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SCIENCE AND MIRACLES

What's *really* going on

THERE *ARE* ABSOLUTES

Where is modern education
taking us?

PLAYING GOD?

Facts and thoughts on human
cloning



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Personally speaking

One commonly held view today is that science and faith in God are in such direct opposition that we must choose between the two; we can't believe in both. But is that really true?

Think about it. Science is "the study of the physical world, especially by using systematic observation and experiment." Faith is "belief or trust in somebody or something"—in this case God—"without logical proof." But what if there was logical, scientific proof of God's existence? Wouldn't that bridge the gap?

Well, there *is* proof, and plenty of it! As King David wrote in the Psalms, "The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of His hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge" (Psalm 19:1-2 NIV). The apostle Paul explained, "Since the creation of the world [God's] invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made" (Romans 1:20). The American poet Ralph Waldo Emerson summed up the science-faith connection when he said, "All I have seen teaches me to trust the Creator for all I have not seen." True science points to God and thereby validates faith in God. We still have to believe in our invisible God by faith, but our faith is stronger because it is backed by proof.

Today more and more highly respected scientists are believers, often largely due to their own scientific observation of God's creation. The more they learn, the clearer it becomes to them that our universe didn't come about by accident or so-called natural processes; there had to be an intelligent Designer, a Creator.

We hope this issue of *Activated* will strengthen your faith in the Creator and His loving plan for us all.

Keith Phillips

For the *Activated* Family

Are Science and faith in God compatible?

“FOR ME, FAITH BEGINS with the realization that a supreme intelligence brought the universe into being and created man. It is not difficult for me to have this faith, for an orderly, intelligent universe testifies to the greatest statement ever uttered: ‘In the beginning, God...’”

—ARTHUR COMPTON (1892–1962), AWARDED THE 1927 NOBEL PRIZE IN PHYSICS FOR HIS DISCOVERY OF THE TRANSFER OF ENERGY FROM ELECTROMAGNETIC RADIATION TO A PARTICLE, KNOWN AS THE COMPTON EFFECT.

“If I had no other data than the early chapters of Genesis, some of the Psalms, and other passages of Scripture, I would have arrived at essentially the same picture of the origin of the universe as is indicated by the scientific data.”

—ARNO PENZIAS (1933–), AWARDED A 1978 NOBEL PRIZE IN PHYSICS FOR THE DISCOVERY OF COSMIC BACKGROUND RADIATION—PATTERNS THAT PHYSICISTS HAVE INTERPRETED AS SHOWING THAT THE UNIVERSE WAS CREATED FROM NOTHING.

“The principle of [divine]

purpose ... stares the biologist in the face wherever he looks. ... The probability for such an event as the origin of DNA molecules to have occurred by sheer chance is just too small to be seriously considered.”

—ERNST BORIS CHAIN (1906–1979), AWARDED A 1945 NOBEL PRIZE IN MEDICINE FOR HIS WORK WITH PENICILLIN.

“When confronted with the marvels of life and the universe, one must ask why the only possible answers are religious. ... I find a need for God in the universe and in my own life.”

—ARTHUR L. SCHAWLOW (1921–); SHARED THE 1981 NOBEL PRIZE IN PHYSICS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF LASER SPECTROSCOPY.

“Those who say that the study of science makes a man an atheist must be rather silly people.”

—MAX BORN (1882–1970), SHARED THE 1954 NOBEL PRIZE IN PHYSICS FOR HIS WORK IN QUANTUM MECHANICS.

“There is no incompatibility between science and religion.

... Science shows that God exists.”

—DEREK BARTON (1918–1998), SHARED THE 1969 NOBEL PRIZE IN CHEMISTRY FOR THE CONCEPT AND APPLICATIONS OF CONFORMATION.

“I think only an idiot can be an atheist.”

—CHRISTIAN B. ANFINSEN (1916–1995), SHARED THE 1972 NOBEL PRIZE IN CHEMISTRY FOR HIS WORK IN AMINO-ACID STRUCTURE AND BIOLOGICAL ACTIVITY OF THE ENZYME RIBONUCLEASE.

“So many of my colleagues are Christians that I can’t walk across my church’s fellowship hall without tripping over a dozen physicists.”

—WILLIAM D. PHILLIPS (1948–), AWARDED THE 1997 NOBEL PRIZE IN PHYSICS FOR USING LASERS TO PRODUCE TEMPERATURES ONLY A FRACTION OF A DEGREE ABOVE ABSOLUTE ZERO.

