

LSI Journal

The Lutheran Science Institute

September-October, 2009



Martin Luther And Science

- * **INDULGENCES**
- * **AMERICANS LOSING FAITH IN SCIENCE?**
- * **FIGHTING TEMPTATIONS**

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 LSI Journal is published six times a year by the Lutheran Science Institute. [Views expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Institute.](#)

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

MEETING SCHEDULE*

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

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

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Martin Luther and Science—Part 2

Luther's views on anthropology, the Bible and science, and creation and justification.

A Review of Maher's Movie *Religulous*

Obviously Maher cannot really understand or really care to believe the tenets of any religion when, at the beginning of his movie, he states that "I certainly honestly believe religion is detrimental to the progress of humanity. It's just selling an invisible product; it's too easy."

Cover Photo: Luther statue in Hanover, Germany (from Wikimedia Commons)



Martin Luther and Science

Jonah
Bible scholars in almost every major denomination contend that the Biblical account of Jonah in the belly of the fish for three days and three nights is fiction or a parable and not an actual historical event. Luther in his commentary on Jonah regarded the account as historical. Luther answered some of the objections which liberal scholars today raise against accepting Jonah as historic fact. Luther wrote: "O God, what a

great miracle this is! Who can really comprehend how a man can survive three days and three nights within a fish, in the middle of the sea, all alone, without light and without food, and in the end return to dry land again? That must have been a strange voyage. Who would believe this story and not regard it a lie or a fairy tale if it were not recorded in Scripture."¹ "Undoubtedly he was not in the

Reprinted from the September/October, 1997 issue of the *LSI Journal* and the January 20, 1997 issue of *Christian News*



fish for three whole days and nights, just as Christ did not lie

in the grave for three whole days if you would count very exactly. Moreover, Scripture regularly used the figure of speech *synecdoche*, that is, considering a part as the whole thing, etc."²

Luther answered the skeptics who ridiculed the story of Jonah because of what Jonah says about the size of Nineveh.³ Liberals poke fun at the "literalists" by asking why the digestive processes in the fish did not destroy Jonah. Luther writes: "To say that God does and effects all things by means of speaking through the agency of words is fully in accord with Scripture. In John 1:3 we read: 'All things were made through the Word and without the Word was not anything made that was made'; and in Ps. 33:9: 'For He spoke, and it came to be; He commanded, and it stood forth.' Thus the fish was kept from digesting Jonah. Not only was the digestive

process of nature in the fish suspended, but the fish also had to vomit food out again; it had to disgorge Jonah and return him to earth unharmed. Thus God worked great miracles in Jonah. Now the former order of things is reversed: What a moment ago served the purpose of death must now serve to further life."⁴

Creation and Evolution

Luther fully accepted the historicity of the Genesis creation account, including the creation of the world in six days. He wrote that "we assert that Moses spoke in the literal sense, not allegorically or figuratively, i.e. that the world, with all its creatures, was created within six days, as the words read. If we don't comprehend the reason for this, let us remain pupils and leave the job of teacher to the Holy Spirit." He again stated: "This primary matter, so to speak, for his later work God, according to the plain words of the Decalog (Ex. 20:11), did not create outside the six days but at the beginning of the first day."⁵

We know of few theologians who have done a more exhaustive study of Luther's ap-



proach to creation than Paul Bartz of the Bible Science Association. Here are some excerpts from his "Luther On Evolution:"
6



Luther and Creation

We have seen, now, how the well of evolutionary thought was sending forth its strange elixir by the time Luther arrived on the scene of history. The works of many different writers on the whole range at what we know today as evolutionary ideas was available to Luther. And Luther's familiarity with the ideas and writings of most of these evolutionists can be proven from Luther's own writings. Luther's reaction to these writers and their ideas is most complete and clear.

Luther's Attitude Toward the Text

As an educated Christian teacher Luther knew that knowledge of one's own presuppositions was crucial in meaningfully approaching any question.

Luther is most clear in letting his presuppositions regarding the text of Scripture be known to his readers.

