

UPLOOK

OCTOBER 1995



You Have to Believe Evolution

IT IS WRITTEN

IS EVOLUTION PROBABLE?

CHOOSE YOUR ASSUMPTIONS CAREFULLY



You Have to Believe Evolution

*Are scientists
so afraid
of the
alternative
that they
would lead
civilization
over the
precipice of
despair
rather than
face the
facts?*

Ever since my Intro. Biology course at university, I have concluded that any scientist who accepts macro-evolution¹ must suffer from a form of intellectual schizophrenia. How else can you explain the following scenario? The professor strides confidently into the lecture hall and deftly writes his name on the board. Smiling benignly on the sea of eager faces, he informs us that we will be examining the evolutionary model of the universe. "But first," he says, "we will look at the principles by which a scientist works. The first is the Principle of Biogenesis—life only comes from life."

As the lecture continued, I thought to myself, Sir, you have painted yourself into a corner. How will you reconcile this established principle that life only comes from life with the notion that life came from non-life?

When we arrived at the point in the explanation of evolution's beginnings—which I thought would force the teacher either to do some major back-peddling or some impressive verbal gymnastics—he sailed right through as if his discussion of Biogenesis had been in another life. I presume he went home and had a good sleep that night, never once having nightmares of Redi or Pasteur².

The scene changes. I've been invited into a high school Biology class. My points are simple: evolution is contrary to theoretical science, experimental chemistry, probability, genetics, thermodynamics, and every other recognized principle of scientific study. It is contrary to observable phenomena: the lack of intermediate life-forms in the fossil record, the lack of evolutionary changes in populations today, and the impossibility of life in a closed system (as seen in the billions of cans of soup used each day in which spontaneous generation never occurs). The idea defies logic at every step. Think about it. The evolutionist doesn't have the first spark of life; and

he must presume the matter in the universe was always here. Already he is in trouble.

But you can be magnanimous with such faithful proponents. Go ahead; give them the universe. And you can give them their spark of life, too (it would never happen by biopoeisis, see article, *Chemistry in Stereo*). What next?

One of the simplest arrangements on the planet (really a pre-life form because it cannot self-replicate) is a virus. Distinguished mathematician Harold Morowitz calculated the probability of such a virus haphazardly occurring as $10^{-10^{23}}$. Still a chance, someone says? Not a chance, says Morowitz. That's not science; that's philosophy. What if we increase the time, say by a few billion years. Could it happen then? Ah, but you're going the wrong way, my friend. Because the universe is becoming increasingly chaotic, the more time, the less chance. Another dead end.

But go on and give them their virus. Now what can they do with it? Absolutely nothing! If all that there was in the universe was that virus, it could not reproduce (and therefore mutate and evolve) because it needs a more advanced life form with a nucleus to hijack, forcing this cell to make the materials necessary to produce more viruses. You have devolution at the first stage! Another dead end.

The faith of the evolutionist is not easily deterred. He is able to depend on his conclusions even though he thinks his brain is an accident. He looks for design in the universe even though he denies a Designer. When I was finished my high school lecture, the teacher walked to the front and said, "Well, Mr. Nicholson, you've made it pretty well impossible for me to teach evolution to this class. We know the model we have couldn't work, but we're obligated to teach it anyway." As I say, evolution is not science; it is irrational belief. You have to *believe* evolution. Because thinking will lead you to God. **U**

1. Not small changes within a kind or specie but changes of sufficient magnitude, a result of chance, to be responsible for the rise of all life on the planet with its endless variations.

2. Italian physician, Francisco Redi (1626-79) and Louis Pasteur (1822-95) disproved abiogenesis, or spontaneous generation, the notion that life can come from non-living matter.

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Be sure to enclose your former address label when sending a change of address. Please let us know of changes six weeks in advance.

Lexington95

Don't miss these important updates about the *Rise Up And Build* conference this December (26-29) in Lexington, Kentucky. The excitement is mounting!

The applications keep rolling in! Plans are progressing well. Read about the updates.

DEADLINE EXTENSION

There has been an extension of the deadline for the discounted price to October 31! Be sure to look after your application as soon as possible. If you don't have an application (it was in the middle of August's *Uplook*), call our conference hotline immediately at (616) 456-5123.

SPECIAL RATES FOR CHILDREN

Although the conference is not designed for children, we have a special rate for families sharing the same room: \$60 US per child (12 and under) if staying in the same room as parents who pay double rate. Call for details.

FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED

Through the good graces of a believer who hopes to attend the conference, we plan to provide signing for the hearing impaired (general sessions only).

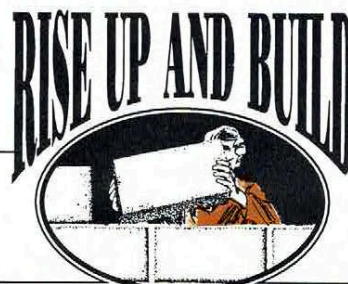
EVENING SPEAKERS

Our evening keynote speakers in the will of the Lord will be J. B. Nicholson Jr. (MI), Joe Reese (ON), and Liddon Sheridan (AL). In addition, the evening will include a never-to-be-forgotten Q & A session with Dr. David Gooding. As mentioned earlier, Boyd Nicholson is to give the morning ministry.

AIR TRAVEL

Airline travel can be expensive if your stay does not include staying over a Saturday night. Delta Airlines is offering a 5-10% discount for the conference by calling 1-800-241-6760 and mentioning Ref. XR2825.

Other discount air information may be had by calling our conference hotline (616) 456-5123.



Assess the Need Catch the Vision Take the Challenge

GROUP TRAVEL

The following names have been submitted as contacts for arranging group travel from various areas across the continent. If you know of others, we would be glad to know.

Ottawa, ON

Doug Pilgrim (613) 432-6493

Burlington, ON

Wm. Burnett (905) 634-6345

St. Catharines, ON

Brian Gunning (905) 685-5090

Sault Ste. Marie, ON

Joe Reese (705) 946-0289

NY/New Jersey

Mark Kolchin (609) 693-9252

Wilmington, DE

Sid Bhatt (302) 633-8060

Detroit, MI

Ken Hampton (313) 533-6518

Greensboro, NC

Jeff Kimell (910) 274-0431

Augusta, GA

Jon Reimer (706) 863-6006

Florida

Larry Price (904) 365-9561

Mpls/St. Paul, MN

Jim Upton (612) 633-7488

Chicago, IL

Bob Fiebig (708) 448-2552

New Orleans, LA

Bob Brown (504) 641-4028

Wichita, KS

Russell Horn (316) 755-0991

Vancouver, BC

Harold Summers (604) 736-7668

Seattle, WA

Doug Kazen (206) 823-9017



Front Lines

REGIONAL CONFERENCE

CMML is sponsoring a regional conference with the help of the Wheatland Bible Chapel (Duncanville, TX) November 4, 1995. Speakers expected are Larry Price (FL) and Elliot Van Ryn (FL). The conference will begin at 10:00 A.M. and conclude at 4:00 P.M. The conference theme is: *Spiritual Health*. For more information:

Wheatland Bible Chapel
1303 W. Wheatland Rd.
Duncanville, TX 75116
(214) 296-6604

THE DEEP SOUTH

Southside Bible Chapel wishes to announce a Fall Bible Conference in the will of the Lord, for the weekend of November 4, 1995. Robert Clark (TX) is the expected speaker. Call:

Jeff Bloom
(318) 323-7798
Southside Bible Chapel
(318) 989-8928

THANKSGIVING IN FLORIDA

The Carrollwood Bible Chapel (Tampa, FL) will be hosting a Thanksgiving Bible Conference on November 17-18, 1995. The theme for this year's conference is *The Lordship of Christ*. O. J. Gibson (CA) and James Naismith (ON) will be speaking. Meal and nursery provided. For more information:

John Bromfield
16202 Pebblebrook Drive
Tampa, FL 33624
(813) 960-1302

TAKE A GOOD LOOK IN THE MIRROR

CMML will host its annual conference at the Wall High School (NJ) on November 18, 1995. Speakers Brian Moore (CA) and Bill Yuille (ON) will speak on the theme: *Examine Yourself*.

Wall High School
New Bedford Road
Wall Township, NJ

Rt. 71, Box 190
Vienna, MO 65582
(314) 744-5843

PASS THE GRAVY

James Harvey (FL) will be the speaker at a Thanksgiving Conference November 23-26 at Park of the Palms (FL). Contact:

Park of the Palms
706 Palms Circle
Keystone Heights, FL 32656
(904) 473-4926

HEALTH CARE NOTICE

Stewards Foundation wishes to advise all commended workers and their commending assemblies, that due to escalating health care costs and their inability to recover the Stewards Ministries' assets that were severed from their control, effective January 1, 1996, they will no longer be providing health care coverage for commended workers.

Instead, each assembly will receive a pro-rata share of the net income of the Foundation, to use towards the health care costs of the workers commended from their assembly. For 1996, this amount will be \$800 for each commended worker, whether single, couple, family, or over 65 and will be paid in December 1995. It will then be up to the individual worker or their commending assembly to arrange other coverage as they see fit.

CALIFORNIA CONFERENCE

The Verdugo Pines Bible Camp (Wrightwood, CA) will be the host for a Young Adults' Conference on November 24-26. Speaker expected is J. B. Nicholson (MI). For more information:

Stephanie Stratton
9312 Rancho Street
Alta Loma, CA 91737
(909) 987-6421

BRINGING IN THE NEW YEAR

Eddie Schwartz (NC) will be the speaker for a New Year's Conference held at Park of the Palms (Keystone Heights, FL) on December 28-31, 1995. Contact:

Park of the Palms
706 Palms Circle
Keystone Heights, FL 32656
(904) 473-4926

THANKSGIVING AT— WHERE ELSE?

Can you think of a better place to spend Thanksgiving weekend (November 23-26) than Turkey Hill Ranch? Join Craig Rollinger and other believers in fellowship, and giving thanks to the Lord. For more information:

Turkey Hill Ranch

NEW ASSEMBLY

A group of believers have begun a new work in Windsor, ON. The group has been meeting together since mid March 1995

and have established a New Testament assembly where believers can remember the Lord and receive instruction in the Word.

Victor Salmons, correspondent
3070 Radisson Avenue
Windsor, ON N9E 1Y5
(519) 969-0805

The assembly's new address:
Berean Bible Chapel
3245 Longfellow
Windsor, ON N9E 2L7

HOME CALL

Often the weeks and months after the death of a loved one are when we face the most difficult struggles adjusting to life without them. *David and Heather McQuinn* could use the prayers of the Lord's people today.

The McQuinns, who fellowship with the saints at the McLeod Hill Assembly in Fredericton, NB, will try to settle back down to a "normal life" after the death of their five-year-old son, Davey, who was killed when he and his sister Brittany were involved in a car accident on August 18, 1995.

The McQuinns are expecting a new baby soon and are getting ready to move into a new house so as you can see this is a busy time for them. Please pray!

On July 16, 1995, *Wesley Louis Kosin* passed into the presence of his Lord from his residence at the Bethesda Christian Retirement Home in Hayward, CA.

At the age of 17 brother Kosin accepted Christ as his Saviour. He entered Wheaton College where he met Gladys Puckey who was the first full time nurse at Wheaton. They were married on September 1, 1933.

Brother Kosin and his wife

moved in 1959 to the Wind River Reservation in Wyoming where they served the Shoshone Indians for 21 years.

Brother Kosin is survived by a sister Bessie Schneider (IL), two sons, Kinsman (MO) and Fred (SC) and a daughter Mary (AU).

John Duff who was the correspondent for Berean Bible Chapel (Wilmerding, PA) since 1984, went to be with the Lord on August 28, 1995. John was operated on August 25 for a severe heart attack problem. After surgery he suffered another heart attack and never regain consciousness. For many years he and his wife Jane were in the Friendship Avenue Assembly in Pittsburgh, PA.

He will be sorely missed for his faithfulness in the assembly and Sunday School. Please pray for Jane, the family and the assembly.

COMMENDATION

The Christians who meet in the name of the Lord at the Thorold South Gospel Chapel (Thorold, ON) have commended *Jodie Vogt* to the work of the Lord with the Ezekiel Project.

Jodie has been consistent and faithful to the assembly for 16 years and has been actively involved in Sunday School, Youth and Camp work. Since last January she has been serving with the Ezekiel Project and the believers heartily commend her to this work. Please pray for this outreach ministry.

The saints at the Gospel Chapel in Nashville, TN have commended *Matt and Wendy Phelan* to the work of the Lord in the middle Tennessee area. The Phe-

lans have faithfully served the Lord in the assembly and at Horton Haven Christian Camp.

