finds-that-unborn-babies-can-recognize-spoken-words/>

Comment: This study is just one in a growing number of studies highlighting the intelligence of infants and even unborn babies. Back in 2009 we covered another story about unborn children learning a language. In addition, infants have been found to

have a sense of justice and, unfortunately, to also have a mean streak. Maybe, most impressive of all, researchers have found evidence suggesting the brains of newborns appear to be programmed for them to believe in God and must be reprogrammed for the individual to become an atheist later in life.

One lesson to be learned from studies such as these is that young children, born or unborn, deserve the chance at life. It is not tenable to consider them objects that can be discarded at will. A second lesson might be encouragement for those who have in their lives experienced a still birth or the death of an infant soon after birth. God in His wisdom has given more to these children than what we can imagine, even the power to believe. **"I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well"** (Psalm 139:14).

And "believe" we must do if we wish to enjoy the bliss of heaven someday. The saving Gospel is a gift of God which we will want to give to everybody when we have the opportunity, and the "everybody" surely includes children. Jesus hinted that the faith of children, unless we "reprogram" them, can surpass the faith of adults.

"Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 18:3). **"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these"** (Matthew 19:14).

Question of the Day

Which rooms in a house should *not* have smoke alarms?

Kitchens, laundry rooms and garages. Fumes and steam could cause the alarms to go off unnecessarily. Otherwise, smoke alarms should be on every level of a house, in bedrooms, in the basement at the bottom of the stairs, and in the attic (if it used as living space).

Source: *Bottom Line Personal* (March 15, 2013)





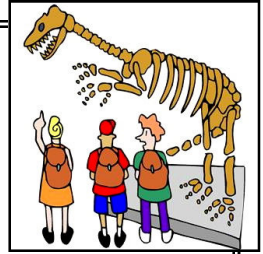
NUGGETS

Dr. Carl Werner's Big Experiment

Dr. Carl Werner studied biology at the U. of Missouri. After becoming a medical doctor, he was challenged by a college classmate to prove that evolution was either right or wrong. So, he decided on an experiment. "It was based on a simple prediction," he says. "That if evolution was not true and that animals did not change over time, I should be able to find modern-appearing plants and modern-appearing animals in the dinosaur rock layers, and this is, in fact, what I found ... Museums were, for the most part, not displaying the most important vertebrate fossils. They were kept out of the view of the public."

Over 13 years, Dr. Werner visited 10 dinosaur dig sites and some 60 natural history museums. He read the literature and interviewed scientists. What he discovered was that all the major groups of modern plants and animals had indeed been found as fossils in the same rock layers as dinosaurs. Often the fossil specimens were renamed to hide the fact they were identical to their living counterparts. Thus, Dr. Werner's prediction was fulfilled, and he concluded evolution has not happened.

Source: *Original View*, No. 69 - a publication of Creation Resources Trust, England, Geoff Chapman, editor.



FROM 80% BELIEVERS TO 15% IN ONLY ONE YEAR

"This [secularism] is a vital subject at university since the institution's philosophy of education is secular humanism. Thus, students are bombarded with it in every lecture as the basic assumption. This constant 'brain washing' destroys the faith of many Christians each year. Our surveys indicate that 80% of first year students believe in a God who is there. By their second year only 15% believe in God."

--Craig Tasker, MacQuarie U., Australia, quoted by Dr. Mark Harwood, "Elephants in the Room" DVD, Creation Ministries International, copyright 2010.

Born in America

Which three of the following foreign-sounding foods actually were invented in America?

- a. German chocolate cake
- b. French fries
- c. Russian dressing
- d. Chinese chicken salad
- e. Danish pastries
- f. English muffins



Answers: p pue o 'e

Source: *Parade* (6/30/13)

Some Good News on Pet Medications

Many pharmacies now fill prescriptions for cat and dog pets, thus often saving money over what a veterinarian would charge. One example: a 30-day supply of certain generic drugs for pets might cost as little as \$4 at Target or \$5 at Walgreens and Kmart.

Source: *Consumer Reports on Health* (May, 2013)

USELESS EXERCISE TOOLS

#1. Mirrors. A Canadian study found young women who worked out in front of a mirrored wall felt worse about themselves after exercise than those who didn't.

#2. Pre-workout coffee. The caffeine can provide a brief energy boost but can also be dehydrating and lead to an energy crash.

#3. Compression garments. The high-tech and high-priced garments sold by companies such as Nike have yet to prove their worth. The idea is that the compression will help return blood flow to the heart, but contracting muscles during exercise do the same thing.

#4. Protein shakes and energy drinks. It has yet to be proven that more protein can result in improved athletic performance. Besides, most Americans get more than enough protein in their diets.

#5. Sports drinks. A U. of Oxford study found only 3 of 431 claims for performance enhancement in these drinks had any merit. Also, these drinks are costly and loaded with sugar.

#6. Supplements. The American College of Sports Medicine has found no scientific evidence vitamins and mineral supplements can improve athletic performance. Plus, some ingredients in supplements could be dangerous.

Source: *Consumer Reports on Health* (March, 2013)



MORE NUGGETS

Floppy Ears in Dogs—An Undesirable Mutation

Some dogs have a mutated gene that causes them to have floppy ears. This mutation results in weaker cartilage making it impossible for a dog to lift its ears. Ear hygiene is important for the owners of these dogs so that serious ear infections, that could in some cases lead to deafness, are prevented. Of course, the floppy ears in themselves prevent the dogs from detecting prey as efficiently as dogs with erect ears can do.

Source: David Catchpoole, *Creation* (April-June, 2013), pages 48.