As Luther looks at the text of Genesis regarding creation he marvels at how Moses uses simple words to describe things that are hard to understand. He is troubled at the way many commentators and writers have confused the clear Scriptural account of creation. He warns, "Thus, among the Hebrews, the Latins or the Greeks there is no guide whom we can follow with any safety in this area" (J. Pelikan and H. Lehmann, Ed., *Luther's Works, American Edition*, 55 Vols., Vol. 1, *Lectures on Genesis*, Chapters 1-5, St. Louis, Concordia Publishing House; Philadelphia, Fortress Press, 1955, p. 1, hereafter abbreviated as L.W.).

The problem, as Luther sees it, is that previous writers ignore the plain and clear Words of God. Three points are clear already. Luther accepts the Mosaic authorship of Genesis as we now have it. Secondly he sees great danger in the wrong approach to the text. Thirdly, he accepts Genesis as the Word of God without qualification.



Luther also sees the creation account of Genesis as a paradigm of clear straightforward narrative. He often cites the creation account as an example of the clarity of Scripture. This view is also essentially tied into Luther's view that there is an intimate relationship between God's teaching on creation and the doctrine of justification. We stress that this presupposition underlies Luther's treatment of the creation account, and is evident at every level of his treatment of the text. Luther concludes that the Christian view of the universe is, then, to see it as an organic entity. Not in the sense of the alchemists, but in the context of God's justification of sinners. As opposed to this, a view of the universe as a mechanical entity, or even a mechanical creation of God clashes with the Scriptural concept of salvation as a continuation of God's Fatherly care for His creation. All of these concepts mesh on the presuppositional level of Luther's approach to the creation text.

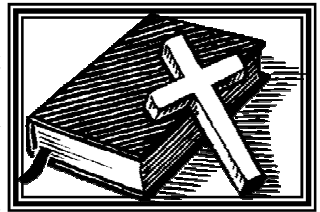
From all of this, very interestingly Luther concludes, that the world was not in exist-

tence more than "6,000 years ago" (L.W., Vol. 1, P. 3) He says that philosophers, however, would never accept that since they work on the basis of human reason which "is blind, deaf, senseless, godless and sacrilegious in its dealing with all God's words and works ..." (Martin Luther, *On the Bondage of the Will*, translated by J. I. Packer and O. R. Johnston, Westwood, N.J., Revell, 1957, p. 201).

Creation Ex Nihilo?

Luther repeatedly expressed his belief, based on the text of Scripture, that God created all from nothing by the instrumentality of His Word. (L.W., Vol. 1, pp. 3,31,75; Vol. 2, p. 16, Vol. 5, p. 219, as a few examples.)

This fact is so clearly presented by the



text that it could not be any clearer. In fact Luther exclaims, if a "theologian" wanted to start ignoring this clear assertion of



Scripture, "Who, pray, would not be a theologian as soon as he opened the Book?" (Packer, Johnston, op cit, p. 194).

The Word was what God used to create with, that very same Word which became flesh to win our salvation.

Historicity? Two Creation Accounts?

We often consider the question of historicity and whether there are two creation accounts in Genesis as modern products of historical criticism. They are not modern questions. Being based on evolutionistic presuppositions, historical critical treatment of Scripture is much older than the term "historical criticism."

There can be no question that Luther's repeated stressing of the literal meaning of the creation text means that he accepts the full historicity of the creation account. He says, in his earthy

way, that when Moses says something he means it. Moses calls a spade a

spade, as Luther puts it. Luther asks, if we cannot understand the

meaning of the word *day*, how can we possibly use days in the way God intended us to use them? (L.W., Vol. 1, p. 5). Luther rejects Hilary's attempt to explain the six days of creation away as just accommodations to our limited means of referencing time by saying, "one may not use sophistries with reference to the text" (L.W., Vol. 1, p. 69).

Some said that if Genesis was true history we should be able to find the land of Eden bordered by the two rivers listed in Genesis. Luther explained that if Genesis is true history we should not be able to find Eden that way for the flood recorded in Genesis would have changed the whole earth's surface. In this particular argument Luther makes reference to the historicity of Moses' account five times! (L.W., Vol. I, pp. 88-90). He insists, "This, I say, is historical" (L.W., Vol. 1, p. 89).