In addition to their duties at the chapel, Matt will serve as full-time administrator of Horton Haven Christian Camp. Wendy will serve as the Camp Registrar. Please keep Matt and Wendy in your prayers.

IF YOU GOT ONE, YOU'LL WANT TO GET TOO

The believers at Ross Bible Chapel (Hamilton, OH) would like others to know that commended worker, Steve Melzer, has produced a second music tape of traditional hymns done in the acapella quartet style.

The music was recorded for those who have expressed concern over the state of "contemporary" Christian music. This tape and the first *Acapella Hymns*, has been produced with the desire to return to simplicity (2 Cor. 11:3).

If you would like a copy of *Acapella Hymns Too*, contact:

Steve Melzer
105 Island Lake Drive
Hamilton, OH 45013
(513) 895-8344

INTERESTED IN CAMP WORK?

Camp Iroquoia is seeking a couple to serve the Lord in full-time ministry. The husband should have skills and leadership in general camp maintenance; the wife should be willing to serve in housekeeping and camp store management. Contact:

Camp Iroquoia
c/o Jim Weisbecker
RR #1 Box 176
Hallstead, PA 18822-97481
Fax (717) 967-2411





Baikal and Back

Siberia, to most Americans, is a cold, barren wasteland. To a group of long- and short-term missionaries this past summer, however, Siberia was a warm, fruitful garden in which to plant the seed of the Word of God.

In 1993, while helping with evangelistic thrusts in the Yaroslavl region, Dallas and Mary Pierce felt prompted to discuss the possibility of a train trip across Siberia. Their desire was to distribute literature along the route, trusting God to give the increase.

The realities of Russian rail accommodations did not result in a flurry of applicants. In fact, if all the full-time missionaries had not agreed to go along and share costs with the short-term applicants, renting a train car would have been too expensive, and the plans would have been scrapped.

In the end, eleven missionaries, nine short-termers, and three interpreters took the trip. Dallas and Mary Pierce, who initiated the idea, were unable to come because of health problems. Other challenges presented themselves, and at times the perplexing events made us wonder whether God was telling us to forget the idea, or Satan was opposing it vehemently because he knew it would result in great blessing. Planning as we know it in America is not possible in Russia, and yet it seemed foolhardy to take eighteen Americans, a Canadian, and three Russians on the road for two weeks without some advance preparation.

Rod Libby, who made most of the arrangements, met many obstacles. Planning difficulties were compounded by a robbery incident and last minute decisions to stay behind because of illness. On the other hand, God provided willing, capable people to remain in Yaroslavl and continue the weekly meetings in all the established locations.

Knowing that the enemy always opposes the spread of the gospel, and praying that if God did not want us to go, He would positively prevent us, we loaded literature and luggage on the train. God's hand was evident on us right from the start, because our car was temporarily attached to a strange windowless car. Upon investigation, it turned out

to be a wagon for transporting prisoners, and it was full. The police escorting the prisoners permitted us to enter the smoky, cheerless prison on wheels and distribute literature to each man on board. There was a narrow corridor to the right, with a few barred windows to provide ventilation. The men were behind bars to the left with about ten men per cell. Some were sitting, and others were lying down on racks above. It appeared as though none of them had any personal belongings at all, and many of them were gaunt and pale looking, as though they had not been in the sun in a long time. They eagerly accepted the books and most began reading them immediately, although the lighting was poor. Paul Hauert and Stephen Macheski were among those that went on board. Stephen told each group of prisoners, "God loves you. Here's something good to read."

Eighteen hours later we reached Perm, a city northeast of Yaroslavl where we had conducted evangelistic meetings last summer. We were eager to renew acquaintances with believers there who had willingly helped prepare literature, provide special music, and conduct follow-up meetings. We also looked forward to joining Danny and Connie Williams who assisted with this summer's evangelistic outreaches in the Yaroslavl region, and then went to Perm to work there.

We attended a Wednesday night meeting with local believers. We arrived a bit late, having come by an overloaded bus. It was clear that most of the passengers were headed in the same direction, for the further we rode, the more crowded the bus became. Finally, when we were on the last leg of the trip, the bus could take no more passengers, and to emphasize that fact the spring broke.

As we walked in, we heard the crowd of 30-40 people singing a very slow, slightly altered version of "Jesus Loves Even Me." The building looked like a large wooden house from the outside, but inside it was full of

benches. Scripture verses in calligraphy adorned the walls. Construction of a basement was underway—an interesting procedure being undertaken by the young people. We learned that this was a special meeting called primarily to examine candidates for baptism. Each one was to be questioned separately. There were about ten candidates, and the majority of them indicated that they had first been contacted at meetings held by our group last summer. Paul Beverly gave a report on our activities since last year, and Rod Libby gave a brief exhortation from the Scriptures. As the questioning began, we were dismissed to the kitchen. There some of the believing ladies had prepared a delicious meal for us. Beef and gravy, mashed potatoes, and salad never tasted better. For dessert we sampled fresh homemade sweet rolls and, of course, hot tea. All this had been lovingly prepared over a wood stove.

Our daytime activities involved literature distribution. Some of us went to a huge outdoor market, where vendors hawked everything from military medals to 7-Up. Others of us traveled back and forth on the bus lines, and a third group stayed at the train and bus station. The market proved to be the best populated location, so the second day all of us concentrated our efforts there. Some of the vendors were Muslims, and they generally refused the literature. A few Muslims accepted it when they understood that this booklet told about Jesus Christ. Everyone else received it gladly, often asking for more.

In the evening, we met in the lobby of the hotel to sing. Maxim Kapranov and Brad Grendahl both played guitars, and we enjoyed singing in English and Russian. Maxim taught us some Russian choruses, which were instant favorites with the children.

We reached the train at noon expecting our car to be reattached to the train going to Novosibirsk shortly. However, for reasons we never understood, our departure was delayed for five hours. Perhaps the Lord wanted someone else in Perm to receive the Gospel of John, for many of us used the extra time at the train station to give out more of them.

We actually entered Siberia shortly after leaving Perm. The countryside looked much the same: birch trees, phlox, Queen Anne's lace, yellow snapdragons, chicory, haystacks, cows, villages with weathered wooden cottages with blue or green gingerbread decorations around the windows and chickens scratching in the yard. We passed the time on the

train in several pursuits. Whenever we came to a populated area, someone (usually Brian Robinson) would holler, "People!" Then, if we weren't stopping, we would toss rolled-up Gospels with tracts inside toward people near the tracks. Mike Beavis, Paul Beverly, and others would yell, "Padarok," which means "gift" in hopes that no one would think we were jettisoning trash. Russians love to read, and quite often we could see people picking up the booklets immediately. We prayed daily that God would touch the hearts of those who read them and bring them to a knowledge of the Saviour.

As we traveled east, we kept crossing time zones, so adjusting to the daily changes was challenging. We met together for a time of devotions and sharing from the Scriptures. There was rarely any hurry, and it was an uplifting time for us all.

Slava, our conductor, was very protective of us. He wanted to avoid any possibility of thievery, and so made sure we never attracted a crowd near the train car. He managed to get the car parked in a V.I.P. spot once, where, we heard, President Yeltsin's personal train car parked when he came to town. Slava was concerned whenever we got off for a twenty minute stop, that someone might be left behind. Early in the trip, when Jason Beverly jumped aboard after the train had begun moving, Slava gave him a good-natured whack, implying he had better be more careful about the time. Slava enjoyed helping us give out Bibles, and at each stop he asked for enough Bibles to give to his fellow conductors. He presented them to his friends with a flourish, and told us, "These people who get Bibles are amazed. They look at the Bible like it is a diamond that some stranger gave to them. Where did it come from? Who gave it to me? Why did he do that?" May God enlighten them to His truth as they read.

Our arrival in Novosibirsk was later than originally planned, so we slept in the train car the first night there, and checked into the hotel the next day. Novosibirsk appeared to be relatively prosperous, probably as a result of the coal and oil industries. Prosperity did not seem to prevent people from accepting literature. We did most of our distribution right in the vicinity of the train station. Several of us stood on a bridge over a wide network of rails with boxes of tracts and Gospels of John. Trainloads of people passed by in both directions constantly. We passed out literature to passengers as quickly as we

possibly could, and regretted having to pause to take the wrapping off another package of tracts, because in doing so we would miss some people.

Carolyn Daniel and Betty Brooks had the additional duty of preparing meals aboard the train for us, so they did as much grocery shopping as time permitted at each stop, too. Everyone appreciated their willing spirits as they improvised in creative ways, including preparing a salad in a red plastic wash basin. For salad dressing, they used jars of sour cream from little ladies who had brought it to the train to sell to passengers. When given Bibles, these ladies gave away their sour cream gladly.

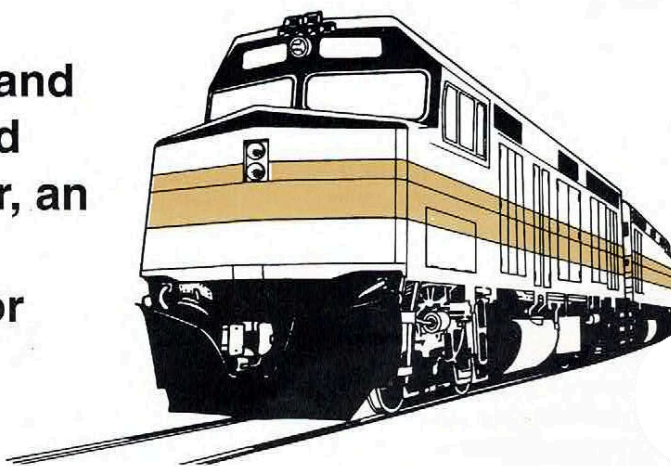
For Sunday meeting, we attended a local church that appeared to have been in existence for many years. We met five men who shared the preaching responsibilities there. About fifteen people formed a choir, and they sang several beautiful anthems in between the sermons. There were perhaps 200 people attending the meeting. We were ushered to seats behind the pulpit beside the choir and asked to sing something without any real preparation. We managed to sing two verses of "Amazing Grace" in English. Jeff Williams, a New Zealand worker who accompanied us with his parents, Reggie and Penny, gave one of the exhortations, and so did Maxim Kapranov, one of our interpreters. The meeting was conducted in a fashion quite like the assemblies I had visited in Romania. There was a plurality of leadership, most of the women had their heads covered, there was a fervency and dedication about their praying, their singing was beautiful and sometimes hauntingly so, and they displayed framed

Scripture texts on the walls—we felt quite at home.

Returning to the train, we realized that at our next stop, we would be going our separate ways. Irkutsk would be the easternmost destination for all but five of us. The city was smaller than Novosibirsk, but response there was excellent as well. After several days on the train, we all eagerly looked forward to the accouterments of a warm shower or bath. Rod Libby joked, "Watch, when we get there the water will be turned off." It was no joke, though, when, after we had already checked in to the hotel, the desk clerk mentioned that the water in the town was off for a few days. The bus that had been hired to take us from the train station to the hotel had departed, and we had an impromptu prayer session trying to figure out what we should do next. (At least on the train we had water.) Someone learned that on the outskirts of town there was a hotel used mostly by Russians, and they had cold water there. Rod Libby, Natalie Logashova, and a friend of Rod's from Irkutsk went to make arrangements at the other hotel, and we quickly checked out of the first one. We could see the Lord's hand in leading us to the second hotel, where food was better and less expensive, and where we met several interesting students plus Peter, an American teacher who lived in Moscow and seemed to be searching for meaning in life.

