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PLAYING GOD?

When science and ethics collide

THE COMPUTER CHIP DREAM

Could this be the mark of the Beast?

THE MIDNIGHT MIRACLE

With a life in the balances, God comes through



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Ever since news pamphlets and broadsides began rolling off the first movable-type printing presses in 15th-century Germany, headlines have been dominated by the sensational. What's changing is what's considered top news. War, crime, disaster, and disease—the traditional stuff of headlines—are all still there, of course, but more and more print space is being given to reports of scientific and technological developments and their repercussions.

In a survey of journalists conducted by Newseum, an online exhibition of news journalism, 38 of the top 100 news stories of the 20th century were science related. A closer study of the list is even more telling. Most of the top science-related stories are clustered near the end of the century, and later advancements leapfrog earlier ones in the ratings. Personal computers (number 31 on the list) and the Internet (32) rank ahead of radio (40) and TV (43), for instance. Also, not surprisingly, the top spot in the Newseum survey goes to the century's crowning technological "achievement"—the atomic bomb.

Where will today's hot topics—cloning, stem cell research, genetic manipulation, computer chip implants, and the ecological fallout of technology in its myriad forms—rank on the next Newseum survey?

And what choice do we have in how science and technology will continue to impact our lives and our world? Perhaps the British historian Arnold Toynbee summed it up best when he wrote, "Technology is a morally neutral force. It can turn the surface of this planet into a global slaughterhouse, but it can also turn it into a neighborhood. ... Assuming that we ourselves have decided to be on the side of the angels, how are we to deal with others who have not yet read the signs of the times? The only promising answer is to requite evil with good [and to] never weary of playing this difficult part."¹

KEITH PHILLIPS

FOR THE ACTIVATED FAMILY

¹ Arnold Toynbee, "Unless We Learn to Love," *Guideposts* March 1966.

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BY MICHAEL BROWN

HOW THE WORLD IS changing!

My new science project ... homemade dials, a few lights, and a maze of wires all soldered together in such a way that when the correct answer was entered, the lights flashed. My first computer!

I CAN'T REMEMBER WHEN I WASN'T FASCINATED BY SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY. As a boy I visited every museum and science exhibit I could find. Scientists were my heroes, and I wanted to be one when I grew up.

I remember one model in the Toronto Museum in particular—a vivid picture etched in the mind of a young teenager. It was a futuristic computer-controlled robot that most teens today would probably find amusingly rudimentary, but forty years ago it was as fantastic as anything I had seen in Buck Rogers comic books or on the original *Star Trek* TV series. From the perspective of today's technology, it *was* rudimentary, the “computer” being a simple analog adding machine and the “robot” a wire-frame figure covered with a burlap potato sack.

When I returned home, I headed straight for the library, where I found a book on how to make an analog computer. For the next month or so I immersed myself in my new science project. It was very basic, consisting of a series of homemade dials, a few lights, and a maze of wires all soldered together in such a way that when the correct answer was entered, the lights flashed. My first computer!

Instead of becoming a scientist when I grew up, however, I became a Christian volunteer. I was living in remote areas of India and Nepal when the computer revolution hit the West in the 1980s, so when I returned to Europe in 1989, I experienced culture shock.

Years earlier, I had first read in the Bible about the Antichrist and the mark of the Beast: “He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the Beast” (Revelation 13:16–17). I had also read “The Computer Chip Dream,” an article by David Brandt Berg (see page 4) about a dream he had in which the mark of the Beast was a computer chip that was implanted under the skin and read by a scanner.

I knew that someday the mark of the Beast would come, but I was in for the shock of my life when I went to a grocery store to buy some bread and cheese and the cashier ran my items past a scanner—the first I'd ever seen. I thought, “Oh, no! It's already here!”

Funny, but not so funny when you realize how rapidly knowledge is increasing and where that knowledge is taking us. Seventy percent of all information in our global society has been created since the “birth of the Internet” about 20 years ago, and it is currently doubling every three years. Yes, the world is changing, and while the mark of the Beast is not yet in use, there are plenty of indications that it's on the way.

When I consider how much the world has changed since my rudimentary science project, it's not a stretch to imagine the technological advances necessary to make the mark of the Beast a reality in the near future. □

MICHAEL BROWN IS A FULL-TIME VOLUNTEER WITH THE FAMILY INTERNATIONAL IN CROATIA.

THE COMPUTER CHIP DREAM

BY DAVID BRANDT BERG

The following was written in November 1983, many years before the first computer chip implants in humans.