Luther also rejected the idea that Moses' words about creation are a special genre of literature that could be called "religious history." He had heard that argument already back in his day. Luther's response? "... the statements which Moses has so far made (up to





Genesis 2:9) deal with natural science or with politics or with jurisprudence or with medicine." So far, says Luther, Moses hasn't even touched on religion or theology! (L.W., Vol. 1, p. 94). So Luther rejected a special category of history which makes Scripture less than real accurate history in the normal sense.

Alleged discrepancies and errors in the text have long been pointed out. Luther discussed a number of these such as the creation of light before the sun, moon, and stars, and the observation that there were plants before sunlight. Luther answered them by saying that such would be theologians are "toying with ill-timed allegories (for Moses is relating history); it is not interpreting Scripture" (L.W., Vol. 1, p. 19). Luther seriously questioned the propriety of us as creatures questioning the divine text handed down by the Creator (L.W., Vol. I, p. 39).

Luther also rejected the idea that there are two different creation accounts in Genesis. He strongly maintained that Genesis Chapter two is simply a more extended focusing on the details of the creation of man and woman. In ending his com-

ments on the first chapter Luther says: "In the next (chapter) Moses will give more information about the work of the sixth day, how man was created" (L.W., Vol. 1, p. 73). Luther repeats this same thought, rejecting the two account hypothesis, quite a number of times (L.W., Vol. 1, pp. 69,82,140).
LSI

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1. American Edition of *Luther's Works*, St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House; Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1961, Vol. 19,68.
2. *Ibid*, p. 16.
3. *Ibid*, p. 84
4. *Ibid*, p. 192.
5. *Luther's Works*, Vol. 1,6.
6. Bartz, Paul. *Luther on Evolution*, Christian News Encyclopedia, 916-917.

Next: Luther on anthropology, the Bible and science, and creation and justification.



Nothing New Under the Sun:

Indulgences



What has been will be again, what has been done, will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun.” *Ecclesiastes 12:9*

Cnder inspiration of God the Holy Spirit, King Solomon penned these words almost three thousand years ago in the book of Ecclesiastes, "there is nothing new under the sun." Time and again we see those words proven true. A recently published *New York Times* article (February 10, 2009) entitled, "For Catholics, a Door to Absolution Is Reopened" dealt with the topic of indulgences and their return to favor.

You will probably remember that indulgences and specifically the errors of the Roman Catholic teaching of repentance were the sparks that ignited the reformation. Luther was incensed that that people were being led to believe that they could use their money or anything else to make some sort of satisfaction for their sins. The people were being led away from Christ and his light and into the darkness of work righteousness.

He posted his 95 theses on the castle church door in Wittenberg so the topic could be addressed. Those erroneous teachings are still around.

If you visit the website of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Brooklyn, you'll find this announcement along with a link to the Vatican and the May 10th announcement:

Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio has announced that parishioners in the Diocese of Brooklyn can receive plenary indulgences for participation in events connected with the 2008-2009 jubilee year of St. Paul the Apostle proclaimed by Pope Benedict XVI in May.

The Pauline year began June 28 and will close June 29 next year to mark the approximately 2,000 anniversary of the saint's birth.

This Roman Catholic false teaching on repentance and how we obtain the forgiveness of sins turns repentance from something that God works in us to something that we do. The Roman Catholic teaching on indulgences trades God's grace for our work.

Reprinted with permission from the February, 2009 *Messenger* of Friedens Ev. Lutheran Church, Kenosha, Wisconsin; pastors: Thomas Meissner & David Rockhoff.

What do the Scriptures say about repentance? Repentance is recognizing the reality of our sin, turning to God in faith for his mercy and trusting the Gospel news, that Jesus paid for all sins at the cross—including mine. Through Jesus' blood and righteousness I am forgiven and restored as a child of God and so are you. Our sins are forgiven only through Christ and his cross, not by anything in us or anything we do. And that forgiveness is complete. Nothing needs be added to it. As the Holy Spirit creates in us a clean heart and renews a right spirit within us, we want to live upright and God-pleasing lives, loving and serving both God and our neighbor. Again this is not brought about or caused by anything in us. It is worked in us by the Lord God himself who has promised to work through the means of the Word, Baptism and Holy Communion.