“I only trace the lines that flow from God.”

—ALBERT EINSTEIN (1879–1955), AWARDED THE 1921 NOBEL PRIZE IN PHYSICS FOR HIS WORK IN THEORETICAL PHYSICS, ESPECIALLY THE LAW OF PHOTOELECTRIC EFFECT.

MIRACLES

BY DAVID BRANDT BERG

THE WORD “MIRACLE” COMES from the Latin word *miraculum*, “object of wonder.” So a miracle is something out of the ordinary that causes astonishment. We are astonished because it doesn’t follow the natural course of events that we are accustomed to, but everything God does is natural to Him. It’s miraculous to us, but it’s natural to God.

And the word “science” comes from the Latin *scire*, “to know” or “to discern.” You could say that science is the knowledge of God’s miracles, since everything God created is a miracle, far beyond our power or understanding. True science is knowledge that causes us to look at God’s creation and glorify God.

Knowledge that people have gained from observation of God’s miraculous creation is called scientific knowledge. Maritime knowledge is an example of this—knowledge of such things as tides and the flow of the oceans. This is simple science.

Scientists have discovered God’s natural laws of physics, chemistry, engineering, electronics, aerodynamics, and so on, through scientific experimentation, and then tried to put them into some useful form with inventions such as the telephone, the television, airplanes, automobiles, lasers, etc. Then many of those scientists praise themselves and take all the credit to themselves for having made whatever it is they made, when all they actually did was use God’s natural laws and materials and put them together. Well, they deserve some credit

for figuring out those things, because it’s often quite a job!

“Invent” is derived from the Latin *invenire*, “to come upon,” which comes much closer to the truth than the modern meaning of invent: to create something new. People don’t actually create anything; they just discover, or “come upon,” things that God has already created or laws He has put into operation, and figure out how to use them to their advantage.

Some people use the term “scientific miracle” when something is such a scientific wonder that it causes them to look at it in amazement, but that doesn’t mean it is supernatural; it is merely science using God’s natural laws to accomplish a so-called miracle.

Take the airplane, for example. People have simply learned how to use God’s laws of aerodynamics to counteract His more apparent law of gravitation. But to someone who has never seen an airplane, it’s a miracle. The first time my grandmother saw an airplane, back in the early days of aviation, she shook her head and said, “There’s got to be a string attached to it somewhere!”

Television is another scientific marvel. Some very smart people figured out how to capture, broadcast, receive, and reproduce images and sounds via a combined electronic audio and video signal. Most people don’t understand how a TV works; they only know how to use it. So since it’s beyond their understanding, it’s a wonder to them, a so-called miracle.

People usually think of things that are beyond their comprehension as supernatural or miraculous, but they are not supernatural to God. They're also not supernatural to the scientist who knows how to use God's natural laws to make something wonderful.

Everything is natural to God. It's like saying there is nothing impossible with God (Luke 1:37). A lot of things God does are beyond our power and grasp of things and what we consider natural, so when they happen we say they are supernatural. But with God nothing is impossible, so nothing is supernatural to Him!

When someone gets healed of an incurable disease, for example, we call it a miracle because we're seeing the evidence or manifestation of some of God's laws that we know nothing about. To God, on the other hand, it's simple! He knows how to undo whatever damage the disease may have done and thereby creates what to us is a miracle—a supernatural act that is beyond our capabilities. We can only pray for *Him* to do it, and marvel at His power when He does.

The same is true of the miracles that are recorded in the Bible. When the Red Sea parted for Moses and the Israelites, it says, "The Lord caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind" that parted the waters and dried the naturally muddy seabed so they could walk over on dry ground. "And the waters were a wall to them on their right hand and on their left" (Exodus 14:13–31; Hebrews 11:29). That was some wind!

That was contrary to what we consider natural laws, but it was nothing for God. He can do such things easily because He can use laws that He doesn't ordinarily use to supersede or overcome some of His other laws and bring about the desired outcome.

God doesn't usually call into effect those laws that seem supernatural to us. He seems to reserve those for emergencies and extreme circumstances: to save and protect His people, to heal them, to supply their needs, and to care for them in other ways they may not even be aware of.

Science has to first of all discover God's natural laws, such as the laws of motion or aerodynamics or electronics or whatever, and then make machinery to harness those natural laws and do seemingly supernatural things. But God doesn't need any machines; He just does it!