I HAD A DREAM IN WHICH I THINK THE LORD WAS TRYING TO GIVE ME AN IDEA OF WHAT THE MARK OF THE BEAST IS GOING TO BE LIKE, because it was very clear and I still remember it vividly.

I saw this little computer chip—though it wasn't really all that little, I guess, because some chips are much smaller. It was about an inch and a half (about three centimeters) long, about a half an inch wide, and real thin, like a tiny plastic strip, and it had a needle-like pin attached to the back of it. The head of the pin was attached to the center of the back of the chip.

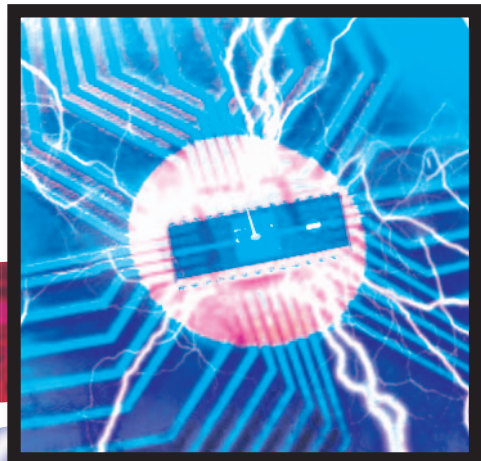
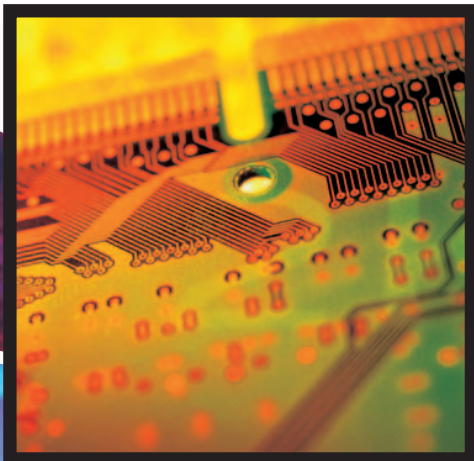
Those performing the procedure first put the chip on a big board of some kind that was wired to a giant computer,

evidently to program the chip. Then I watched as they took the chip—and this sounds hard to believe, I know—and sank the pin into a man's forehead, into the frontal lobe of his brain. They made an incision, inserted the chip, and taped the incision closed.

The chip had been programmed in such a way that it not only carried the man's personal identification number and all of his records—name, address, phone number, and tax records, etc.—but it could also tell the authorities what he was thinking and program his thoughts and behavior.

Once that chip had been implanted in the man's forehead, he was the authorities' slave. The thing that really shocked me was how their computers could even tell what he was thinking. The chip may have been able to transmit the information, or perhaps the bearer had to be within range of a scanner. I don't know; I didn't see that part. The last thing I saw was that chip being inserted, and I was horrified!

The concept of computer chip implants sounds very scientific, of course, and it looked very scientific in my dream.



But if the mark of the Beast turns out to be an implant of some sort, and if that implant has the power to read and control thoughts, then you realize what a heinous, fiendish, demonic system the Antichrist regime is going to be.

It's the brain's frontal lobe that has to do with decision-making and self-control and discernment between right and wrong. Other parts of the brain control hearing, eyesight, reflexes and motor actions, etc., so apparently the people who had gotten the implant could carry on normally in every other way. But this thing sealed their fates as far as being slaves of the Antichrist system, because they were no longer their own. They were tagged by the Devil and no longer under their own control.

It was a small, seemingly insignificant operation. The person receiving the implant was sitting in a chair, like a dentist chair, and I presume they were under some kind of sedation because it didn't seem to hurt much.

Wouldn't that be clever of the Antichrist, to hide that implant so that most people wouldn't know who was who, friend or enemy? I've always supposed that the mark of the Beast was going

to be a big bold number—"666"—emblazoned on people's foreheads or hands that could be seen outright, but in this dream it was hidden under the skin.

Lots of people will submit to the mark of the Beast just to be able to live what will appear to be a better life, because without it no one will be able to buy or sell, so it will be much more difficult to get food and other necessities (Revelation 13:16–17).

There will be others, however, who will refuse to take the mark of the Beast or worship the Antichrist (John 10:4–5; Revelation 7:2–3; 9:4). They would rather die, if it comes to that, and for some it will. But others will survive and continue to proclaim the truth. "The people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits" (Daniel 11:32–33). God is also going to give them places to flee to in the wilderness, where they can hide and be provided for (Revelation chapter 12).