One day in Irkutsk was spent traveling to Lake Baikal. Many Americans have never heard of this fascinating lake, but most Russian children are as familiar with it as we are with the Great Lakes. Baikal claims to be the largest freshwater lake in the world. It means "much water" in Kurukan, the language of

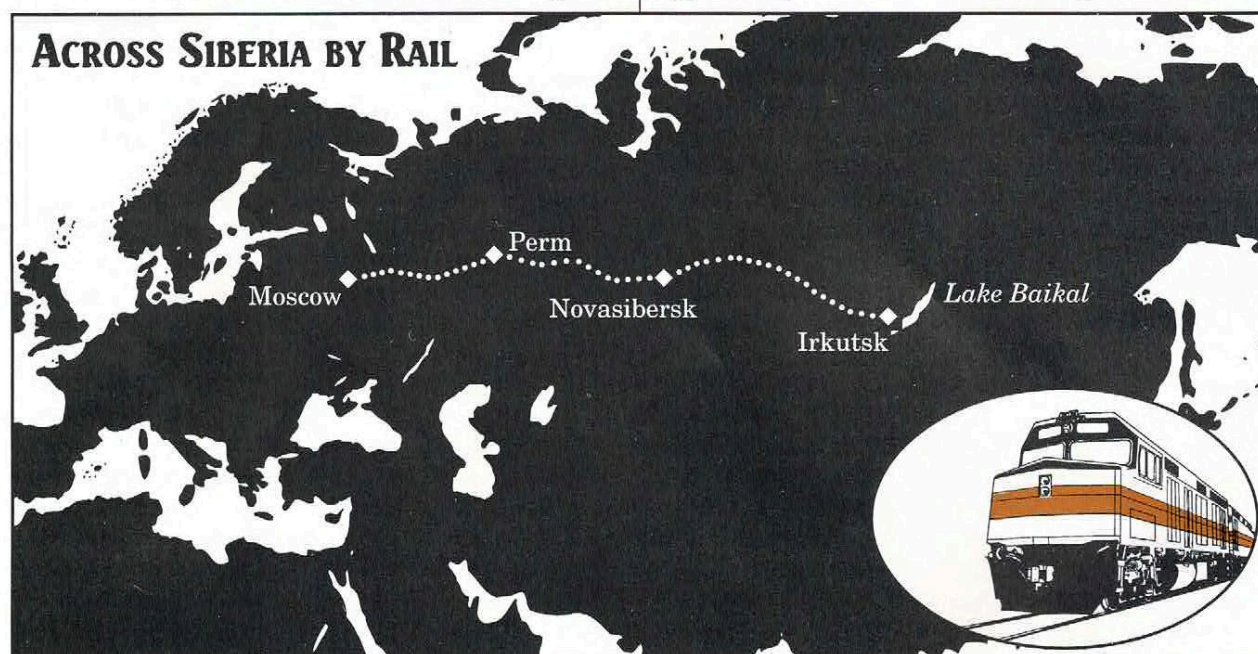
We could see the Lord's hand in leading us to the second hotel...where we met Peter, an American teacher who... seemed to be searching for meaning in life.



the people who lived there in the sixth to eighth centuries AD. It contains 20% of all the fresh water on the earth. It has been said that the rivers and streams now feeding it would need 400 years to fill it.

Following a trail upward to get a good view, we stopped at a hospital and gave out a few Bibles there to patients. One man said he had never seen a Bible before, and never dreamed he would own one. We browsed in a small shop, and a few of us purchased some jewelry made of stones that can only be found at Lake Baikal. Farther up, overlooking the lake, we paused for some singing and prayer to the mighty Creator of this corner of the planet. The setting was

plane to Alaska and then home. The rest of us returned to Yaroslavl by train. It was while we were returning to Yaroslavl that two railroad officials, both uniformed women, entered our wagon and demanded to know why we were overloading the train. We had rented the entire car and assumed that we could put whatever baggage in it we wanted, but they insisted there was a weight limit, and we were well over the limit. When they learned that this literature was being given away, not sold, their whole demeanor changed, and when they received copies of each book, they left without further objection, and appeared quite at ease about the weight situation.



the perfect place to express love for our Saviour.

As we waited for the train to leave Irkutsk, a lady came to the car and asked if we were the people who were giving away Bibles and other books. She said she had heard about us on the radio and television, and didn't believe it was a true report, so she came to see for herself. We knew nothing about our activities being on the local news, so we wondered if she was confusing us with some other group. Still, she knew where to come and when, so we gave her a Bible and she invited us all to come back again.

From Irkutsk, two of us flew to Moscow and then home. Five went farther east to Khabarovsk, and even gave out tracts in Chinese before catching a

Several times during the trip, we roamed along the entire train, giving literature to every passenger who wanted it. After two weeks and two days on the road, we returned to Yaroslavl, refreshed and ready to resume the weekly flurry of Bible classes, hostessing, preparations, counseling, literature distribution, and meetings. We returned with a clearer concept of the vastness of this land of Russia, and the huge task of reaching her population with the gospel. We are considering a train trip next year northward toward Minsk, if the Lord has not returned. We also understand more fully why our Lord said we must pray to Him, the Lord of the Harvest, that He would thrust forth laborers into His field!

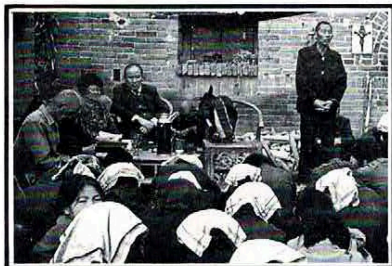
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What's Going On?

DEADLY FORCE

Chinese police are using any means they deem necessary to stop the rapid growth of Christianity in this Communist country. So reports *The Bible League* in their Fall 1995 newsletter.

Recently, Li De-Xian, a Bible teacher in a secret house church, was arrested and nearly beaten to death for preaching and teaching about Christ. Police smashed his head against a stone wall repeatedly until friends standing by pleaded for mercy. Officers then arrested the owner of the house, Mrs. Chen Qun Yi, who later found out that her own son



had reported the covert church to the police. The police confiscated the attendees' Bibles.

Despite growing violence, Chinese Christians continue to gather secretly, sharing what few Bibles they have.

It is doubtful whether or not this kind of persecution will ever appear in this country, but one thing is for sure—the enemy is constantly on the offensive, seeking any way to discourage the people of God and keep others from hearing the truth found in God's Word. Pray!

E-MAIL NOT SAFE

If you are currently using the information highway as a way of

accessing Russian believers—beware. The government has been monitoring electronic messages through a local e-mail company and have caused visa problems for at least one missionary. While it may be impossible for the government to monitor everything that comes into the country, certain ministries and agencies have been targeted for a systematic invasion of privacy.

COLOMBIAN CRISIS

The US Embassy in Bogota says foreigners and multinationals are under extra threat from Colombian guerrillas until the end of the year. Particularly dangerous are Bogota and the Bucaramanga and Cucuta areas. With the deaths of two New Tribes missionaries earlier this year, Colombia's president has declared a state of emergency.

Please pray for Miss Ruby Campbell, Jim and Sharon Fleming, Paul and Alma Sue Goring, Helmut and Shirley Haltrich, Brian and L. Sheran Killins, Carl and Joan Lehmann, William and Nancy Loudon, Miss Sharon McIntosh, Gary and Vivian Michael, Miss Eva Rashleigh, Bruce and Priscilla Simpson, and Miss Marcia Vander Laan who are presently listed under Colombia in the *CMML Missionary Prayer Handbook*.

NEWCOMERS TO THE FRONT

It is undoubtedly difficult to adjust to life on the mission field and we need to remember before the Throne of Grace those who recently arrived on the field.

Martha Logan (daughter of Paul and Lois Logan) was commended in 1994 to Zambia, Africa. Recently she wrote, "One of the highlights for me has been teaching Bible in one of the local government schools...I look forward to being more involved in this area as the Lord leads... Please...pray for perseverance and continued help in making progress with Luvale study."

Stephen and Allison Yuille were commended to Angola this year and have written: "For now our primary goal is to learn Portuguese...We ask that you pray for patience and perseverance in our language study,...the building of relationships with our neighbors, wisdom regarding future decisions, and continued peace in Angola." —MSC Canada

A YEN FOR MORE

With a too-strong yen damaging the world economy, Japan, Germany, and the United States took concerted action to weaken the yen against the dollar. As a result the dollar has risen to its highest level against the Japanese currency—100 yen to the dollar. This can be interpreted as good news for financially strapped missionaries who are ministered to in US funds. —Pulse

REPLICA IN SAMARIA

The chief archaeologist for Judea and Samaria claims to have uncovered an exact replica of the "Second Temple." It was located through the writings of the Jewish historian, Flavius Josephus. The ruins lie underneath the remains of a fifth century Byzantine

tine Church on Mount Gerizim, overlooking Nablus.

The archaeologist began excavating in 1983 and has uncovered 2 meter thick walls, gates, and altars. It seems that the replica (built by Sanballat and others) was surrounded by living quarters similar to those in Jerusalem where 15,000 people lived in an area covering 100 acres. The dig is expected to open to tourists in 1996. —*Spotlight on Israel*

CHRISTIAN CONTRACTS

Muslim militants in Pakistan are offering as much as \$30,000 to anyone who kills two Christians acquitted on blasphemy charges.

Salamat Masih, 14, and Rehmat Masih, 44, fled to Europe the day after their release from a Lahore prison. To date four Christians in Pakistan have been killed because of false allegations of blasphemy against them.

FIRSTBORN FOUND?

The tomb of Ramses II's sons, the largest ever discovered in Egypt, may add archaeological evidence to the Old Testament story of Exodus. The tomb was discovered in February by Egyptologist Kent Weeks, 53, who leads the excavation effort, expected to take 10-12 years.

Ramses II is believed to have been the Pharaoh when Moses led Israel out of Egyptian captivity. The hieroglyphs at the front of the tomb suggest that it holds Ramses II's firstborn son, Amen-hir-khopshef.

If the son's mummy is found, and if scientists are able to discover how he died, that finding may corroborate the biblical account of the Exodus in which the

firstborn of Egypt were killed.

RAILROADED

Opposition is building against Christians in many parts of India. With many Hindus turning to Christ in recent weeks, many area believers have been attacked and harassed.

In Kerala some of the brethren have rented a booth in the Railway Station platform to display Bibles and distribute gospel tracts. They received a threatening letter which read as follows:

"Approximately 40 days ago, we had warned you about the Bible placed on the platform. We also asked you to remove it from there within two weeks, but you have not. Since you are not converted yet...we give you two more weeks. Each time the train comes 7-8 people stop others to distribute Christian literature. The Railway Station is not a place for this, and you must stop immediately.

"This is not a request—this is an order! The price of disobeying will be very high. Any Hindu who becomes an instrument to support and encourage the foreign god and their agents is considered as enemies to Hindus and will be dealt with ruthlessly. If you fail to do what we order you to do, your eyes won't be opening, but will rather be shut forever."

Please pray for our Indian brethren as they seek to reach that country for Christ against difficult opposition.

BAPTIST SHAKE-UP

Charles Stanley, senior pastor of First Baptist Church, Atlanta,

has relinquished all administrative responsibilities for the 14,000 member congregation in order to deal with his marital problems.

Stanley, who has led FBC for 26 years, said he will continue as pastor, but his "only responsibility will be to teach and preach the Word of God." Upon his recommendation, the church has appointed a committee to oversee the administration of the church.

Stanley and his wife, Anna, have been separated since 1992 according to a divorce petition she filed in 1993. Dr. Stanley has announced that, "if my wife divorces me, I would resign as pastor immediately." —*Baptist Press*

ERRATA

Concerning the article entitled "Too Good to be True"—a report on the financial improprieties of the New Era Philanthropy—it has come to our attention from the Canadian Division of Compassion International (one of the organizations named as having invested in New Era and John G. Bennett, Jr.'s Ponzi scheme) that they have never invested in New Era or had any involvement with it. The only linkage was when they received an unsolicited gift, but promptly returned it unused.

We apologize for any inconvenience to the Lord's people or the furtherance of His work. If you would like more information, contact:

Wes Stafford, President or
Ed Anderson, Financial Dir.
Compassion International
(800) 336-7539

Choose Your Assumptions Carefully

Assumptions are critical. If you're in a strange city and you assume north is straight ahead but it's really to your right, you're going to have trouble getting to your destination.

Jim Upton worked as a mechanical engineer for over 40 years, primarily in research and development. Now retired, he fellowships at Believers Bible Chapel in a Minneapolis suburb.

The validity of the assumptions made in the beginning of a venture determine the validity of the conclusion. This is preeminently true in the creation-evolution debate.

SCIENCE UNDERMINED

At the beginning of modern science, foremost scientists like Newton, Kepler, Pascal, Boyle, Faraday, and Pasteur accepted that the world was created. Isaac Newton affirmed this when he said that we must ultimately go outside mechanical causes to creation *ex nihilo* by a First Cause which is not mechanical.¹ Incorporated into this belief was the firm position that the earth was young, less than 10,000 years old: there was no pressure from either the data or the scientific community to demand a billion year-old earth.² Crucial understanding of the fundamentals in many areas of science flourished at that time.

Charles Lyell, with others, (early 1800s) proposed an idea that had a far-reaching impact on scientific thinking—that present processes, which could be observed and measured, are keys to the past. That is, the natural processes, now an established part of our scientific arsenal, have in the past been operating in the same way. Consequently, all that is needed is to apply today's knowledge backward over time to discover the "how" of events which have occurred over the earth's history. In a word, uniformitarianism. Lyell's idea was not based on scientific investigations, but merely on materialistic and naturalistic thinking which precluded the existence of an outside, divine Creator.³

The similarity to the concept mentioned in 2 Peter 3:4 ("all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation") is striking. This philosophy spread rapidly, possibly because it allowed scientists to do what they liked best: conduct studies in their laboratories, freely engage in intriguing, creative thinking, speculation, and fascinating calculations—without their perceived restrictions

from either God or His Word. However, once God is removed from the picture, the sense of moral responsibility declines, then virtually vanishes,⁴ leaving the one that is seeking the truth from nature with unbridled reason "free" to create philosophies to suit their fancies. Was it "every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually,"⁵ all over again?