People have to go to a lot of work to transfer a picture from a broadcasting source to a TV, but God can send a picture by His own natural laws—supernatural to us—by just thinking the picture and transferring it to our minds or even our natural vision.

I get a lot of solutions to practical problems that way. I often go to sleep thinking about a problem, wondering how I'm going to solve it, and then get the solution in the form of a dream or picture in the night. Sometimes I even get pictures in broad daylight. When I'm thinking and praying about a problem, I see God's answer in the form of a picture.

It's amazing what prayer can do when you get in tune with God. He sees it all and knows it all, and He can easily show you where some lost item is, or how to fix something or do something, or whatever you need. So turn on your receiver and look to the Lord for the answer, and He will give it. And of course He is also ready, willing, and able to work a miracle of healing, supply, protection, or whatever else we may need when we ask Him to in faith and claim the promises from His Word. To us that's a miracle, but it's nothing unusual for Him! ◇





It happened to me

BY JOANNA ALCASSAS

The Missing link

I GREW UP IN COMMUNIST RUSSIA, when everything and everyone was under the tight supervision of the KGB, and the few people who believed in God and Jesus kept it secret. My father worked for the government, which meant our family was supervised even closer than most. No one ever spoke about faith. No one ever said there was a God. Religion was a fairy tale for the faint-hearted. “Yuri Gagarin [the Soviet cosmonaut who was the first human to fly in space] was in space and he didn’t see God,” our schoolteach-

ers told us, “because there *is* no God.”

The only “holy” thing, the only thing that everyone respected and feared was the Communist Party. At the age of nine I had the honor of becoming the first among my peers to enter the Young Pioneers, the Communist youth organization. I swore the traditional oath declaring myself an atheist, and was determined to uphold the teachings of Grandpa Lenin.

I filled my days with studies of physics and astronomy, and was

headed for the bright future my beloved government promised—a great education and many years of work in a science laboratory, all for the good of Mother Russia. I needed no God in my life.

Then something happened that shook my Communist beliefs.

My family was going to visit friends in Zelenogorsk, a little town not far from our home in St. Petersburg (Leningrad during the Communist era), but my mother refused to go. “I had a dream,” she said. “If we will go now, we will have an accident and might not survive. I saw a truck dropping concrete blocks on our car while we were stopped for a red light.”

At the time, Russian truck-ers were notoriously careless with their cargo—after all, they received the same monthly allotment from the government, regardless of how they did their job. It was not uncommon to see a truckload of goods scattered all over the road.

My father refused to listen to “the woman’s superstitions,” so off we went. Halfway to Zelenogorsk we got stuck in traffic. My father took a detour. As he turned a corner, we found ourselves at a stoplight just as it turned red. Directly in front of us was a huge truck carrying concrete blocks. An eerie feeling came over us.

My father’s face turned pale as he tried to steer away from the truck, but with other cars behind us there was little room to maneuver. After what seemed an eternity, he managed to pull away. Then Mother’s dream came true.

The plank that was meant to

hold the concrete blocks in the truck cracked under the weight, and we watched speechless as the blocks toppled out of the truck and crushed the car that had pulled up into our place. We were shaken but safe—and I would never forget the events of that day!

I tried to find a plausible, logical explanation to my mother's prophetic dream, but couldn't find any. There was only *one* explanation, and it seemed neither plausible nor logical: God had given her that glimpse of the future to save our lives.

The next night I did something very unusual for me—I prayed. "God, if You really do exist and You spared our lives in that accident, then show me once more that You care. Send someone to talk to me about You. If You do, I will believe."

A few minutes later I stepped onto the dark street, my mind teeming with questions. Had God done a miracle to spare my life? If so, why? Was He going to answer my prayer and give me another sign? I felt goose bumps as I thought about what might happen next.

I hadn't taken more than ten steps when someone handed me a beautiful poster. "God is love," it stated, "and He loves you!" I was stunned.

"Why are you giving this to me?" I asked.

"Because God told me to," the stranger answered. "He wants to be there for you."

I can't remember what else was said, but I ended up praying with

that stranger to receive Jesus as my Savior. We also arranged for me to visit her at home two days later, when she was going to give a Bible study to a small group of new Christians.

About two months later I made up my mind to become a missionary. I was seventeen. My parents didn't take me seriously at first, but as I was packing my bags to go to a Christian youth camp, my father walked into my room. "Where do think you are going?!" he thundered.

We watched speechless as the blocks toppled out of the truck ...