Even a lot of people who haven't received Jesus as their Savior will refuse the mark. If they have strong enough convictions in their own religion to refuse to worship the Antichrist, God will be with them too.

I believe there are going to be millions who are going to resist the Antichrist and proclaim the truth, until everybody has had their chance and the Antichrist is exposed for the Devil he is. Those who choose to worship God rather than the Devil-incarnate Antichrist will be preserved by the power of God until Jesus comes to their rescue when He returns! □



BE PREPARED

The best preparation you can make for the troublous times ahead is to receive Jesus into your heart and life. He will not only give you eternal life in Heaven, but as you draw closer to Him through prayer and reading His Word, He'll equip you to resist the Antichrist and his forces. You can receive Jesus right now by praying the following prayer.

Dear Jesus, thank You for giving Your life for me. Please forgive me for the wrong things I've done, come into my heart, and give me Your gift of eternal life. Teach me more about Your love, and fill me with Your joy. Amen.

By Richard Johnston

ENDTIME INSIGHTS

NATURALISM, THE UNDERPINNING DOCTRINE OF EVOLUTION

THE THEORY OF EVOLUTION has been in the news recently in relation to a competing scientific theory known as intelligent design. Opponents of intelligent design, or “ID” as it is sometimes referred to, contend that it is no more than creationism in a different set of clothes.

The proponents of ID say that their theory does indeed point to an intelligence (be it God or otherwise) behind creation, but contend that ID is based on science, not religion—that it is the conclusion of scientific observation, not faith.

Many scientists and educators dismiss ID, not because there is a stronger scientific argument for evolution, but because they adhere to a philosophical school of thought known as “naturalism,” or “scientific materialism.”

In their insightful paper “Intelligent Design: The Scientific Alternative to Evolution,” William S. Harris and John H. Calvert point out that:

Naturalism is the doctrine that the laws of cause and effect (as in chemistry and physics) are adequate to account for all phenomena, and that the [ID] hypothesis is invalid as a matter of principle—not as a deduction from evidence. It holds that all phenomena, even consciousness, can be reduced to matter and energy and that only physical causes operate. Design, which reflects the activity of a non-physical mind, is not permitted. It requires a belief that we just “occur” as natural phenomena and that we are not designed or created for any purpose. By eliminating design, the philosophy of naturalism effectively eliminates supernatural explanations for any event occurring in nature. Indeed, the very function of naturalism is to eliminate the possibility of supernatural intervention from all scientific explanations.¹

Professor Richard Lewontin, a Harvard geneticist and evolution proponent, states the naturalists' position clearly:

We take the side of science in spite of the patent absurdity of some of its constructs, in spite of its failure to fulfill many of its extravagant promises of health and life, in spite of the tolerance of the scientific community for just-so stories, because we have a prior commitment, a commitment to materialism. It is not that the methods and institutions of science somehow compel us to accept a material explanation of the phenomenal world, but, on the contrary, that we are forced by our [prior] adherence to material causes to create an apparatus of investigation and a set of concepts that produce material explanations, no matter how counterintuitive, no matter how mystifying to the uninitiated. Moreover, that materialism is absolute, for we cannot allow a Divine Foot in the door.²

In what can only be an attempt to further muddy the waters, some adherents of naturalism try to imply that it is not a philosophy but rather a method of investigating nature. But in this methodological naturalism, all non-material (read "spiritual") possibilities that could be considered are automatically (and therefore irrationally) excluded. This totally doctrinaire approach is, as John Rennie, editor of the magazine *Scientific American*, stated, "a central tenet of modern science."³

Whether one wants to quibble over whether naturalism is a method or a philosophy, the result is the same: the exclusion of any facts and research that doesn't support what the naturalists have already presupposed. Is this science? Or does it resemble what Saint Paul referred to as the "profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called"? (1 Timothy 6:20 KJV).

And the scientific establishment brooks no dissent. As explained by a popular science writer, Robert Wright, naturalism is one of the "unwritten rules of scientific conduct" that requires adherents "to scrupulously avoid even the faintest [ID] overtones."⁴ This is further explained by biologist Scott Todd, who writes that "even if all the data point to an intelligent designer, such an hypothesis is excluded from science because it is not naturalistic."⁵

Those who break this rule are generally subject to insult and derision, loss of employment, manuscript rejection from peer-reviewed scientific journals, and are shunned by the science establishment. Donald Gould, a former editor of the magazine *New Scientist*, stated with some irony: "The scientific establishment bears a grisly resemblance to the Spanish Inquisition. Either you accept the rules and attitudes and beliefs promulgated by the 'papacy' ... or face a dreadful retribution. We will not actually burn you at the stake, because that sanction, unhappily, is now no longer available under our milksop laws. But we will make damned sure that you are a dead duck in our trade."⁶ Science, it seems, can be a nasty business!