WE NEED MORE TIME—OR DO WE?

It was quickly recognized that natural processes without extraordinary intervention—such as special creation—would require very, very long periods of time to bring about the earth and all that's in and around it, throughout the universe. Lyell's idea was soon followed by efforts to find evidence of an old universe, old enough to allow natural phenomenon to form all the features of nature. Finding the scenarios which demonstrate the earth age at billions of years was (and is) a tremendous challenge that provided an opportunity for brilliant imaginations and impressive scientific missions.

In reference to his earlier years, Charles Darwin said: "I did not then in the least doubt the strict and literal truth of every word in the Bible." After he viewed the great canyon of the Santa Cruz river and the Condor Cliffs in southern Argentina, he related: "No possible action of any flood could have modeled the land..." What happened? Reportedly, he was reading Lyell's "Principles of Geology" during that time and, it is suspected, applied Lyell's simple idea to his observations⁶ to describe the formation of this canyon in millions of years. On the same Beagle voyage, he applied the old-earth thinking to biological observations. After this trip, Darwin announced to the world, eager to receive his philosophies, both the geological and biological evolutionary notions.⁷ If he would have known "about the physical process of cavitation and the sudden large magnitude erosion...he would have no problem retaining his belief in

a young earth when he saw Conder Cliffs."⁸

Further, if Darwin would have had the results of the Mount St. Helen eruption (May 18, 1980), he may not have given a moment's thought to altering his professed belief in "the strict and literal truth of every word in the Bible." We now understand that during this and subsequent volcanic actions great amounts of volcanic ash, steam, and mud came flowing down the mountainside at high velocities to the area below, building up some 600 feet of minute layers of material. Two years later, another eruption brought mud slides down the mountain and across the land, catastrophically cutting intricate canyons 100-140 feet deep into solid rock—gouging out a 1/40-scale Grand Canyon in essentially one day.⁷

Examination of the layers of material on these new canyon walls near Mount St. Helen revealed formations identical to those geologists have proclaimed to have taken millions/billions of years to form. This alleged process included first laying down the soil in the familiar layered structure, or strata (millions of years), and then later cut away to great depths (and widths) by a river eroding the earth, a few grains of sand at a time, to form the canyon. The assumption of an old earth for geological effects is evidently not necessary, or even desirable, as the Mount St. Helen's observations show. Other findings at the Mount St. Helen site further exhibit the error of the old-earth assumption. Additionally, the concept of canyon development through slow erosion by a river—as Darwin proposed and as textbooks have taught for decades—is being set aside by many Grand Canyon scientists who are thinking more of catastrophic glacier effects.⁷

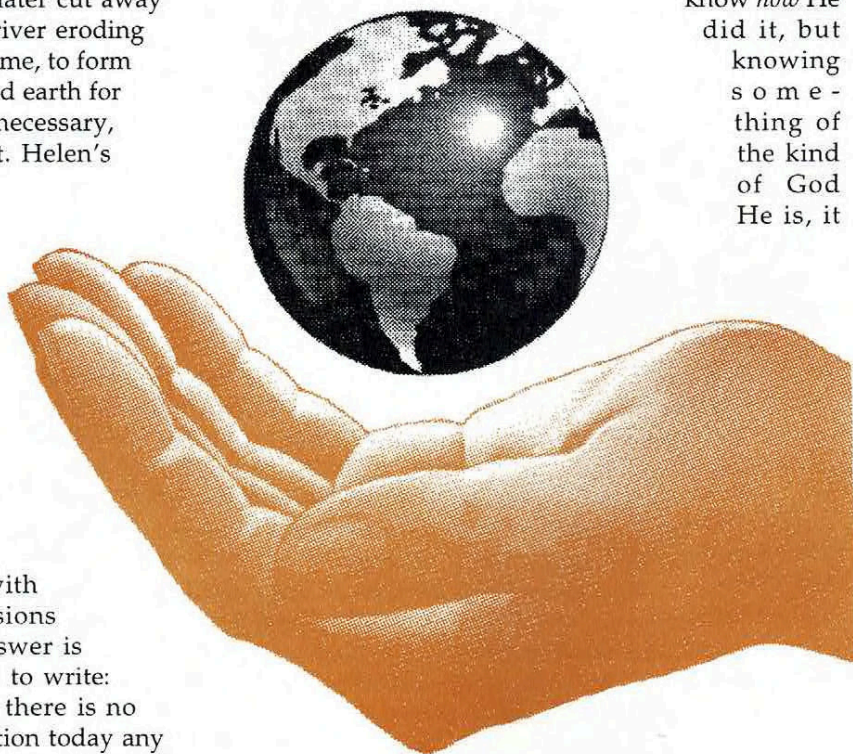
Additional examples dealing with old-earth vs. young-earth discussions could be cited; repeatedly, the answer is the same, prompting Dean Griffith to write: "Relax, young-earth Creationists, there is no reason for you to change your position today any more than there was for those early scientists in the days of Darwin.... The truth is, there just isn't any empirical evidence saying that the earth is billions of

years old; no facts exist that suggest the young-earth Creation model must be changed! There is no reason for you not to believe that this earth was created! There is no reason for you not to believe in a young-earth model!"⁹ To the devoted believer of the Holy Scriptures, this statement was not only no surprise, but it was confidently expected. True science will come around to the truth, though it may take time.

I'M GLAD YOU ASKED

The naturalist may sincerely ask the believer, "How did your God make all the things that we see here and throughout the world and the immense universe from the gigantic stars down to the subatomic particles?" Or, "How could He put all of this material into the innumerable, intricate systems (physical, chemical, biological, electrical, etc.) and integrate them into one vast

universe?" The believer can only answer, "I don't know *how* He did it, but knowing something of the kind of God He is, it



is evident *that* He did it." "For the invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse" (Rom. 1:20). We humbly and reverently bow before His great Majesty quite contentedly.

In turn, the believer may reasonably ask: "How did this universe come to be by naturalistic means without the aid of the all-wise, eternal Almighty God who has the perfections described in the Bible"—but then may need to stand back to catch a barrage of answers, some of which are new because the old ones have been found to be wrong during recent space and earthbound studies. Included in these responses might be large numbers of articles written by conscientious scientific experts in their field, each referencing the other to add credibility to their position while, perhaps unintentionally, covering the erroneous assumption of an old earth.

We, as believers, can understand the natural man's aversion to readily accepting a Creator, because One with the ability to create such a complex and elaborate universe with systems working in precise harmony and perfection must also have attributes beyond any of us. And that starts men on a short road to coming face-to-face with the moral perfections of God. For totally sinful man to do that is a terribly difficult thing; no doubt the first response is denial. The second may be refusal. The best response is, of course, to join the believer in genuine humility before the Almighty Creator-God who now he can see as his great Benefactor and Friend.

How often does that happen? Lang has observed that in more than three decades of presenting creation facts to unbelievers, none have ever surrendered to the facts alone; it is only the work of God and His Word that changes man's thinking and leads them to believe the truth and reject the error.¹⁰

ASSUMPTIONS ARE CRITICAL

Whether we start out assuming (believing) that there is a God or that there is no God determines our conclusions on creation and evolution. These are watershed assumptions. To state it another way: Do we start with the assumption (belief) that an eternal God has infinite wisdom and the ability to create the entire universe without expending any effort and, additionally, has attributes of absolute holiness, infi-

nite love, grace, righteousness, truth—and more?

Or, do we start with the assumption that inanimate matter (origin?) has some secret ability through time, chance, and environment (though each are common and usable to us they have no inherent creational power)¹⁰ to produce the ever amazing microscopic and macroscopic worlds with all their intricate, inter-linked, and incompletely understood content, principles, and processes?

Or, from a different view: Do we give God the glory and honor for the existence of the universe and all that is in it—or do we give glory and honor to lifeless substance and the creative ability of the mind of natural man?

PERSONALLY...

The answer is easy—it requires too much faith to accept evolution, even if it didn't conflict with Scripture; it's too uncertain and changeable to risk resting your life and afterlife on! Besides, God has provided eternal redemption through His Creator-Son that overwhelms everything else imaginable both now and forevermore! This is the message we ultimately have to proclaim: "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (2 Cor. 5:17).

ENDNOTES:

1. Smith, Crosbie & Wise, M. Norton, *Energy and Empire*, New York: Cambridge, 1989, p.92.
2. Griffith, Dean, "What 'Time' Is It?" *Proceedings of the 1992 Twin-Cities Creation Conference*, St Paul, MN, 1992, p.37.
3. Loc. cit.
4. Romans 1:21-32.
5. Genesis 6:5.
6. MacKinney, Paul M., "Discovering Darwin's Deception," *Proceedings of the 1992 Twin Cities Creation Conference*, St Paul, MN, 1992, p. 202.
7. Austin, Steve, "Mount St. Helen," video, Institute for Creation Research, (PO Box 2667, El Cajun, CA).
8. MacKinney.
9. Griffith, p.39.
10. Personal communication with Walter Lang, Founder, Genesis Institute (Minneapolis MN, 1995).

The Designer

From a forthcoming book on the wonders of God in creation, providence, and redemption.



When I consider Thy heavens, the work of Thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which Thou hast ordained; what is man, that Thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that Thou visitest him? (Ps. 8:3-4). The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth His handywork. (Ps. 19:1). He telleth the number of the stars; He calleth them all by their names. Great is our Lord, and of great power: His understanding is infinite (Ps. 147:4-5).

Before thinking about the stars in the heavens, we might well ask, "Who made the universe that contains all the heavenly bodies? In other words, who made space?" The thought boggles the mind, as well it might. Spurgeon said that "any part of the creation has more instruction in it than the human mind will ever exhaust, but the celestial realm is peculiarly rich in spiritual lore."

If it cost a penny to travel a thousand miles, a cruise to the moon would be only \$2.38. But if you wanted to go to the sun, the one-way ticket would cost \$930. And a trip to the nearest star would be—hold onto your hat—\$260 million.

With the naked eye, we can see about 5,000 stars. With a homemade telescope, 2,000,000 come into view. The Palomar telescope enlarges our vision to billions and billions. Sir James Jeans said that there are probably as many stars as there are grains of sand on all the beaches of the world. Yet the stars are not crowded together. Rather, they are like lonely lightships on an ocean without shores.

Astronomers can see objects 10 billion light years away (a light year is the distance light travels in a year). Since it travels 186,282 miles a second, it covers six trillion miles a year. When we look into the heavens at night, we are seeing history, not current events. For example, we see the star Rigel where it was 540 years ago. It has taken that long for its light to reach our planet.

The galaxies seem to be traveling away

from us at enormous speeds. If some are traveling at the speed of light—too bad!—we will never see them.

As far as size is concerned, our planet is very insignificant in the universe. It is like a speck of cosmic dust. A thousand earths could fit inside Jupiter. It would take 1,300,000 earths to make one sun. The Milky Way contains 300 million suns. Some stars could hold 500 million suns the size of ours.

It is estimated that there are some 100 billion galaxies and 100 billion stars in every galaxy. Einstein believed that we have scanned with our largest telescopes only a billionth of "theoretical space." If we were somehow projected out into the cosmos, the chance that we would land on any heavenly body is infinitesimally small—not worth mentioning. The stars are, on the average, light years apart.

Even unbelieving scientists are forced to admit that the galaxies reveal a universal and extraordinary order and beauty. An astronomer said that galaxies are to astronomy what atoms are to physics. Another astronomer spoke of the awe which the universe inspires because of the intricate and subtle way it is put together.

Actually the size of the universe is beyond our comprehension. It is profuse with amazing facts, with astounding interrelationships, and with awesome mechanical precision.

A recent scientific article said that the universe is so finely tuned that the odds of achieving it by chance would be the same as throwing an imaginary microscopic dart across the universe to the most distant quasar and hitting a bull's eye one millimeter in diameter. Actually this graphic illustration is pathetically inadequate. The odds are infinitely less than that!

Wonder of wonders! Vast surprise!

Can bigger wonder be?—

That He who built the starry skies

Once bled and died for me.

—Author Unknown





John William Fletcher

Wesley said that if John Fletcher had possessed physical stamina for it, he would have been the most eloquent preacher in England.



ean Guillaume de la Flechere (1729-1785) was raised in Nyon, Switzerland, on the picturesque shores of Lake Lemman. As a young man he visited Geneva, the Jura and Alps Mountains, the famous Castle of Chillon, and Lausanne.