"I want to become a missionary and help people," I answered. "It's just for three months, Father." My mother overheard us and joined the argument on my father's side.

"Three months!" my father yelled. "Don't you realize that is plenty of time for people to find out that my daughter is associating with foreigners who are Christians? I will be kicked out of the Communist Party, and could even be suspected of being a spy! We will have no jobs, no money, and *you* will be to blame!"

It was 1991, and the Soviet Union had just broken up. "Things will be different now," I tried to tell him.

He wouldn't listen. His lecture went on for four hours, but didn't change my convictions one bit. In my heart I knew that God had

called me to be His servant, and I was going to follow that call no matter what.

When my mother saw that their arguments were getting nowhere, she decided to go with me and find out for herself what kind of people I was seeing—and she became a Christian herself during the first meeting she attended!

That night I had another heated discussion with my father, and to his surprise Mother took my side this time. Finally he agreed to let me "give God a try," providing God gave him a sign.

That same night his simple, old-fashioned watch switched over to daylight saving time by itself. The next morning, when he realized that his was the only timepiece in the house that showed the new time without being adjusted, he remembered that he had asked God to give him a sign and he was overjoyed at how He had. My father received Jesus that day, and ever since then he has been proud to be a Christian. "The Communists only *promised* us a bright future," he tells people. "God actually has the means to *give* it and to answer our prayers."

I did become a missionary. During the past twelve years I have seen many more signs and miracles that proved to me that God exists. And best of all, I found what had been missing in my life. It was the link that connected my heart to God's. ◇

(JOANNA ALCASSAS IS A FULL-TIME FAMILY VOLUNTEER.)



THERE **ARE** ABSOLUTES

Contrary to the Teachings of
Modern Education

BY DAVID BRANDT BERG

I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT the state of the world and how so many of the younger generation have lost respect for God and humanity. I believe that modern education is largely responsible for this downward trend, because young people today are taught that there are no absolutes. That's the underlying principle of modern education: There are no absolutes—nothing is certain.

I'm convinced that the whole purpose of this principle is to destroy confidence in God—*the Absolute!* Look how the secularists have attacked each major field that proves the existence of a perfect God. The first thing they attacked was religion itself, and their attack was subtle: No religion is necessarily wrong, therefore no religion is necessarily right. Various religions are just religions, probably fabrications of man anyway, so how can anyone say which is right or which is wrong? In other words, there are no religious absolutes. The whole idea is aimed, of course, at destroying faith in God.

Having gotten rid of God and religion, the next step was to debunk philosophy, to try to prove there was no perfect philosophy, that no particular philosophy was either right or wrong.

History is another area of study that proves the existence of God. God's law of retribution, as seen in the rise and fall of empires because of their righteousness or wickedness, is one of the surest proofs that God exists and has rules. So the secularists had to debunk history. In history

books it is now popular to say that men and women who have previously been considered great were really villains, to debunk all the godly, heroic characters of history.

The same was even done with music, to the point that music was no longer music—it was just noise. It didn't have to be harmonious; it didn't have to be pleasant. There was no such thing as good or bad music, because there were no more rules.

Look at art: Modernistic art is total confusion—no rules, no beauty, no nothing! Just absolute confusion! It doesn't even have to mean anything. It doesn't have to have any sense or meaning or order. See, if they can destroy the meaning, if they can prove to people that there's no meaning to a thing, then there's no order, there's no purpose and no plan, therefore there's no Planner.

Both art and music used to follow very strict laws to produce real beauty, but both art and music have abandoned the rules. They've thrown away the laws, and the result has been total ugly confusion—noise, chaos, bedlam, ugliness, crudity! Music no longer needs to be melodic, and much of it is just sound, noise, bedlam! Art no longer needs to be artistic, and much of it is no more than chaotic splotches of color and ugly, meaningless forms.

They attacked creation in the same way: They had to try to prove there were no laws, no plan, and no purpose; therefore there was no Planner. Creation became meaningless, chaotic evolution. "It all just

happened by accident!"

Everything that has any rules or order or plan or purpose proves that there is some kind of Ruler who makes the rules and establishes the order and plans things with a purpose, and such things have to be attacked in order to destroy any faith in the absolute, and therefore in God. Their theme song is "It Ain't Necessarily So!" "The things that you read in that Bible, they ain't necessarily so! And history ain't necessarily so; religion ain't necessarily so; philosophy ain't necessarily so; Creation ain't necessarily so; music ain't necessarily so; art ain't necessarily so; nothing is necessarily so," they say, "because there ain't no so!"