The irony of all this is that it once again confirms the veracity of the Bible and fulfills another of its prophecies about the Endtime. "Scoffers will come in the last days ... [that] willfully forget that by the Word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water" (2 Peter 3:3,5). "And with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie" (2 Thessalonians 2:10-11). □

RICHARD JOHNSTON IS AN ACTIVATED CONTRIBUTING EDITOR.

¹ William S. Harris, PhD, and John H. Calvert, JD, "Intelligent Design: The Scientific Alternative to Evolution," *The National Catholic Bioethics Quarterly* Autumn 2003.

² Richard Lewontin, "Billions and Billions of Demons," *The New York Review of Books* January 9, 1997: 31.

³ J. Rennie, "15 Answers to Creationist Nonsense," *Scientific American* 287.1 (July 2002): 84.

⁴ Robert Wright, *Three Scientists and Their Gods* (New York: Times Books, 1988) 70-71.

⁵ Scott C. Todd, "A View from Kansas on that Evolution Debate," *Nature* 401.6752 (September 30, 1999) 423.

⁶ Donald Gould, "Letting Poetry Loose in the Laboratory," *New Scientist* 135.1836 (August 29, 1992) 51.

**AVOIDING
THE PERILS
OF THE
INTERNET**

Q: I've found the Internet to be a wealth of information on just about every subject imaginable, from technical information that is useful for my work to news, history, recipes, and entertainment. But I've also found that it can be a waste of time, or worse. Sometimes I come away from my time online feeling great, but other times I stumble on things that leave me feeling drained or depressed. How can I get the most from my time on the Internet?

ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS

The Internet does have a lot of interesting and useful information but, like anything else you could be spending your free time doing—watching movies, reading books, playing games, chatting, or whatever—some of what you find there is going to be worthwhile and some not. If you're watching the wrong kind of movies, reading the wrong kind of books, or listening to the wrong kind of music, for example, it will have a negative effect on your spirit, because whatever you take in affects you one way or the other. The same is true of the Internet.

Stories abound in the media of college students who've gotten so immersed in the Internet that they've neglected their studies and been kicked out of college; husbands or wives who've neglected their mates for the Internet and suffered separation or divorce as a consequence; and growing numbers of young people who are virtually addicted to the Internet, which adversely affects their health, peace of mind, and relationships with others.

The Internet itself isn't the problem, just like listening to music isn't a problem in itself; it's the *misuse* of it that causes problems. It's the wasted time and the often negative or pointless input that can spill over into the rest of your life and lead to bigger problems.

Like the rest of the mass media, the value of the Internet depends on how it is used. Some use the Internet to pass on helpful news and information, exchange ideas, or sell products. And others use the Internet for ungodly purposes, such as promoting perverted sex, proclaiming the virtues of Satanism and the occult, or promoting every sort of anti-God philosophy imaginable, often through subtle means.

>> HOW TO MINIMIZE THE BAD EFFECTS OF THE INTERNET:

- ✦ Have a good reason and specific purpose for going online, and stick to it. Don't just browse for the sake of browsing. Get on, get what you need, and get off.
- ✦ Pray beforehand and while you are online, asking Jesus to guide you to what you're trying to find and away from unwholesome and ungodly material, as well as to be able to discern between what is true or false.
- ✦ Set yourself a time limit.
- ✦ Don't go to sites or areas of the Web that you know to be "bad trees with bad fruit."
- ✦ Pray afterwards, asking Jesus to cleanse your mind and spirit of anything you've read or seen that could affect you negatively. Also ask Him how to apply any useful information you find.
- ✦ Spend equal or more time reading God's Word, which is the source of truth, wisdom, and spiritual discernment.

How do you judge whether your time spent on the Internet is worthwhile or not?—By the effect it has on you. Jesus said, "A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Therefore by their fruits you will know them" (Matthew 7:18,20). If what you read there has a positive effect on you, if it causes you to feel happy and encouraged; if it causes you to love God and others; if it motivates you toward positive ends, then its "fruit" is good. But if it leaves you feeling empty, unhappy, dissatisfied, cynical, or otherwise bummed, its fruit is bad. Don't waste your time on "trees" (or Web sites) that are bad and have obviously bad fruit.