Fletcher took the highest honors at the University of Geneva and then went to Lentzburg to study German, Hebrew, and higher mathematics. When he was in his teens, his parents informed him that they desired him to become a reformed clergyman, and at first he agreed to their wishes. "I went through my studies with a design of entering into orders; but, afterwards upon serious reflections, feeling I was unequal to so great a burden, and disgusted with the necessity I should be under to subscribe to the doctrine of predestination, I yielded to the desire of my friends, who would have me go into the army."

Born inside a bastion of Calvinism, Fletcher abhorred the principal doctrine of that system of theology, and would become the greatest writer against Calvinism. Although a delicate, sensitive young man, he chose to become a soldier rather than to preach the doctrines his heart and mind could not endorse. He accepted a captain's commission to fight for Portugal against Brazil, but an accident prevented him from engaging in actual warfare.

Just before his ship sailed, a serving maid let the teakettle fall on his leg, and scalded him so badly that he could not go. Soon after this, his uncle secured a colonel's commission for him in the Dutch army. But his uncle died, and a peace treaty was signed, and so the Lord again redirected Fletcher.

In 1752, Fletcher went to England to learn English. While being a tutor for the two sons of Thomas Hill of Shropshire, he was definitely converted to God. After having a vivid dream about eternal judgment, he said, "For

some days I was so dejected and harrassed in mind as to be unable to apply myself to anything." Then he heard about the Methodists. He was told that they did "nothing but pray." After hearing them for himself, he became convinced that some inward change was necessary to make him happy.

After his conversion, his wife Mary recorded: "His bands were broken. His freed soul began to breathe a purer air. Sin was beneath his feet. He could triumph in the Lord. From this time he walked in the ways of God, and, thinking he had not leisure enough in the day, he made it a constant rule to sit up two whole nights in the week for reading, prayer, and meditation."

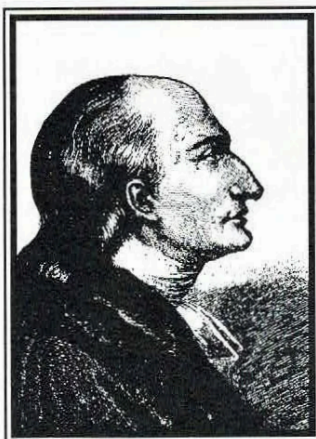
Fletcher wrote little concerning himself. He spared his words and he was sparing in his food intake, eating little besides vegetables, butter, and milk. Thursdays were set aside as his fast day. As a frugal time manager also, every moment was usefully employed.

About the year 1756, Fletcher joined the Methodists, and by 1757 he had become John Wesley's most valued co-laborer. For a brief time he traveled with Wesley, and then to Wesley's consternation, in 1760, he became vicar of the Anglican Church at Madeley, where he continued until his death.

John Wesley opposed his settling at Madeley, but later acquiesced. It appears Fletcher went to Madeley as a refuge from Wesley's exertions. Wesley was known to have worn out more than one of his fellow preachers.

After 1765, Methodist Societies were formed in the neighborhood of Madeley, and Fletcher frequently preached to them, drawing enormous crowds so that the buildings could not contain the people. In 1765, he visited Bath and Bristol, preaching in the large meeting-houses belonging to the Countess of Huntington. She wrote, "Deep and awful are the impressions made on every hand. Dear Mr. Fletcher's preaching is truly apostolic."

When about forty years of age, he visited his home in Switzerland and preached to the



descendants of the Albigenses, and to other congregations. Everywhere he was regarded as superhuman. An old Swiss wept as Fletcher left. "Oh, sir, how unfortunate for my country! During my lifetime it has produced but one angel of a man, and now it is our lot to lose him!"

In 1768, Lady Huntington invited Fletcher to be superintendent of her new seminary at Trevecca, Wales. He took the job, but three years later he quietly resigned because of doctrinal differences. Joseph Benson, the headmaster, says, "He was received as an angel of God. It is impossible for me to describe the veneration in which we all held him."

In 1770, Fletcher visited Italy but on his return he discovered a major rift that threatened the success of the great awakening in England. In 1771, the Calvinist controversy broke out within Methodism, and separated the Calvinist Methodists led by George Whitefield and the Countess of Huntington and the Arminian Methodists led by John and Charles Wesley. To Wesley's and Whitefield's credit, they did not allow the strife of tongues to drown out their gospel work. All during the controversy they continued on in itinerant work. Even when Augustus Toplady published a critique against Wesley entitled "The Old Fox Tarred and Feathered," Wesley quietly left it to Fletcher to defend his views.

Fletcher's great work was entitled *Checks to Antinomianism*. He tried to harmonize the Scriptures on predestination and those on man's free will and moral responsibility. This work of four volumes (about 1560 pages) remains a bulwark among Arminian Methodists. I disagree with many of the conclusions that Fletcher made, but will admit that his kindly spirit permeates the work. It is strange writing. Fletcher could not have been more denunciatory than he was, but he did it so graciously that his opponents were mellowed, if not disarmed.

John Wesley pronounced Fletcher the most unblameable man, in every respect, that, within fourscore years, he had found in Europe or America. He chose Fletcher as his successor to direct the Methodist Societies (but Fletcher, though younger, preceded Wesley in death).

Fletcher, however, had his share of temptations. He confided with Wesley that there were gloomy episodes when he wanted to end his own life. He was so passionate by nature that he often prayed the whole night to get victory over his temper. His wife

would wake up to find him lying prone on the floor in agony, pleading with God for the victory. Yet in his *Life of Fletcher*, Wesley says: "For twenty years and upwards before his death, no one ever saw him out of temper, or heard him utter a rash expression, on any provocation whatever." Wesley did not say if this included his wife.

Despite his gentleness, he had his enemies. His preaching was so bold that many would remain aghast and astonished at him.

An idea of the force of his messages is given by Hester Ann Rogers, who described a meeting held in 1781. "He also dwelt largely on these words, 'Where sin abounded, grace did much more abound.' He asked, 'How did sin abound? Had it not overpowered your whole soul? Were not all your passions, tempers, propensities, inordinate and evil? Did not pride, anger, self-will, and unbelief, all reign over you? And, when the Spirit of God strove with you, did you not repel all His convictions, and put Him far from you? Well, my brethren, ye were then the servants of sin, and were free from righteousness; but, now, being made free from sin, ye became servants to God; and holiness shall overspread your whole soul, so that all your tempers and passions shall be henceforth regulated and governed by Him who now sitteth upon the throne of your heart, making all things new. As you once resisted the Holy Spirit, so now ye shall have power to resist all the subtle frauds or fierce attacks of Satan.'

"Mr. Fletcher then, with lifted hands, cried, 'Who will believe the report? You are only in an improper sense called believers who reject this. Who is a believer? One who believes a few things which God has spoken? Nay, but one who believes all that ever proceeded out of His mouth. Here then is the word of the Lord: As sin abounded, grace shall much more abound! ...O, ye half-believers, will you still plead for the murderers of your Lord? Which of these will you hide as a serpent in your bosom? Shall it be anger, pride, self-will, or accursed unbelief? O, be no longer befooled! Bring these enemies to thy Lord, and let Him slay them.'"

Fletcher's biographer, Joseph Benson, described the effect of his preaching. "He was peculiarly assisted while he was applying those encouraging words, *Him that cometh unto Me I will in no wise cast out*. The people were exceedingly affected; indeed quite melted down. The tears streamed so fast from the eyes of

the poor colliers, that their black faces were washed by them, and almost universally streaked with white." Again, "He preached in the evening from 2 Thessalonians 2:13. The whole congregation was dissolved in tears. He spoke like one who had but just left the converse of God and angels."

Again Benson says, "Prayer, praise, love, and zeal, all ardent, elevated above what one would think attainable in this state of frailty, were the element in which he continually lived. And as to others, his one employment was to call, entreat, and urge them to ascend with him to the glorious Source of being and blessedness. He had leisure comparatively for nothing else. Languages, arts, sciences, grammar, rhetoric, logic, even divinity itself, as it is called, were all laid aside when he appeared in the school-room among the students. His full heart would not suffer him to be silent. He must speak, and they

were readier to hearken to this servant and minister of Jesus Christ than to attend to Sallust, Virgil, Cicero, or any Latin or Greek historian, poet, or philosopher they had been engaged in reading. And they seldom hearkened long, before they were all in tears, and every heart caught fire from the flame that burned in his soul."

MATERIAL FOR THIS ARTICLE WAS GLEANED FROM THESE BOOKS

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Joseph Benson, *The Life of John W. de la Flechere*, J. K. Foster, *The Life and Times of Selina, Countess of Huntington* (2 vol.)
J. C. Ryle, *Christian Leaders of the 18th Century*, The Banner of Truth Trust

Fiery Preaching

The wife of a butcher attended the place where Fletcher preached. She was a Christian, but her husband became menacing when she talked about going to hear John Fletcher. Despite his threats, she told him she could not in conscience refrain from going. He was outraged, and told her that if she went anymore, he would cut her throat as soon as she came home. Undeterred, she said, "This made me cry mightily to God, that He would support me in the trying hour. Last Sunday, after many struggles with the devil and my own heart, I came downstairs ready to go. 'Well then,' said he, 'I shall not cut your throat; but I will heat the oven, and throw you into it the moment you come home.'" With that threat in her ears, she opened the door and left for the meeting.

As Fletcher stepped into the pulpit, his mind became so clouded that he could not recall any of his sermon. He was baffled and almost stepped down without saying anything when the thought came to say something on Daniel 3. He did so, and the message came together in an extraordinary way.

On the next Wednesday, the butcher's wife came to Fletcher and said, "While you were speaking of the three children whom Nebuchadnezzar cast into the furnace, I found it all belonged to me. And when the sermon was ended, I thought: if I had a thousand lives, I could lay them all down for God. I felt my whole soul so filled with His love that I hastened home fully determined to give myself to whatsoever God pleased; nothing doubting, but that either He would take me to heaven, if He suffered me to be burned to death, or that He would some way deliver me, even as He did His three servants that trusted in Him. When I got almost to our own door, I saw the flames issuing out of the mouth of the oven. I expected nothing else but that I should be thrown into it immediately. I felt my heart rejoice that if it were so, the will of the Lord would be done. I opened the door, and, to my utter astonishment, saw my husband on his knees, wrestling with God in prayer for the forgiveness of his sins. He caught me in his arms, earnestly begged my pardon, and has continued diligently seeking God ever since."

It is Written

Did David have this in mind when he described his creation, "In Thy book all my members were written..." (Ps. 139:16)

Michael Windheuser received his Ph.D. in Microbiology from Kansas University in 1990. He currently is employed by SmithKline Beecham Pharmaceuticals and gives medical education talks to physicians, nurses, and pharmacists in Ohio. He and his wife are involved in the early stages of a new assembly in their area.

Early in our lives we recognize the importance of patterns. The pattern of our mother's face distinguishes it from all others. Later, it becomes clear that the pattern of sounds spoken to us carries with it some meaning or idea (comfort, love, disapproval). Despite the increasing complexity of ideas expressed verbally to us as we grow, we learn our native language rapidly. Eventually written symbols can be substituted for the sounds of the spoken language and we learn that the sequence or pattern of the symbols (letters/words) represent the same ideas as spoken words. If we now look at the biological world of plants, animals, and people, we find that the directions for building and maintaining a living cell are "written" on the genetic material, DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid), using a precise and complicated genetic language.¹ The evolutionary explanation for the existence of this genetic language and its use by all living things ignores recent developments in information theory and the nature of the requirements for the design of biological systems.² Consideration of these developments leads to a much different conclusion regarding the origin of the genetic language (code) and also the origin of the massive amount of information (ideas) stored in living cells using that language.