If they can prove that each of these fields is imperfect, this supports their claim that the perfect doesn't exist—therefore God doesn't exist. It all goes back to the godless premise that if there are no rules, then there is no Ruler.

Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life" (John 14:6). But if nothing is so, as some would have us believe, then nothing is true and there is no Christ! So to disprove the existence of God they had to disprove the existence of truth and rhyme and reason, order, plan, laws, rules, etc.

To get rid of God, they had to get rid of the absolutes, the right and the wrong and the meaning and reason for things; and the result is total chaos, insanity, madness!

Of course, the perpetrators of this crime against humanity would disagree with me on that, too, because a

They had to try to prove there were no laws, no plan, and no purpose; therefore there was no Planner.

popular school of thought in psychology today is that nobody is really sane or necessarily insane; they're just different from you or me. Who is to judge who is sane and who is insane?

To have social order, you must have laws and rules; and to have laws and rules, the ones who make them

“We must see God in everything to give it meaning, reason, purpose, plan, design, and a goal.”

and the ones expected to obey them have to believe that some things are right and some things are wrong; and if some things are right and some things are wrong, then there must be some ultimate Lawmaker or Rule-giver, which would have to be God.

So therefore the godless must eventually and ultimately become total anarchists who obey no rules or laws, recognize no order, find no meaning, follow no plan, and have no purpose—no nothing! In so doing, they are helping the Devil accomplish his ultimate purpose for creating all this chaos and confusion: the destruction of God's creation.

In the face of all this, a truly revolutionary education today would be a back-to-God education. We must go back to real faith in religion, back to creation in science, back to genuine love in philosophy, back to a plan in

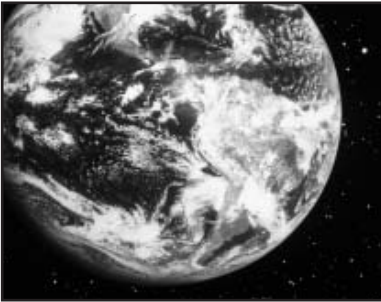
history, back to truth in language, beauty in art, harmony in music, right and wrong in behavior, order in government, and God—the Creator of all things, the Designer, the Planner—in everything, so that life again means something. God is the only One who can give real meaning to living, so let's get back to God in our education, in every subject and every field.

Let's get back to sanity and reasoning, back to a pattern for existence made by a divine Designer who makes the plans according to rules. He brings about order with government in the place of lawlessness and disorder. He gives meaning to the universe and purpose to the planets. He brings love to our hearts and peace to our minds and health to our bodies and rest to our spirits and happiness to our lives and joy to our souls, and He teaches us that “the fear [reverence] of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom” (Proverbs 9:10).

We must see God in everything to give it meaning, reason, purpose, plan, design, and a goal—the perfection of the kingdom of God! The godless would bring us to chaos and total destruction, but we, the faithful, must try to bring peace and order and the design for living given us by the Great Designer in His rules and laws, rights and wrongs and absolutes, without which there can be no peace or order or true happiness.

Thank God for the absolutes and the rules of the Ruler, that we may know the difference between right and wrong, and find happiness through His love and His loving laws and reasonable rules. May God help you to “know Him, whom to know is life eternal” (John 17:3)—and absolute! ◇

>> GOD was the FIRST to know! >>



SOME SAY THAT THE BIBLE is full of scientific inaccuracies, but the fact of the matter is that numerous truths about our world were in the writings that now make up the Bible hundreds or even thousands of years before science “discovered” them.

For example, it wasn’t until around the time of Christopher Columbus (1451–1506) that science established that the earth was spherical and hung in space, but the Hebrew prophet Isaiah wrote in about 700 BC that God “sits above the circle of the earth” (Isaiah 40:22). About 3,000 years before Columbus, it was written in the book of Job that God “stretches out the north over empty space; He hangs the earth on nothing” (Job 26:7). Also, when Jesus spoke of His Second Coming, He referred to a night scene (men sleeping), a morning scene (women grinding), and a midday scene (workers in the field) happening simultaneously (Luke 17:34–36). This, of course, is an indirect reference to a spherical earth.