It is important that you know what you believe and why you believe it. Come to worship. Study the Scriptures. Attend one or more of the Bible classes we offer at Friedens. Dig into the Word of God. Receive his Sacrament. Growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, you will find yourself not only closer to the Lord and your fellow Christian, but you will find that God will prepare you

with his full armor so that you might glorify his name and carry his Word and love into the world.

There is no better time to get back to basics than right now. People are doing just that around the world in so many areas. They are relearning the difference between "needs" and "wants." They are taking a closer look at what is most important in life: people, life, and our relationship with the Lord, with the One who saved all people from sin, Jesus Christ. What about you?

When it comes to sin, unbelief and false teaching, "there is nothing new under the sun; what has been will be again." But Solomon's words are even truer in regards to Christ, his forgiveness and his love for you—they're not going away. They are as real today as they were when you were little. His love for you is from everlasting, and an economic downturn will not remove his love or his care from you. It certainly will not undo the forgiveness Jesus secured for you at the cross or the promise he made to you in your baptism: The Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, has forgiven all your sins. By your baptism you are born again and made a dear child of your Father in heaven. May God strengthen you to live in your baptismal grace all the days of your life. Peace be with you. 🙏



NUGGETS

Made in America

Believe it or not, the United States still produces more goods than any other country--\$1.6 trillion worth; so says the federal Bureau of Economic Analysis. Here are the top U.S. products:

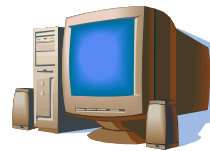
Chemical Products including pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, soaps, paints, and fertilizers. (worth \$250 billion, up from \$174 in 2002).



Transportation Equipment including motor vehicles and parts, aerospace products, trains, and ships. (\$195 billion, up from \$189 billion in 2002)

Processed Food, Beverage and Tobacco Products including cookies, coffee, cigarettes, and prepared meals. (\$175 billion, up from \$173 billion in 2002)

Computers and Electronics including computer peripherals and communications equipment. (\$146 billion, up from \$124 billion in 2002)
--*Parade* magazine (April 19, 2009)



Darwin: Evolution Not Capable Of Proof

“The fact of evolution is the backbone of biology, and biology is thus in the peculiar position of being a science founded on an unproved theory — is it then a science or a faith? Belief in the theory of evolution is thus →

exactly parallel to belief in special creation — both are concepts which believers know to be true but neither, up to the present, has been capable of proof.”

—Charles Darwin, *The Origin of Species* (London: J. M. Dent & Sons, Ltd., 1971), quoted by Frank Sherwin in *Persuaded by the Evidence*, page 199.

Men: GET TESTED!

Osteoporosis isn't just a woman's worry. Six percent of men will get the condition by age 65. Inactivity, smoking, and a lack of calcium and vitamin D in the diet can bring on the condition, which can lead to broken bones and even death from broken hips. (*Life Line Screening*, Fall '08)

Where Did That Expression Come From — Part 4

▶ *“Under the weather”*—from the sea, where ship passengers who were not feeling well were instructed to go below deck where they were sheltered from wind and waves.

▶ *“Take it with a grain of salt”*—believed to be from a Latin recipe that contained salt as an antidote to a suspected poison; it means to accept some things with a good dose of skepticism.

▶ *“Mad as a hatter”*—from the fact mercury, a poisonous substance, was once used to treat felt. Many hat makers who worked with felt ended up in mental institutions with neurological damage.

—*American Profile* (Oct. 5-11, 2008)



Some Facts About Hiccups

- * Even fetuses and animals hiccup.
- * Alcohol, carbonated beverages, spicy foods, eating too fast, and sudden stress can all trigger hiccups.
- * Nobody has figured out yet what purpose hiccups serve.
- * Possible hiccup remedies include holding your breath, breathing into a paper bag, slowly sipping a glass of water without breathing, stuffing a finger into each ear, drinking ice water, stroking the back of the throat with a swab, and drinking a teaspoon of table sugar.
- * The longest recorded case of unexplained hiccups lasted 63 years.
- * Hiccups that last more than a few days should be checked out by medical personal.