The organization of atoms and molecules into the incredibly complex array of structures and delicately balanced chemical machinery of a living cell requires huge amounts of information, specific directions, and responsive control mechanisms. These directions are "written" on the genetic material (DNA) that is found within every living cell.³ When this store of information is "read" by the machinery of the cell, it is able to direct its many functions. Under the control of this information are the amazing processes that form the tissues, organs, and organ systems so familiar to us in the anatomy of plants, animals, and our own bodies. If the instructions

from a single cell were to be written down on paper, it has been estimated that they could easily take up as much as 500,000 pages!⁴

The structure of DNA was deduced by Watson and Crick in the early 1950's and is often described as a twisted ladder.⁵ What we now call a gene was found to be a sequence of chemical building blocks called nucleotides that could be thought of as one side of a ladder where the rungs were cut down the middle. It is the sequence of the cut rungs (chemical "bases" known as adenine, guanine, thymine and cytosine) that represents the information of the gene.⁶

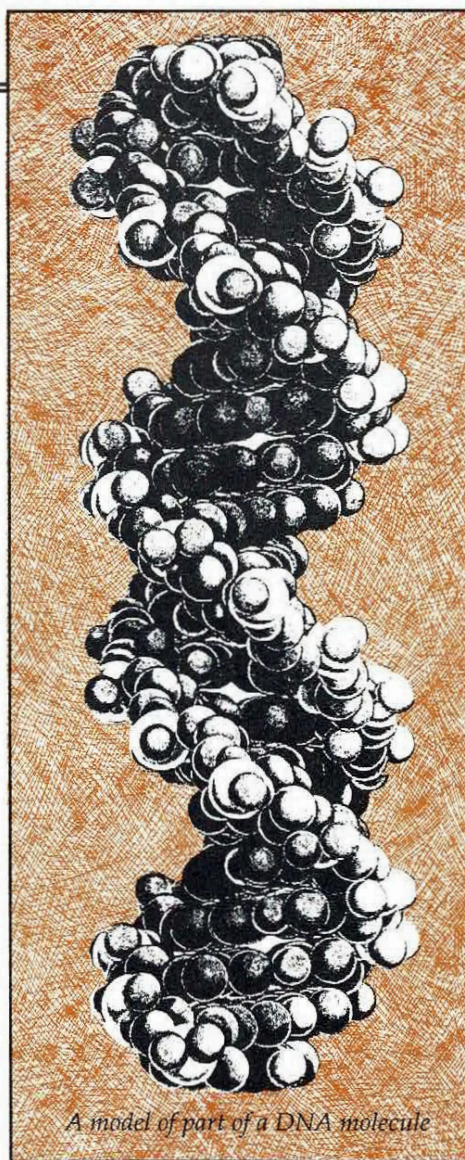
Each genetic "word" is composed of a set of three bases in order on one side of the DNA ladder. Genetic "words" (codons) strung together in the text of the gene correspond to the positions of particular amino acids in proteins which will be built by the machinery of the cell as it "reads" the DNA.⁷ Proteins function as structural elements of cells, as messengers (hormones) and as enzymes which regulate essentially all of the chemical reactions needed for living systems to survive.

Thus, a fully developed genetic language exists within a living cell. A language which has its own grammar and punctuation⁸ and which can be read and understood by the machinery of the cell. It must be emphasized that non-living chemicals do not generate ideas or information on their own, nor do they decide among themselves to agree upon a language convention. These activities are characteristics of intelligent beings and not dead chemicals. In other words, the chemicals of the paper and ink could not write the book! Language which communicates information is the product of intelligence and is based on agreed upon conventions of meaning. For example, the letters "AND" form a word used as a conjunction in English. But using a different language convention, say German, the same meaning is expressed as "UND." In the genetic language of life, the sequence "UUU" cor-

responds to the amino acid phenylalanine because the machinery of the cell is programmed to understand this triplet of DNA bases as directing the placement of phenylalanine at a particular point in the structure of a protein. Modern information theory (as well as reason) has concluded that language and written language agreements do not develop spontaneously apart from intelligence.⁹ It seems, then, less than rational to suggest that matter and energy, which have no inherent information content, when left over vast eons of time, will (and we are told did) spontaneously organize into an information storage (DNA), word processing system (mRNA, tRNA, ribosomes), and energy regulation system (chloroplasts, mitochondria, glycolysis, etc.).¹⁰ Despite the many attempts to experimentally show that it is possible, this idea of auto-organization of dead matter into living things is an article of faith in the evolutionary view of the world which excludes, *a priori*, the possibility of an intelligent Designer/Writer as the originator of the language of life and, indeed, of the very material of life as well.¹¹

A huge amount of genetic information is carried by the chemistry of the DNA molecule, but it originated in the thoughts of the Designer who wrote those thoughts down in the chemical structure of DNA and who also imposed the language convention on the cellular machinery to enable it to properly read and interpret that information.

Long ago, William Paley suggested that the existence of a watch implied the existence of a watchmaker. Today we might say that the very existence of an airplane undoubtedly proves the existence of highly intelligent and skilled designers and engineers. Wilber and Orville Wright knew that the pieces of metal and wood in their bicycle shop



A model of part of a DNA molecule

would never put themselves together into something that could fly without their help. The same is true of the genetic material. Its structure and the ideas with which it is programmed do not come from the chemicals of which it is made, but rather they come from the mind of the Designer/Writer. The DNA molecule carries the Designer's ideas, using its chemical structure and a language of chemical "words" to enable those ideas to become real structures and functions in a cell or organism.

To believe, as many do, that living cells developed from non-living chemicals by random chemical reactions powered by uncontrolled energy over unsearchable past millennia seems rather foolish in the face of the realization that language, complicated ideas, and fully functional designs for biochemical machines could come only from an intelligent being. The DNA molecule and the genetic language is not compelling evidence of a common evolutionary heritage for all living things, but

rather is compelling evidence of the power of the one true God and His consummate skill and power. We think it best to respond to those who ask for proof of the reality of the Creator God in the same way as Jesus did, by simply saying, "It is written..." (Mt. 4:3-4).

ENDNOTES

1. Often called the genetic "code," this language consists of 64 three-letter "words" or codons found as a continuous sequence in the DNA molecule. The sequence can be "read" in one of three reading "frames" depending on which of the three positions in the first codon is used as a starting point. Thus three different "sentences" can be read from the same sequence of codons. No other language known has the ability to overlap or condense information in this way. See: *Molecular Cell Biology*, second edition. J.

Darnell, H. Lodish, D. Baltimore, Editors. Scientific American Books, New York, 1990, pp. 88-90.

2. For an explanation of how difficult it is to account for biological information only by reductions in entropy and how living systems differ from newly developed "artificially" intelligent computers see: *The Creation of Life: a cybernetic approach to evolution*. A.E. Wilder-Smith, Master Books, San Diego, CA, 1981.

3. DNA is found in bacteria (procaryotes) and cells with a nucleus (eucaryotes) as well as in certain types of viral particles. Though viruses contain DNA they are not normally considered alive because they must infect a living cell to reproduce. Certain cells like red blood cells (RBCs) lose their nucleus when they become mature and thus have no way to renew or repair themselves so their life span is limited to around 100 days. Some viruses contain only RNA and upon infection of a cell create DNA from the RNA by reverse transcription. In living cells RNA is made from DNA as an intermediary information transfer molecule. Many evolutionary scientists believe RNA may have developed first though no living cell today uses only RNA for its information storage system. See: *Molecular Cell Biology*, second edition. J. Darnell, H. Lodish, D. Baltimore, Editors. Scientific American Books, New York, 1990, ch. 26.

4. See the amusing but perceptive account of a group of primitive, but logical, neanderthals when they encounter the beliefs and practices of modern man, in: *He Who Thinks Has to Believe*. A.E. Wilder-Smith. Master Books, San Diego, CA, 1981, pp. 38.

5. More precisely DNA is a double alpha helix composed of anti-parallel strands of nucleotides held together by hydrogen bonds and hydrophobic interactions. The ladder analogy is helpful in visualizing the chemical structure of DNA and in following the flow of information as it is encoded in the sequence of nucleotide bases along one strand of the molecule. See: Any general biology text for details or *Molecular Cell Biology*, second edition. J. Darnell, H. Lodish, D. Baltimore, Editors. Scientific American Books, New York, 1990, pp. 68-74.

6. Some genes have coding sequences that are continuous, as in bacterial genes. Other genes may be broken up into sections (exons) between which are DNA sequences which are not essential to the gene (introns) as in eucaryotic genes. See: *Biochemistry*, third edition. G. Zubay, Wm. C. Brown Publishers, Dubuque, IA, 1993, chs. 30 and 31.

7. "Reading" is the process of transcribing and translating

the information in the sequence of nucleotide bases first into a molecule of RNA (ribonucleic acid) which acts as a messenger between the DNA and the protein-making machinery of the cell and then into a functional protein. These are unintelligent biochemical structures which are functioning to recognize and interpret chemical structure according to a language system.

See: *Biochemistry*, third edition. G. Zubay, Wm. C. Brown Publishers, Dubuque, IA, 1993, chapter 29.

8. There are specific codes to pinpoint the start of transcription "AUG" and the end of transcription "UGA" much as a capital letter begins a sentence and a period completes it. As mentioned earlier there are three different possible reading frames or rules of grammar which can be followed during the reading process. If a shift in the reading frame occurs during the reading process, all information content may be lost and a non-functional protein may be produced. See: *Biochemistry*, third ed., G. Zubay, Wm. C. Brown Publishers, Dubuque, IA, 1993, ch. 29.

9. An excellent discussion of the implications of information theory and language agreements with respect to evolution can be found in: *The Natural Sciences Know Nothing of Evolution*. A. E. Wilder-Smith. Master Books, San Diego, CA, 1981, chapter 4.

10. To make matters worse for the evolutionary cause, the existence and function of the cells' own DNA depends on enzymes and chemical machinery which themselves are made only at the direction of pre-existing, pre-programmed DNA. So the question of how one could have developed without the other becomes rather circular until the existence of a Designer/Writer is taken into consideration. This problem is compounded by the evolutionary requirement for the continual development over time of increasingly complex information, indeed, completely new information for new organs, new appendages and new regulatory processes that do not reduce the likelihood of survival. Genetic mechanisms such as inversion, deletion, and reshuffling of information by transposons or viruses have never been shown to create such information. See: *The Natural Sciences Know Nothing of Evolution*. A.E. Wilder-Smith. Master Books, San Diego, CA, 1981, ch. 4.

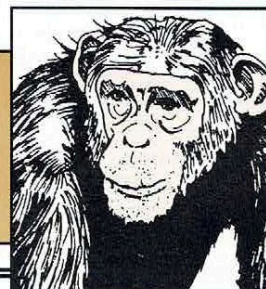
11. For a critical review of the experimental evidence behind the theories of biochemical evolution see: *The Mystery of Life's Origin: Reassessing Current Theories*. C. B. Thaxton, W. L. Bradley, R. L. Olsen. Philosophical Library, New York, 1984.

F4I

FOR FURTHER HELP ON THE SUBJECT

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U

Chemistry in Stereo

Has God
built this
safety
mechanism
into the
chemistry of
life as a
guard rail to
keep foolish
men back
from the
brink of
godless
presumption?

In seeking to answer the supposed proofs of evolution, one is always in danger of refuting arguments which evolutionists themselves have already abandoned on the field of battle. In fact, the history of evolutionary "evidence" is as littered with corpses as that of some cults who keep rewriting the "truth" as they feel necessary. Having shown some once-dearly-held argument to be false, the Christian is often met with a wan smile and the comment, "Of course, we don't believe that anymore."

One of the planks that is still utilized from the rotting remains of evolution's platform is based on experiments reported in 1953 by Stanley Miller. Miller assembled an apparatus that supposedly simulated the conditions of the primeval earth. Injecting ammonia, methane, and hydrogen gasses into a stream of steam which was then subjected to spark discharges, he reported finding a number of what are referred to as "organic products" (carbon compounds). From this it is inferred (an inference of astronomical proportions) that life could have evolved on the planet. As one textbook author concludes his discussion of the experiment: "How else can we understand the orderly progress toward increasing interactions between molecules leading to longer survival time and the ultimate development of life forms from pre-life systems?" How else indeed! "Orderly progress" in the face of increasing randomness? "Development of life-forms from pre-life systems" contrary to the principle of biogenesis (life only comes from life)? High school and college teachers who use this experiment as proof of chemical evolution either have not done their homework or are trying to pull the wool over their students' eyes.

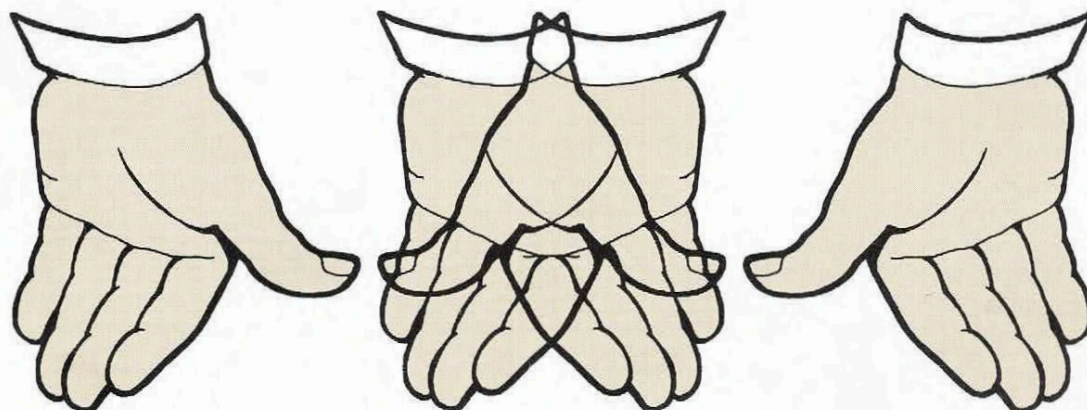


Organic chemists use the term stereo chemistry to refer to the three-dimensional aspects of organic chemicals.¹ Two compounds may be different simply because the arrangement of their bonds in space is different. Two such compounds that have the same constitution but differ in the spatial arrangement of their atoms are called stereoisomers. A good example of this would be seen by looking at your hands. Being mirror images

of each other, they are very similar in shape, but cannot be made to match point for point if both hands are facing in the same direction.