Galileo (1564–1642) was the first to “discover” that the number of stars is uncountable—a fact that has been clearly established by modern scientists, who now estimate the number of stars in the “billions and billions.” The Greek astronomer Ptolemy (100?–170 AD) had said there were 1056. Johannes Kepler (1571–1630) counted 1005. The Danish astronomer Tycho Brahe (1546–1601) counted 777. Twenty-two centuries before Galileo, the prophet Jeremiah said, “The host of heaven cannot be numbered” (Jeremiah 33:22).

In 1643, with the invention of the barometer, Evangelista Toricelli discovered a way to measure the atmospheric air pressure and thereby proved that air has weight. In what is believed to be the oldest book in the Bible, Job is quoted as saying that God “establishes weight for the wind” (Job 28:25).

Jet streams—the strong permanent high-altitude wind currents that have a major bearing on weather systems—were



discovered by science in the 19th century. Nearly 3,000 years earlier, King Solomon wrote, “The wind goes toward the south, and turns around to the north; the wind whirls about continually, and comes again on its circuit” (Ecclesiastes 1:6).

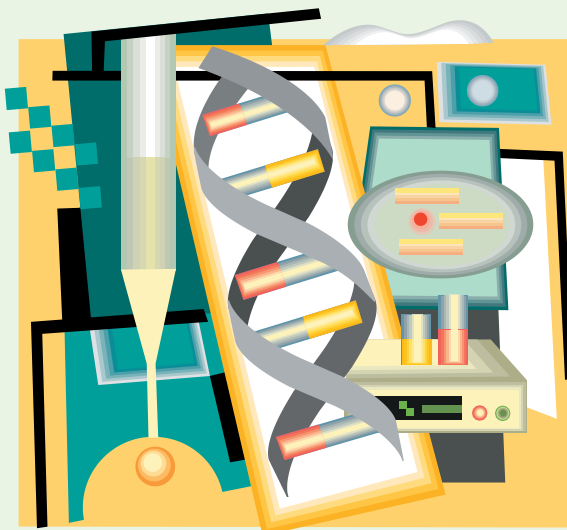
The Bible also described the water cycle many centuries before it was clearly delineated by science. “He [God] draws up drops of water, which distill as rain from the mist, which the clouds drop down and pour abundantly on man” (Job 36:27–28). “All the rivers run into the sea, yet the sea is not full; to the place from which the rivers come, there they return again” (Ecclesiastes 1:7).

The true relationship between science and the Bible is perhaps best summed up in the words of British astronomer John Herschel (1792–1871): “All human discoveries seem to be made only for the purpose of confirming more and more strongly the truth contained in the sacred Scriptures.” ♦

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Playing God?—Facts and Thoughts on Human Cloning

BY JOSEPH CANDEL



REPORTS OF BREAKTHROUGHS in cloning are becoming more frequent in the news. Along with a sense of wonder at what science is now capable of, those reports also raise complex and troubling questions. Is cloning within acceptable moral and ethical bounds? Could the benefits ever outweigh the risks—the ends justify the means? How would cloning change what it means to be a human being? What does God think about all this?

Defining the cloning debate

The term “cloning” is widely used in science, and simply means making a copy of something. A scientist who makes a copy of a strand of DNA, for example, would describe that as cloning. There is nothing morally problematic about that. The

controversy is over the reproduction of advanced life forms through cloning, and especially research aimed at eventually cloning humans.

The cloning process

Cloning of humans would sidestep the traditional process of reproduction in which the male sperm fertilizes the female egg. Instead, it would create a person from an embryo by transplanting the DNA-containing nucleus of a cell from either a man or woman into a woman’s egg from which the nucleus has been removed. So instead of producing a child whose DNA makeup is a composite of his or her parents’, the clone’s DNA would be—at least in theory—an identical copy of the “original.” (In theory, because attempts to clone animals have so far shown a very high incidence of abnormalities.)

Cloning milestones to date

February 24, 1997: Scientists at Scotland’s Roslin Institute announce successful reproduction of a sheep named Dolly using DNA from a single adult sheep cell.

July 1997: The British scientists who made Dolly clone Polly the lamb, who carries human genes. They hope to clone herds of identical sheep that can produce human proteins for medical use.

December 1997: *Science* magazine proclaims the cloning of Dolly the leading scientific advance of the year.

February 2002: Japanese researchers who cloned a dozen mice report that virtually all the animals died early, casting doubts on the safety of cloning. The same month, scientists report that cloned mice have become obese.

February 2002: Scientists at U.S. Texas A&M University say they cloned a house cat and present a two-month-old kitten they call cc, short for carbon copy.