*“I applied my mind
to study and to explore
by wisdom all that is
done under the heavens.”
Ecclesiastes 1:13*

EGYPTIAN GOLDSMITHS

“In ancient Egypt discoveries of elaborate goldsmith work date back more than 4,000 years. Some metal artifacts surviving from ancient Egypt appear to have been electroplated! That is, gold has been applied over base metals through a process of electrolysis.”

-- Petersen, Dennis R.,
*Unlocking the Mysteries of
Creation*, El Dorado, CA:
Creation Resource
Publications, 2002-12, p 189

AFTER EDEN

by Dan Lietha

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“In most schools today you would only be allowed to say ONE of these two scenes was made by an intelligent creator!”

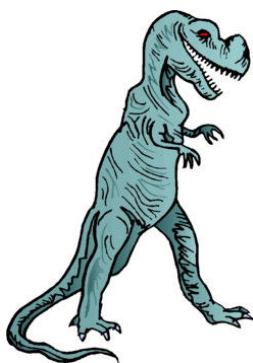
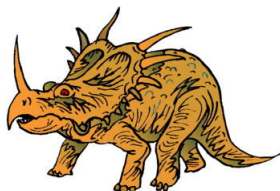
<http://www.answersingenesis.org>

COULD WE CLONE A DINOSAUR?

“An online *LiveScience* article listed seven ways that dinosaur science has changed in the 20 years since *Jurassic Park* was first released, and the seventh item on the list argued that cloning dinosaurs would not be possible because their DNA would have completely degraded after millions of years. It referenced a recently published DNA-in-bone decay rate. The senior author of that study--and head of Murdoch University's ancient DNA research laboratory--Mike Bunce emailed *LiveScience*, ‘Even under the best scenarios, in 6-7 million ears [the DNA would be gone.]’

“So, if someone found dinosaur DNA, it would require that the fossil be younger than 6-7 million years. Indeed, one paleontologist recently reported finding *Tyrannosaurus rex* DNA and nuclear proteins, albeit using hushed and guarded wording, showing that dinosaur fossils are not nearly as old as secular scientists often claim.”

—Brian Thomas, M.S., “Could We Clone a Dinosaur?” *Acts and Facts* (August, 2013)



“A scientific study of the universe has suggested a conclusion which may be summed up in the statement that the universe appears to have been designed by a pure mathematician”--Sir James Jeans, *The Mysterious Universe*, p. 140.

—Quoted in Vance Ferrell, *The Evolution Handbook*, (Altamont, TN: Evolution Facts, Inc., 2001), 99.

OINTMENT

“I bathed you with water and washed the blood from you and put ointments on you.”

(Ezekiel 16:9)

God is talking here to the nation of Israel and reminding the people how He cared for them, like a mother cares for her baby. One thing she does is to put ointments on its skin.

What are ointments? An ointment is one type of product called a topical medication. A topical medication is a medicine that is put on the skin. Ointments are mainly made up of oil with a little water mixed in.

What are ointments used for? Ointments are intended for putting on the skin. They can be used for



Ointments can come in jars...



Or in tubes.

healing skin or for protecting it.

What are some examples of ointments? Vaseline and similar products are used for helping with dry skin or with skin diseases. Some ointments can be rubbed on the skin to reduce pain. Some ointments can help heal burns including sunburn. Some can help relieve itching. Some are made for use in eyes and ears. So, you see ointments have many uses.

Can ointments be dangerous? It is always

important to read the directions for how to use a product. The directions will normally be found on the side of the product or the box it came in. For example, some ointments designed for healing skin itch can weaken or thin the skin if used more than what is recommended. Some people may be allergic to certain things in some ointments and get a rash or have even more serious effects.



A painting of Mary Magdalene with ointment for putting on the body of Jesus.

If you have questions about an ointment, who can almost always help

with the answers? The people who work in a drug store or pharmacy and provide you with medicine are called pharmacists. They are trained to know what medicines such as ointments can do and what dangers there might be to their use.

Source: Wikipedia; all pictures from Wikimedia Commons

Ointments can be good for us but not as good as the care Jesus give us. Jesus cared for us enough to die for our sins so we could live with Him forever in heaven.

Activity: Ointments often contain a lot of chemicals and other ingredients. Look at a list of ingredients on the side of an ointment or cream and write the names of some of them below:



then what is there to prevent a person from doubting other parts of the Bible, such as the Gospel itself?

Creation Science, Inerrancy, and Answers

The doctrine of inerrancy is one of the most precious teachings of the confessional Lutheran church. The website, *bookofconcord.org*, has this to say about inerrancy: “When we call Scripture inerrant we are using a relatively modern word to express the **utter reliability and truthfulness of Scripture and of all its assertions**. The term we use may be somewhat modern, but the conviction it expresses is as old as Scripture itself. The Scriptures teach and assume everywhere **their utter truthfulness**, and so do our Lutheran Confessions.”

The importance of inerrancy is obvious. Like a chain which would break if only one of its links was weak, our faith in the entire Bible could fail if in only one point Scripture could be shown to be false. Modern science presents many temptations for believers to think there are “weak links” in the Bible. If the first chapters of Genesis could be shown to be false, for instance,

The Lutheran Science Institute exists to provide answers for questions that may be troubling some Christians, especially our young people who, according to some polls, are avoiding church in large numbers. It is not our goal to “prove” the Bible. The Bible would be the true Word of God whether we could prove it or not.

St. Peter said, “Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander” (1 Peter 3: 15b-16).

Creationists, people who accept the Genesis creation account as literally true, often are maliciously attacked for their faith. We need the answers, from science when helpful, to properly respond to these attacks. God willing, we can then hold on to the hope of eternal life which the Lord has given us in Jesus Christ through His inerrant Word.

—Warren Krug, editor

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