—*Consumer Reports OnHealth* (May, 2009)

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

★ **So Much Water** ★

★ **A man goes to the doctor and** ★
★ **tells him that he hasn't been feel-** ★
★ **ing well. The doctor examines** ★
★ **him, leaves the room and comes** ★
★ **back with three different bottles** ★
★ **of pills.** ★

★ **The doctor says, "Take the** ★
★ **green pill with a big glass of water** ★
★ **when you get up. Take the blue** ★
★ **pill with a big glass of water after** ★
★ **lunch. Then just before going to** ★
★ **bed, take the red pill with another** ★
★ **big glass of water."** ★

★ **Startled to be put on so much** ★
★ **medicine the man stammers, "My** ★
★ **goodness, doc, exactly what's my** ★
★ **problem?"** ★

★ **Doctor says, "You're not** ★
★ **drinking enough water."** ★

★ —<http://possumsal.homestead.com/> ★

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Wednesday, July 22, 2009 post

Forty Years After Apollo 11 are Americans Losing Interest in Science?

New book blames New Atheists and science bloggers for science's decline

SUMMARY: When man first stepped on the moon during the Apollo 11 mission 40 years ago, scientists and engineers were heroes. Americans were interested in science, and science helped guide government policy. Today? A new book, *Unscientific America*, concludes that scientific illiteracy is casting a dark cloud over America's future.



Authors Chris Mooney and Sheril Kirshenbaum discuss how science has fallen in popularity during the past 40 years though there was something of a resurgence during Carl Sagan's heyday. They see a decline of science in mainstream journalism, reflected in the observation that reporters are spending more and more time working on their blogs and less time investigating and learning.

Although poor science education, "science-phobic" politicians, and "religious ideologues" all play a role in undermining science's place in society, the book first and foremost blames scientists themselves. The authors make the following points:

First, New Atheism is not endearing itself to the 90% of Americans who believe in God. New Atheists are ignoring the fact that their shrillness gives science a bad name, at least in middle America.

Secondly, science blogging may actually be degrading America's scientific culture. These bloggers, who already agree about everything, strengthen each other and become increasingly self-assured and less tolerant of other viewpoints. This has led to, in some cases, a loud, angry, nasty, and profanity-strewing minority of the science world denouncing the rest of America for superstition and science ignorance. The opportunities decrease for meaningful dialogue among those holding different viewpoints.

What are some possible solutions? The book suggests developing "Renaissance scientists" who have good speaking and outreach skills, but will that work? Perhaps there are no good solutions, and the recent election of a new president isn't likely to be a panacea.

(Picture from NASA)

Entire article can be found at <http://blogs.chron.com/sciguy/archives/2009/07/post_101.html>

COMMENT: Is science really losing its mystique? This is an interesting thought considering there is also evidence that Christianity is losing some influence at the same time. But the theory of evolution (if you want to call that science) just took a beating in a recent Pew Research poll and a survey not long ago in Great Britain found the British generally have a low regard for science. It really is a timely question though considering we have just celebrated the 40th anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing, arguably the moment when the popularity of science was at its peak.

I can't quarrel with the two reasons given for the falling reputation of science. New Atheism as practiced by people such as England's Richard Dawkins is an embarrassment for the scientific world just as the many "Christian" televangelists who have fallen into disrepute have been an embarrassment for Christians. The aggressive, foul-mouthed, anti-Christian attacks by the New Atheists cannot hope to win them many friends. Indeed, the LSI Blog has experienced a bit of this as I had to remove a visitor comment from a recent post because of his profanity-laden anti-creationist comments.

Real practical science also known as operational science should not be in trouble. Real science is, generally speaking, trying to make this a

better world. It deals with testing and experimentation and the scientific method. It should not be confused with wild speculations about prehistoric times. Medical advances and better technologies are some of the successes for operational science as well as the triumphs of the space program.

The apparent decline in Christianity may also be due at least in part to a departure from its real purpose. Christianity's focus should be on spreading the central message that Jesus Christ is "the way and the truth and the life" and that nobody comes to the Father except through Him (John 14:6). Instead, some people who call themselves Christians are ignoring the Gospel of Jesus Christ and replacing it with an emphasis on issues of social justice or feeding the poor, or even proposing false gospels such as the idea that God wants all Christians to become wealthy. Pseudo-Christians cannot help those people who are desperate for answers to questions regarding life after death.