Scientists distinguish these mirror image compounds by a prefix D and L.² Stereoisomers, although identical in their makeup, can have totally different physical or chemical characteristics. One could be a liquid and the other a solid, or one could be nutritional for our bodies while the other could be toxic.

Take table sugar (sucrose) as an example,



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Hills assembly
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area.

which is found in almost everything we eat. Both D-sucrose and L-sucrose are white crystalline powders. As mentioned, structurally they are mirror images of one another. But there is a vital—and deadly—difference. When consumed, one helps to provide the energy we need to live. The other is poisonous. D-sucrose, the nutrient, has been provided liberally for us by God in nature. Fortunately, L-sucrose—which is toxic—is not found free in nature; it must be synthesized by man.

Miller reported finding one of the simplest amino acid (alanine) as one of the products of his experiment. Amino acids, the building blocks of proteins, also exist in two forms, L and D. However, as James L. Hall writes: "When amino acids are synthesized in the laboratory for commercial use or when they are formed under conditions supposedly duplicating early earth conditions, there is always a 50% mixture of D and L amino acids formed. Only when intelligently controlled measures are used can D forms be separated from L forms.

"If amino acids formed in the primitive oceans spontaneously, then the resultant brew would consist of 50% L, and 50% D—and if these would in turn link up (polymerize) to form proteins, the proteins would be expected to consist of approximately equal amounts of D and L forms.³ Also, since these proteins were the ancient ancestors of today's proteins as found in living systems, one would expect the

proteins of life today to be 50% D and 50% L mixtures of amino acids. But, on the contrary, they [the proteins] all are L forms."⁴

It is a similar situation for the sugars in DNA,⁵ the code carrier in the human body, except that the sugars are all of the D forms. Again, God has built into the process another safeguard to keep the human race from assuming we, and all around us, are mere cosmic accidents—meaningless, purposeless, hopeless. Such arrangements point to the Arranger, the Architect of the worlds. The truth remains that every time scientists discover or uncover one more mystery, they unwillingly provide another proof that no one but God could have created the universe. "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth His handiwork" (Ps. 19:1).

ENDNOTES:

1. The famous chemist, Charles LeBel, proposed that the four bonds to carbon were directed toward the corners of a tetrahedron.
2. For dextro-rotatory, meaning it turns polarized light to the right when such light is shone through it; and levo-rotatory, meaning it rotates polarized light to the left.
3. Amino acids can link up as L to L, D to D, or D to L.
4. *History of Life*, sixth ed., James L. Hall, Hall Publications, 1990
5. Deoxyribonucleic acid.

U

For life to have originated, 100% optically pure building blocks (amino acids, etc.) are a prime necessity, and "ordinary" chemistry, such as that proposed by Miller and colleagues, cannot deliver this kind of molecule by any stretch of the scientifically instructed imagination.

Dr. A. E. Wilder-Smith



A Deliberate Choice

Here are
some resources
for people
willing to
grapple with
the challenges
of our age.

Evolution is a bankrupt theory. It is unscientific, unbiblical, and illogical. Yet as you pick up supposedly scientific journals, go to state or national parks, watch TV or listen to the teachers in public schools, this theory is presented as fact worthy of our embrace.

This theory was developed in the 1700's by men who made a deliberate choice to leave God out of the equation, so they invented a system of creation that did not acknowledge Him. Obviously it didn't work. Now many scientists are beginning to believe that some supernatural power must have been at work, but still these men will not acknowledge God.

A few months ago I wrote about a book called *In the Minds of Men*, which gave a historical survey of the theory of evolution, showing how men have constructed this evil message to destroy men's belief in God. This time I would like to suggest a couple of books that handle this same issue from two other perspectives.

A volume that has been on my shelves for a number of years—and I just got around to reading—is Dr. A. E. Wilder-Smith's *Man's Origin: Man's Destiny*. Dr. Wilder-Smith is a first-class scientist who has done a lot of research in biochemistry and from this perspective can address the subject of evolution very adequately. He presents some very sound arguments of the improbability of cells evolving from simple to complex, and states that this is not only improbable, but is against proven laws of science such as the laws of Thermodynamics. He was able to take some of these scientific truths and make them understandable even for my unscientific mind.

Another theory he attacks is the need for all these million of years that evolution uses. In this discussion, he also addresses the popular Gap Theory that Dr. Scofield appealed to in his notes in the Scofield Bible. Dr. Wilder-Smith sees this as scientifically untenable. However, I would caution that I did not agree with all he said in the part about man's des-

tiny. He makes some statements regarding Christ and where He was when He was in the grave, interpreting 1 Peter 3:18-20 in a way I'm not ready to accept. But that is just one section in one chapter that doesn't at all affect the general tone and character of the book.

While browsing in a bookstore recently, a book was recommended to me that was authored by Wilber Smith and had been reprinted called, *Therefore Stand*. While I haven't completely digested it (it's over 500 pages), I have been very much impressed with it. This book was written so that young men and women whose faith has been shaken by the teaching of colleges and universities would be able to consider once again the solid ground upon which the faith of Jesus Christ stands. As Paul would say, it was written for "the defense and confirmation" of the faith. This is broader than a defense of creation (which is given a large section), but also defends the Bible in light of the many ancient and modern philosophies of men. This book has an excellent overview of Greek philosophy and civilization upon which much of our current thinking is based. Also included is an historical overview of the declension of evangelical Christianity which is something that we need to hear again in our day. History does repeat itself and we need to hear again from history if we would not repeat the same mistakes today.

In the sciences as well as the philosophies of man, God is being shut out. This is not by chance, but by the studied and deliberate choice of those who are in the education process of this world at all levels. We need to stand against this evil in our own lives as well as in the lives of our children. These two books will be a big help in, first of all, understanding God and His ways and confirming the truth of the Bible, as well as warning us of the evil that lurks in the halls of our educational systems.

Both books are available through Gospel Folio Press.

U

Is Evolution Probable?

Man's effort to expel God from his conscience and any influence in his life is most obvious in his adoption of the "theory" of evolution. For if man can espouse the "survival of the fittest," he can justify anything—abortion, genocide, euthanasia, free love, or homosexuality.

Ted Stephens has spent his life in the natural sciences, in teaching and in running a retail and wholesale nursery. He is active in preaching and assembly leadership.

Evolution is not a true theory at all. Webster defines a theory as "a formulation of apparent relationships or underlying principles of certain observed phenomena which has been verified to some degree." No matter how proponents of evolution brandish their beliefs, this so-called "theory" has never been verified to any degree. Calling it an hypothesis would be more accurate. Webster defines hypothesis as "an unproved theory...tentatively accepted to explain certain facts or to provide a basis for further investigation."

Actually to call evolution a religion would be far more correct; for it certainly cannot masquerade under the heading of science since science is systematic experimentation and observation. Webster's first definition of religion is "a belief in a divine or superhuman power or powers to be obeyed and worshipped as the creator." As we will see, this is exactly where evolutionists hold their "theory"; natural selection is their god.

There are many evidential scientific as well as philosophical problems with the hypothesis of evolution, such as the missing links in the fossil records, the inability to account for these embarrassing gaps, and the improbability of life forming by simple chance. If, for instance, feathers evolved from scales, as evolutionists claim, there should be countless fossil records of the transitional forms. After all, there would have of necessity been trillions upon trillions of animals with these "transitional" vestigial organs. But no fossil records of transitional forms of scales-to-feathers exist. Feathers serve one purpose and scales another. Feathers regenerate and are replaced annually; scales do not. Thus, any organism possessing these transitional forms would have become extinct by the very definition of the "survival of the fittest" philosophy.

Genesis 1:21 states, "God created...every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth...after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind." Both being creat-

ed the same day allowed little time for the process of transitional forms. Even the 17 billion years age of the earth that some scientists propose is not near enough time to accomplish the simplest of these feats. In the nineteenth century, when Darwin proposed his "theory," which, by the way, was not original with him, many scientists looked forward to the day when more advanced scientific studies would reveal the close links between chemistry and biological life.

As a greater understanding of living systems grew, especially in the 1950's with the discovery of DNA, the gap between chemistry and the life processes widened rather than narrowed. The more we learn of living organisms, the more complex we realize they are. For instance, a one-cell organism contains approximately 13 *trillion* bits of information. This is more letters than are in all the volumes of some of the world's largest libraries.¹ The proteins contained in the simplest organisms such as bacteria are just as complex as those found in the "higher" forms of life. Whereas evolutionists see these similarities as evidences for their hypothesis, Christians see them as proof of a Master Designer who used the same building blocks for all life.

The gargantuan problem which evolutionists will not acknowledge is the impossible probability that life could have originated by chance. The whole basis for the claim that life evolved is that certain atoms combined to form the right molecules which then united in the correct sequence with others in the proper medium and correct temperature to somehow result in a living organism. This organism could then even reproduce itself. It also possessed the added advantage that it could periodically go through accidental changes (mutations) which would then allow it to become better adapted to changing circumstances.

In essence, evolutionists propose development from the primitive to the advanced. However, the biblical account that a world was made perfect and is slowly disintegrating



**When we were children,
they told us about
a frog that turned
into a prince. We
thought it was a
fable, but when
we went to
college,
they told us
it was science.**

is what is being observed, not that it is evolving into a more complex unit. Watches never wind up; they always wind down. This also agrees with the second law of thermodynamics, that any system goes from greater order to lesser order, not the other way.

Let's examine what must take place for something by mere chance to form the precise combination which will work. Note that with a particular living organism only one combination will work.

Look at a biblical example. Remember the story of Joseph in Egypt when just before revealing himself to his brothers, he prepared a feast and arranged them each in their order of birth. We read, "The men marvelled one at another" (Gen. 43:33). Why? What were the possible combinations in which Joseph could have seated his brothers?

If there were only two brothers, there of course would be two possibilities: A and B or B and A or $1 \times 2 = 2$. If there were three brothers, there would be six possible seating arrangements, $1 \times 2 \times 3 = 6$. With 4 brothers, 24 different combinations or $1 \times 2 \times 3 \times 4 = 24$. But there were 11 brothers! So using a simple equation we can easily see by multiplying $1 \times 2 \times 3 \times 4 \times 5 \times 6 \times 7 \times 8 \times 9 \times 10 \times 11$ that there would have been 39,916,800 possible seating arrangements for just these 11 men. And Joseph just happened to "hit" on the right one?! Is there any wonder that they marvelled? It is amazing how that with each additional entity the number grows exponentially. When explaining this to a Sunday School class with 17 people on one side of the room, we observed that there were 357,104,563,256,000 (trillions) possible combinations with which these 17 members could arrange themselves. If every second someone moved into a different position, it would take over 11 billion years to exhaust the possibilities for just this group!

Now relate this to a living system and the likelihood that any part of a living cell could come together by chance. Dr. Henry Morris in his book *Scientific Creationism*² uses the example of an organism with

100 parts and the possible combinations with which they could be arranged, realizing that only one could be correct. Understand that there is nothing living even remotely this simple, as we saw with the 13 trillion bits of information in one living cell. Scarcely anything mechanical is even this simple.

What are the possible combinations for something with 100 parts? To determine this, we again adopt our simple formula of $1 \times 2 \times 3 \times 4 \times 5 \times 6 \dots \times 100$. To accommodate it practically, the number has to be written logarithmically and is 10^{158} . This is 1 followed by 158 zeroes. No one can comprehend the enormity of this number. For example, the smallest particle known in the universe is an electron. Not in just our solar system or even our galaxy, but in the entire universe, there are "only" 10^{80} electrons. And yet with only 100 components, we can get 10^{158} possible combinations.

That means that the number of possible combinations of linkages (of which only one will work; while there is duplication of some factors, surely 100 out of 13 trillion is not an extreme number!) of these 100 parts is equal to the number of electrons in 10^{78} (1 followed by 78 zeroes) universes the size of our own!