May 2002: A U.S. fertility expert, Pan-ajiotis Zavos, tells a congressional panel that “2002 will be the year of the clones” and says he is working to clone a human later in the year. He urges Congress to keep cloning legal so it can be regulated.

February 14, 2003: Six-year-old Dolly is euthanized after suffering from advanced lung disease usually seen in animals twice her age.

What the headlines don't tell us

Despite attention-grabbing headlines and photographs of Dolly the sheep and cloned cows, pigs, goats, and mice, a high percentage of animal clones are stillborn with monstrous abnormalities. Since cloned fetuses are commonly twice the size of normal ones, bloated mothers often have laborious miscarriages and occasionally die themselves. Most clones that survive at birth die before reaching maturity, or develop serious health problems later in life. (Dolly the sheep suffered from severe arthritis, which may or may not have been a result of her being a clone, and was euthanized in February 2003 due to progressive lung disease.) There's no reason to believe that similar problems will not arise in the cloning of a human child.

Three biblical perspectives

Some things we don't need to know. In the very beginning, Satan tempted Eve in the Garden of Eden, saying, “If you eat the fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, you will be like gods!” (Genesis 3:1–6). To this day, that is still one of Satan's most frequent and effective temptations. Science is sitting at the foot of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, plucking fruit. The trouble is, some of that fruit is good and some is bad, some is beneficial and some is

diabolically harmful.

Just as the technological advances of the past few decades have brought us closer to the brink of self-destruction with “bigger and better” bombs, missiles, and other weapons of war, advances in the fields of genetic engineering and cloning are a two-edged sword: One edge promises better quality of life, but the other edge creates problems that neither science nor society is prepared to deal with.

Life and the Life-giver: “God created man in His own image” (Genesis 1:27). In essence, proponents of cloning want to usurp God's role and become creators and gods themselves, making offspring in *their* own images. We were created to love and respect our Creator, not to attempt to be creators ourselves. Those who would clone other humans are meddling in God's business, but without His power and love. To think that they can improve on His design or plan is the ultimate in arrogance and audacity.

“God formed man ... and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul” (Genesis 2:7 KJV). Only God has the right to create a new human soul, and only God has the power to grant eternal life. Life comes only from the Life-giver, and eternal life comes only through receiving Jesus as our Savior, not through attempts to immortalize ourselves by duplicating ourselves (John 3:16; 1:12, Revelation 3:20).

The Endtime connection: The Bible says that “in the Last Days perilous times shall come,” and that “evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived” ... “ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth” (2 Timothy 3:1,13,7 KJV). Each advance in cloning science takes us one step closer to becoming little gods and another step away from the truth of God. ◇

Genetic engineering and cloning are a two-edged sword: One edge promises better quality of life, but the other edge creates problems that neither science nor society is prepared to deal with.

ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS



Q: *What should I do when I feel my faith in God and the Bible is being attacked by secular society?*

Most
people
would give
anything
to be truly
happy.

A: THE BIBLE MAKES IT CLEAR that we should have the conviction to stand up for our faith, while at the same time exercising love and wisdom and making sure that our personal example backs up our words. Believing in God and the Bible and having Jesus in our hearts is supposed to make a positive difference in our lives. That is what others need to see and hear.

It's natural for people to talk about what's important to them. If they have a favorite sports team that wins the championship, they get excited and tell others about it. If they make a great business deal or find a great buy, they tell others. If they find a diet or health tip that works for them, they talk about it. Why shouldn't it be the same with you and your faith? You have as much right to talk about what's important to you as anyone else has.

If you speak from your personal experience ("It happened to me!"), people have either got to say "I don't believe you" or "It must be true, because you say so." Tell how God has proven Himself to be real to you, and how your faith has helped you.

Don't be intimidated by intellectual or philosophical questions, or worry about trying to answer others' complicated arguments. The apostle Paul said, "My speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power" (1 Corinthians 2:4 KJV) and

"I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ" (2 Corinthians 11:3).

When it comes right down to it, most people would give anything to be truly happy. So if you can show them that you *are* happy and they can be too, they will be more likely to let go of their secular atheistic doctrines, unprofitable theories, complicated philosophies, and other false belief systems. They will gladly trade their confusion and anxiety for your truth and peace.