So, if both science and Christianity would get back to their real purposes, I feel they both could recover some lost ground, and we would have a much better world. LSI

—Warren Krug, blogger

QUESTION OF THE DAY

What surprising coincidence involved John Adams and Thomas Jefferson?

Both Adams (left) and Jefferson (right) died on the same day: July 4, 1826, which was the United States' 50th anniversary. They were two of the United States' founding fathers and the only two men who signed the Declaration of Independence to go on to become president.



► LSI News

Special Meeting

A special meeting has been called to discuss an item that has officers and members of the Board quite excited. We have been considering the possibility of creating an Advisory Board or committee consisting of people with advanced degrees who would be willing to offer LSI advice and their expertise. At the special meeting, plans were to further discuss the feasibility of creating this group and work out

the details. The meeting was scheduled for Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church, Union Grove, Wisconsin on Thursday, August. 27.

This meeting will *not* affect our previously announced meeting on Saturday, October 24 at the home of Patrick Winkler (2584 S. Sterling Circle, East Troy, Wisconsin). That meeting has now been set for **10 a.m.**

Thanks

Thank you to all members who received and have returned your information sheets. This will help us to know our members better.

The Flood That Covered All the Land



"Like many ancestral people groups, the Havasupai and the Hualapai have retained legends of the Flood.

Though the stories have been modified from the biblical account, the general theme of a world-destroying deluge remains. For most of these people, the stories are more than myths; they explain history as well as geology. The authors had the privilege to meet a Hualapai man while examining the rim gravels found west of the Canyon. When we asked him how the rocks got there, he explained, "They came from the flood

when water covered all the land."

Your Guide to the Grand Canyon, Vail, Tom et. al., Master Books, 2008, page 177.

Teachers in England Support Creation

Almost one-third of the teachers in government primary and secondary schools in England and Wales believe creation should be taught in science classes. The survey found 45% don't think creation should be part of science classes, but 65% agree creationism should be discussed in schools in some format, perhaps in social science or religion if not science classes.—*Answers* (July-September, 2009)

Dinosaur-Bird Experiment Fails

Many scientists believe dinosaurs evolved into modern birds, but paleontologist Jack Horner has failed in his attempt to grow a dinosaurian tail onto a baby chicken. He spliced the fast-growing tip from a young chicken embryo onto the tail of an older embryo before it developed more obvious chicken features. Horner apparently accepts the "ontogeny recapitulates phylogeny" theory and believes a young chicken embryo has dinosaurian traits.—*Creation* (June-August, 2009)

1 Billion Hungry People

A record 1 billion people around the world are going hungry, United Nations food officials report. War, drought, political instability, high food prices and poverty are reasons given why as many as one in six people may not be getting enough to eat. The global financial meltdown is compounding the crisis.—*Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* (6/21/09)

'Million-Year-Old' Rock Has Human Prints

Footprints found in sedimentary rock in Kenya show that whoever made them had "an essentially modern foot function and a style of bipedal locomotion matching today's people." The problem: the rock is dated by evolutionists at "1.5 million years old," but *Homo sapiens* isn't supposed to have evolved until "200,000" years ago. One archaeologist said it was "kind of creepy" seeing the footprints that he "could have made 20 minutes earlier in some kind of wet sediment."—*Creation* (June-August, 2009)

Ida Fossil Over-Hyped

A fossil named Ida described by one news source as giving support to "the evolution of early primates, and ultimately modern human beings" has gotten a lot of media hype. The lemur-like fossil was subject of a documentary shown on the History Channel which touted its alleged "missing link" status. However, many scientists downplayed the significance of the discovery. "The PR campaign on this fossil is I think more of a story than the fossil itself," one scientist said.—*www.answersingenesis.org* (5/19/09)

Reducing Facial Aging

Case Western Reserve U. researchers studied the faces of 186 sets of identical twins to discover what factors might contribute to facial aging. Alcohol intake, smoking, and sun exposure all increased facial aging. And divorced people appeared almost two years older than their married or widowed siblings.—*Consumer Reports* (May, 2009)

Cut Calories-Lose Lbs.