Another way to help grasp the enormity of the evolutionist's dilemma with this "simple" organism is the so-called age of the earth. Astronomers and physicists told us with great exuberance just a few years ago that their calculations had determined that the "Big Bang"—the birth of the universe—occurred just over 17 billion years ago. But is this enough time to do all that evolutionists say has happened since the origin of the universe? Especially since they say life itself only "evolved" 4.1 billion years ago. Let's be as generous with them as possible and give them 30 billion years, almost double the time that they claim has elapsed. Further, let's say the 10^{80} electrons that make up the entire universe are each a separate computer interconnected so that not one will duplicate the work of another and let each computer explore a billion possible combinations a second (these we could say are mutations) for 30 billion years. We would still have explored only 10^{107} possible combinations. The probability that we would have found the right combination would be only 1 in 10^{49} .

Think of this as 1080 organisms which are mutating at the rate of a billion mutations a second for 30 billion years. This would actually require a billion generations a second for each organism to pass on

these new characteristics, as a mutation cannot be passed on without a reproducing generation. The absurdity of the situation becomes evident, because nothing reproduces at the rate of a billion generations a second. Another problem with this hypothesis is that 1080 organisms would have to evolve at the same time, not just one.

Don't get too taken up with these examples as they are so ridiculously simple compared to anything in a living system. Frank Salisbury, an evolutionist, writing in an article, *Doubts about the Modern Synthetic Theory of Evolution*,³ even expressed doubts about the ability of a living structure such as DNA to come together by chance. He points out that a medium-sized protein molecule of 300 amino acids would be synthesized by a gene on a DNA strand with approximately 1000 links. Since there are four different nucleotides in a DNA chain, this would render 10^{600} possible combinations for this portion of the DNA strand which would generate this particular protein molecule. We previously examined the enormity of the number 10^{158} . What must 10^{600} be? Remember, there are 13 trillion bits of information in a single cell! What are the possible combinations here? Only a Divine, omnipotent, omniscient Creator could have ever designed a living system.

Salisbury concludes: "We can try to write Shakespeare by piling computers on top of each other and letting them rearrange letters of the language, but a much better way is to let Shakespeare apply his intelligence to the job. Could God apply His intelligence to the ordering of nucleotides in the DNA chains...? Certainly, if He exists."

Julian Huxley, one of the foremost evolutionists of this century, in his book *Evolution In Action*,⁴ made an attempt to calculate the number of generational steps it would take for a higher form of life such as a horse to evolve from a primitive form. He had to make several assumptions concerning the proportion of good mutations to bad. He made this observation: "We should clearly have to breed a million strains to get one containing two favorable mutations; and so on, up to a thousand to the millionth power to get one containing a million" favorable mutations. He was assuming that it would take a million favorable mutations for a horse to evolve, but even this number is absurdly inadequate. Even with this conservative number of mutational steps needed, it would take $10^{3,000,000}$ generations to end

up with a horse. Again, compare this to our number of electrons in the entire universe, 10^{80} . Why did Huxley not calculate how long this would take? If he had, he would have realized the absurdity of the evolutionist's position. Even with a trillion (10^{12}) generations a second, it would take more than $10^{2,999,980}$ years for a horse to evolve by their own admission. Since evolutionists claim the universe to be 1.79 years old, they have some explaining to do.

Huxley's conclusions were even more astonishing: "Of course this could not really happen, but it is a useful way of visualizing the fantastic odds against getting a number of favorable mutations in one strain through pure chance alone...No one would bet on anything so improbable happening. And yet it has happened! It has happened, thanks to the working of natural selection and the properties of living substance which make natural selection inevitable!"

How would you like to pray to the "god of natural selection" every day and trust him for your salvation? This is why we observed earlier that evolution is a religion, not a science. It is shameful, but these so-called scientists put more faith in their god of natural selection than many believers do in our omnipotent Lord and Saviour.

It becomes clear from these examples that men are "willingly ignorant" (2 Pet. 3:5). In verse 4, we see that he is speaking of creation. Paul describes them further as those "who hold the truth in unrighteousness" (Rom. 1:18). "Hold" is better rendered "suppress." These truly hold down or suppress the truth with evil intent. Verses 19-20 add, "Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath showed it unto them. For the invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse." Could it be any clearer?

ENDNOTES:

1. Caryl Matrisciana and Roger Oakland, *The Evolution Conspiracy* (Oregon: Harvest House Publishers, 1991).
2. Henry M. Morris, Ph. D., *Scientific Creationism* (California: Creation-Life Publishers, 1985).
3. Frank B. Salisbury, "Doubts about the Modern Synthetic Theory of Evolution," *American Biology Teacher*, (September, 1971).
4. Julian Huxley, *Evolution in Action* (New York: Harper and Brothers Co., 1953).



Look Around You!

Because of the wonderful things it has done for society, we are tempted to place too high a value on science. We should remember that science exists only because there are people, and its concepts exist only in the minds of men. Behind these concepts lies the reality which is being revealed to us—but only by the grace of God.

—D. Wernher von Braun, in a speech, February 17, 1966

Come, now, you most careful layers
Of T-squares,
You tedious extractors
Of square roots and cube roots,
You snooping squinters through microscopes,
You merciless probers
And meticulous dissectors,
You would-be plotters of the curves of life,
Mathematically sure or else unbelieving;
You scornors of all but what mechanics
Can drearily prove: I challenge you,
Even in your own pride,
Even in your own citadel,
Using those very instruments in which alone
You have such almighty faith,
Draw for me now the design, the plan
Of the universe; tell me how this earth is hung,
Diurnally turning for the refreshment
Of darkness and dew;
With your unfailing knowledge instruct me:
Who sensitively fringed the gentian's beauty;
Or with your calipers, infallibly certain, bound
for me
The mystic, wild parabola of love. —A. R.

The heavens declare the glory of God; and
the firmament showeth His handywork.
Day unto day uttereth speech, and night
unto night showeth knowledge. There is
no speech nor language, where their voice
is not heard. Psalm 19:1-3

To get away from the supernatural and display the needlessness of God has undoubtedly been one of the impulses which has driven mankind so largely along the evolutionary paths of thought.

—Harold C. Morton

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by Him; and without Him was not any thing made that was made. John 1:1-3

Evolution Equation: Nothing + Nobody = Everything

Sir Isaac Newton had a replica of our solar system made in miniature. In the center was the sun with its retinue of planets revolving around it. A scientist entered Newton's study one day, and exclaimed, "My! what an exquisite thing this is! Who made it?"

"Nobody!" replied Newton to the questioner who was an unbeliever.

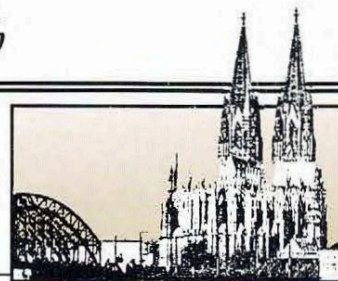
"You must think I am a fool. Of course somebody made it, and he is a genius."

Laying his book aside, Newton arose and laid a hand on his friend's shoulder and said: "This thing is but a puny imitation of a much grander system whose laws you and I know, and I am not able to convince you that this mere toy is without a designer and maker; yet you profess to believe that the great original from which the design is taken has come into being without either designer or maker. Now tell me, by what sort of reasoning do you reach such incongruous conclusions?"

It has indeed been said that the highest praise of God consists in the denial of Him by the atheist, who finds creation so perfect that it can dispense with the Creator. —Marcel Proust

For the invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse. Romans 1:20

Visiting Cologne Cathedral



A. E. Wilder-Smith studied natural sciences at Oxford and received his doctorate in Physical Organic Chemistry in 1941. He has five earned doctorates in the natural sciences, was Director of Research for a Swiss pharmaceutical company, has been Professor of Pharmacology at various universities, and is the author of numerous books. He fellowships at an assembly in Switzerland where he and his wife make their home.

Before the Second World War, I often visited the beautiful Gothic cathedral at Cologne, Germany. I admired this fine example of the architecture, with its graceful flying buttresses, a superb high-domed roof, its famous two towers and the medieval stained glass.

The more I admired the cathedral, the more I found myself admiring the architects who had originated it. The graceful lines and sturdy foundations had obviously been carefully planned by experts possessing sound knowledge of building mathematics and mechanics. To imagine that such a well-conceived edifice simply arose without enormous planning would be to invite just derision. But the picture did not always remain as clear.

During the war, Cologne suffered the most intensive air bombardment of any city in Europe. Cologne is an important rail center, where many lines meet, particularly those connected with the Ruhr industrial area.

In the fall of 1946, I returned to Germany after the war. As I approached the cathedral, the two famous towers were still visible through the morning mist. Practically every building in the vicinity was razed to the ground; the cathedral alone stood majestically in the midst of the carnage. Coming nearer, however, I could see huge, gaping holes in the sides of the two towers. The holes revealed the massiveness of the masonry, for any other building receiving glancing blows from such high explosive bombs would have collapsed entirely. But the cathedral, though badly damaged, was not destroyed.

This miserable piece of chaos made a deep impression on me. As those memories of former beauty passed through my mind, one idea never even occurred to me. Never did I connect the chaos of the formerly beautiful cathedral with any inefficiency on the part of the constructing architects or masons. They had not built it for such maltreatment.

Similarly, I never began to doubt the existence of the men who designed and construct-

ed the cathedral simply because I could now see so many contradictions in their handiwork. The place was a ruin. But in its ruination it still bore the marks of design. In fact, its design and original beauty were even more emphasized in some respects. The huge gaping holes in the walls revealed the excellent construction even better than did the remaining undamaged walls. The solid design built into the construction normally hidden from view, was now laid bare for all to see.

In fact, the whole picture reminded me of the purpose of dissection in learning the anatomy of animals, men, and plants. In order to see the order—and beauty—of some aspects of biology, the destroyed or dissected animal or plant serves better than the intact one. The cathedral had certainly been dissected, and its entrails laid bare.

Obviously no one was going to accuse the architects and craftsmen of designing and building a ruin. Something had happened to it which had not been planned. And yet, even in its ruination, it was quite easy to distinguish between the unplanned ruin and the actual architecture. The cathedral at the same time displayed both perfection and ruination—chaos and order mixed up inextricably with one another, just as the world around us presents a picture full of good and evil, beauty and ugliness, love and hate. No one in his right mind ought to deny that life as we see it is a hopeless hodgepodge of such ingredients. However, we should remember that it would be just as illogical to say that the mixed picture of the cathedral proves there was no architect behind it as to say that the ruined, mixed picture of life we see round about us proves that there is no God behind it.

Thus, the teaching of Romans 1 that the universe reveals enough of its Maker to bring any logical person to his knees in thankfulness and worship is confirmed.

*Excerpted from Is This a God of Love?
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Seven Men Who Rule the World from the Grave

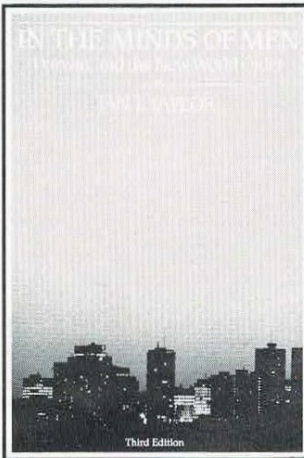
by Dave Breese

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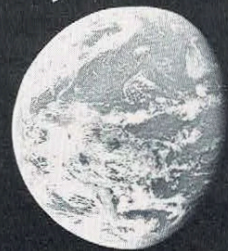
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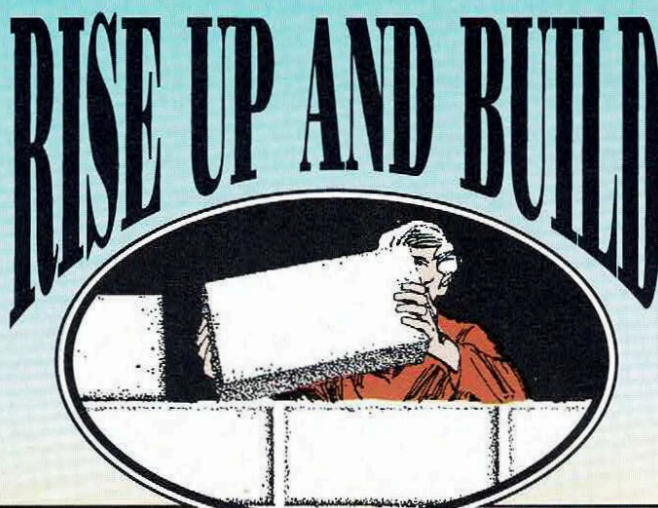
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