So when you feel your faith is being attacked, keep your side of the conversation sweet, simple, and personal. Tell whoever is attacking you, "Since I accepted Jesus as my Savior, I have found out that He really *is* who the Bible says He is—and He is the only One who can make you or anyone else truly happy. If I had found a cure for cancer or AIDS and didn't tell anyone, if I kept it selfishly to myself, what would you think of me? Well, I have discovered a cure for problems that affect billions more people than cancer or AIDS. I know the cure for unhappiness, loneliness, rejection, and fear. If I didn't share this cure with people, what would you think of me?" Then you can tactfully challenge *them*. "Jesus is the cure—plain and simple! Don't you want to give Him a try?" ◇

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A SCIENTIST ...

...TO LEARN FROM GOD'S MARVELOUS CREATION; you only need to stop long enough to observe and let God reveal His wonders to you. "Ask the beasts, and they will teach you; and the birds of the air, and they will tell you; or speak to the earth, and it will teach you; and the fish of the sea will explain to you. Who among all these does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this?" (Job 12:7-9). Someone "asked" the geese and learned this:

Lessons from Geese

- Have you ever wondered why migrating geese fly in a V formation? As with most animal behavior, God had a good reason for including that in their instincts. As each bird flaps its wings, it creates uplift for the bird following. In a V formation, the whole flock adds at least 71% more flying range than if each bird flew alone. Whenever a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of trying to fly alone, and quickly gets back into formation. Like geese, people who share a common direction and sense of community can get where they are going quicker and easier than those who try to go it alone.
- When the lead goose gets tired, it rotates back into formation and another goose flies at the point position. If people had as much sense as geese, they would realize that ultimately their success depends on working as a team, taking turns doing the hard tasks, and sharing leadership.
- Geese in the rear of the formation honk to encourage those up front to keep up their speed. It is important that our "honking from behind" be encouraging. Otherwise it's just—well—honking.
- When a goose gets sick or wounded, two other geese drop out of formation and follow it down to help and provide protection. They stay with the unhealthy member of the flock until it is either able to fly again or dies. Then they launch out again with another passing flock or try to catch up with their own. May we be so self-sacrificial, that we may be worthy of such friends in our time of need.

("LESSONS FROM GEESSE" CAN BE FOUND ON THE INTERNET IN VARIOUS VERSIONS, NONE TRACEABLE TO THE ORIGINAL AUTHOR.)

FEEDING READING The Bible and True Science

Scientific knowledge is greatly increased in these days of the Endtime.

Daniel 12:4

False science doesn't have the answers.

1 Timothy 6:20

2 Timothy 3:7

Ecclesiastes 12:12

Isaiah 44:24-25

God's creation is proof of His existence.

Job 12:7-9

Psalms 19:1

Romans 1:20

God, the Master Teacher, reveals the secrets of His creation to those who ask Him.

Job 32:7-8

Job 36:22

Psalms 32:8

Proverbs 2:6-7a

Ecclesiastes 2:26a

Daniel 2:21b-22



If you haven't yet received Jesus, "the Way, the Truth, and the Life," you can right now by praying the following:

Dear Jesus, I want the gifts of eternal life, love, and purpose that You offer. I open my life and heart to You now, and accept You as my Savior. Please forgive me for all the wrongs I've done, give me a fresh start, and help me get to know You and Your love. Amen.

The science of prayer

It's a law of My Spirit that your prayers have an effect; they move My hand and they go to work in the lives of those you pray for.

Prayer shows your faith in Me—faith that I will bring the solutions, show you the way, work in people's lives, or even do the impossible when necessary. It also shows that you realize you need Me and are depending on Me, and this pleases Me greatly.

Prayer is the means by which I give you My blessings. I work through both your spoken prayers and the unspoken prayers of your heart, but when you put your prayer into words, this is an even greater manifestation of your faith. This glorifies Me and acknowledges that I am the One who performs miracles, supplies, protects, and guides you.

When you pray, you are operating in the realm of faith, where miracles are born. Just little old you praying and asking Me to do something is very powerful. You don't have to *feel* that power. It's not the feeling that matters, it's the *spirit* of prayer that is powerful, supernatural.

Prayers always have an effect. When you pray, things happen in the spirit world, and because of that, things happen on earth. The minute you pray, we connect in the spirit and I begin to do the work that only I can, whether you see the answer right away or not. I may not always give you the answer that you ask for or expect, but I promise to answer according to what I know is best. I respect your prayers and have committed Myself to answer every one.

This is a law of the spirit: When you pray, you begin the spiritual process and set off a chain reaction of events. But if you don't pray, those things can't happen. The more you pray about things, the more I can work for you.