A two-year study has determined the best diet for weight loss—cut calories. As reported in the February issue of *The New England Journal of Medicine*, 811 participants in the study were divided into four groups with the diet for each group varying as to carbohydrates, fat and protein. In the end, the only relevant factor was whether or not the participant cut the number of calories consumed.—*ConsumerReportsOnHealth* (June, 2009)

Exercise Good for Heart Attacks Victims

People who take it easy after a heart attack may be increasing their risk of premature death. A trial of 2,331 heart-failure patients, reported in the April 8, 2009 issue of *JAMA*, found that people who exercised regularly cut their risk of premature death by 11 percent compared to those patients who received standard care.—*Consumer ReportsOnHealth* (July, 2009)

Beware Bottled Water

Consumers of bottled water know less about what they are paying for to drink than what they can get almost free from the tap. That is because the two water sources are regulated differently, according to researchers. Government authorities and environmental groups both are urging that bottled water be labeled with the same level of information that municipal water providers must disclose.—*The (Racine) Journal Sentinel* (7/9/09)



Laughter Found to be Good Medicine

In a study reported to an April meeting of the American Physiological Society, laughter was found to increase HDL (good cholesterol) levels in diabetic patients. Twenty diabetics were divided into two groups. Both received standard treatment, but one group also was allowed to watch 30 minutes of selected comedy each day. Besides higher levels of HDL, the humor group also had lower levels of stress hormones and markers of arterial inflammation—*Consumer Reports OnHealth (July, 2009)*



Cancer Rate in U.S. Drops 20% in 15 Years

The cancer death rate in the U.S. has dropped nearly 20% in 15 years, according to the American Cancer Society. Some 650,000 lives were spared from cancer between 1990 and 2005. Prevention and better treatment are credited as the main causes for the improvement. Men saw decreases in lung, prostate, and colon cancer deaths while women showed a drop in breast and colorectal cancer deaths. Some cancer rates are going up though—pancreatic and liver for women and liver and esophageal for men, largely due to the obesity epidemic.—*cnn.com (5/27/09)*

New Russian Spaceship

Russia is working on a manned space vehicle that might be equipped with thrusters to allow it to make a precision landing upon returning to earth. Russian engineers are considering a rocket-powered landing system for the successor to its Soyuz spacecraft. Previous manned missions have landed on Earth using either primarily parachutes or, in the case of the shuttles, wings.—*news.bbc.co.uk (4/29/09)*

Mercury Found to be An Active Planet

The space probe Messenger's second fly-by of the planet Mercury discovered the planet to be far more active than previously thought. Flying by the planet at an altitude as low as 125 miles, cameras on the probe took more than 1,200 photos. Among the surprising findings: the strength of the dynamics of the planet's magnetic field and the well-preserved impact basin showing concentrated volcanic and deformational activity.—*Yahoo News/AFP (4/30/09)*

Spaceport America Under Construction

Construction of Spaceport America began in New Mexico in May bringing closer the day when average citizens, if they have enough money, can fly into space. The state is funding the nearly \$200 million project which will use Richard Branson's Virgin Galactic spacecraft for taking tourists into space. Branson says he has a list of 45,000 people from 120 countries who have registered for a space trip at a cost of \$200,000 a ride.—*cnn.com (5/15/09)*

Comet Strikes Jupiter?

Something, possibly a comet, has struck Jupiter leaving a scar in the atmosphere near the south pole of the giant planet. Images of the strike were taken by NASA's infrared telescope in Hawaii. They came on the 15th anniversary of another comet strike. In 1994 pieces of the comet Shoemaker-Levy 9 hit the planet.—*yahoo news/AP (7/21/09)*

New Smart Monitor

A new computer monitor manufactured by the Eizo company can sense whether someone is sitting in front of the monitor or not. When a motion sensor detects no movement for more than 40 seconds, it will automatically switch the monitor into a power-saving mode, then switch it back to full power when the user returns.—*Smart Computer (July, 2009)*

Future Computer May Come With Viruses

Future computers may actually come with viruses built in—that is, good, living viruses. MIT researchers are using genetically engineered viruses called bacteriophages to build special lithium-ion batteries. While more work is needed, the viruses seem to help transfer energy inside the batteries in a very efficient manner.—*Smart Computing (July, 2009)*

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LAMPS

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path. Psalm 119:105 (NIV)

The Word of God is precious. It tells us all we need to know about God, and like a lamp it shows us where we should walk. In other words, it tells us the kind of life God wants us to live.

What is a lamp? A lamp is any manmade invention that gives off light.

What are the different types of lamps? Early lamps burned oil. Today, most of our lamps use electricity. Other lamps may use gas or kerosene.

How do oil lamps work? Oil lamps have a space for holding oil and a wick that sticks into the oil. The wick

may be made of cloth or other material. When it is lit, the wick produces a flame and keeps burning as long as there is oil in the lamp to feed it. In different parts of the world different types of oil have been used including fish oil, whale oil, oil from plants, and oil from the ground. Oil lamps may also have a handle so people can carry them.



Oil Lamp

What are different kinds of electric lamps? There are many kinds of electric lamps, but the most common are incandescent, fluorescent, neon, CFL, and LED. *Incandescent* lamps or bulbs produce light when electricity flows through a thin wire called a filament inside a bulb. The filament heats up and gives off light.

Fluorescent lamps or bulbs work when electricity



CFL and Incandescent bulbs

heats up mercury gas inside the bulb which in turn causes material on the glass tube to give off visible light.

Neon lamps, used to make lighted signs, can produce different colors depending on what kind of gas is used.

CFL (compact fluorescent lamps) are small fluorescent lamps, many of which are designed to screw into sockets like incandescent bulbs.

LED lights use diodes, small devices that give off light.

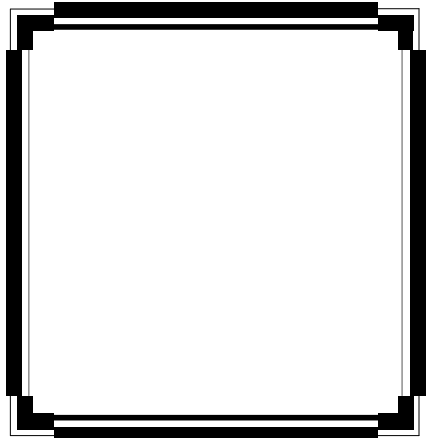
How do gas lamps work? Gas can be lit in lamps to produce light. The gas can either come from underground gas lines or

from tanks of gas such as propane gas. Gas lamps were once commonly used for streetlights, and gas lanterns are still popular today for camping.

The Bible today is our bright spiritual light showing us the way to heaven. In heaven there will be no sun or lamps? Revelations 21:23 says about heaven, “The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp.” All the light we will need will come from God.

Source: Wikipedia

Activity: Draw a picture of your favorite lamp.





Fighting Temptations With God's Help

According to scientists, people who are sure they can resist temptations are probably wrong. The more confident they are, the more likely they are to give in to temptation. So says Loran Nordgren from Northwestern University. The result is that many people unwittingly expose themselves to such allures as chocolate or cigarettes, leading to a greater chance of indulging in addictive behaviors.

Nordgren arrived at her conclusions after a series of small experiments with college students, the results of which may not necessarily hold true for the general population. In one experiment involving smoking, smokers who thought they could control the urge were more than twice as likely to light up a cigarette than those who were less confident. Less confident students also were more likely to watch an anti-smoking film and keep cigarettes out of their hands than the more confident students.

Nordgren figures her research has implications for our personal

lives. Recovering alcoholics should probably avoid parties with alcohol, dieters should stay away from dessert buffets, and committed husbands may want to limit contacts with former girlfriends. People often can't predict how they will act.

As Christians, we know ungodly temptations originate with "the devil, the world, and our flesh." (*Luther's Small Catechism*, Explanation of the Sixth Petition). Probably not everything the world calls a temptation is an ungodly temptation, and the Word of God decides what is and what isn't. When we do give in to the devil, we need to ask for forgiveness and pray, as Luther says, that "we may finally overcome and obtain the victory."

St. Paul comforts us with these words: "No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear." (1 Corinthians 10:13, NIV)

Possibly two of the greatest temptations are to think we can work our way to heaven, on the one hand, or, on the other hand, to think we are too sinful to be saved. Both beliefs are wrong and dangerous. Salvation is entirely the work of the Lord, and for the believer in Christ no sin is unforgivable. LSI

—Warren Krug, editor

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