With so much information from so many sources, it's sometimes hard to tell what's true and what's not. Just because someone said it and published it online doesn't make it true. The Lord knows, though, and He can help you discern between fact and falsehood and guide you to trustworthy sites. □

it stands to reason

The great physicist Sir Isaac Newton (1642–1727), wrote, "This most beautiful system of sun, planets and comets could only proceed from the counsel and dominion of an intelligent and powerful being."

Nobel Prize winner in physics Dr. Arthur Compton (1892–1962), said, "For myself, faith begins with a realization that a supreme intelligence brought the universe into being and created man. It is not difficult for me to have this faith, for it is incontrovertible that where there is a plan there is intelligence—an orderly unfolding universe testifies of the truth of the most majestic statement ever uttered: 'In the beginning God...'"

Louis Pasteur (1822–1895), the French chemist who founded microbiology, said, "The more I study nature, the more I am amazed at the Creator."

In *Natural Theology* (1802), British theologian and philosopher William Paley (1743–1805) likened the origin of the universe to that of a watch: "When we come to inspect the watch, we perceive that its several parts are framed and put together for a purpose. The inference we think is inevitable, that the watch must have had a maker. The universe must have had a designer. That designer must have been a person. That person is God." □

playing GOD?



**IN THE PAST,
MOST PEOPLE
BELIEVED IN
AND TRUSTED
GOD.**

SOMEONE ONCE WROTE ME WITH THE QUESTION, “IS IT RIGHT FOR MEDICAL SCIENCE TO ‘PLAY GOD’?”

The case in point was a court case in the UK involving a pair of conjoined [Siamese] twins. If the twins were separated, the doctors involved told the twins’ parents, one would certainly die, but the other might survive; if they weren’t separated, they would both die. The parents abhorred the idea of sacrificing one child to save the other and believed that nature should be allowed to take its course. They opposed the separation, but their wishes were overruled in a highly publicized court case. The twins were separated. One died, and the other survived.

This case exemplified one of a growing number of moral dilemmas that people face as science and technology find new ways to sustain and manipulate life. Others include in vitro fertilization and related procedures such as pre-implantation genetic diagnosis, cloning, stem cell research, and euthanasia, also termed “assisted suicide.”

For anyone who knows me well, my response to the “playing God” question was predictable: “I don’t know. Let’s ask Jesus.” So I did. Here are excerpts of what He had to say:

It’s difficult to make across-the-board judgments in these matters.

Each case involves many factors, and I look at people’s hearts. Many people make wrong decisions, but if they don’t know any better and if they make those decisions based on love or unselfishness or wanting to do right, I take that into consideration and judge accordingly.

By the same token, there are those who are motivated by selfishness or pride, or who have rejected the truth of God’s Word or the voice of their conscience. I hold those people fully accountable for their actions.

Those who choose wrongly, without knowing, will receive instruction, gentle reproof, and training when they pass over to the afterlife. Those who knew better are more accountable, and they will have to suffer more severe consequences.

In the past, most people believed in and trusted God. They knew that life and death were in His hands. This faith and understanding brought peace of mind. But in this day and age, because so many people do not believe in God or look to Him and Me for answers, they have lost their point of reference, and therefore they have no peace. It is this lack of faith, coupled with pride and independence, which robs people of the peace I could give them and causes them to take matters into their own hands, to “play God.”



FEEDING READING

GODLY LEARNING VS. WORLDLY KNOWLEDGE

Many people are sincere, but sincerely wrong. They want to do what's right and think they are, but because they don't ask for divine wisdom in the matter, they go far astray. Doctors, scientists, politicians, and judges may think that they know what's best and that it's their right to decide such matters, but they don't and it's not.

Wayward man, in forgetting God, is reaping the fruits of his own wrong living. I don't fail, but because the wicked of this world refuse to receive the truth and be guided by My love, *they* fail.

The world is heading downward, moving toward an increasingly godless society where man's system will make all the decisions based on so-called scientific evidence.

This is why it's so important for people to hear these two messages: that God is love, and that they have a choice to do good or evil. These two messages could have a far greater positive effect on lives—and the world—than anything science or technology has or will ever come up with, because they are what put people in touch and in tune with God and enable them to make godly decisions. Then and only then can they be assured that they are acting as God's agents, helping to carry out His loving plan in others' lives, as well as their own. □

Godly learning brings us to the knowledge of God and His love.

Job 22:21–22
Psalm 107:43
Jeremiah 9:24
Luke 10:21
John 17:3

Godly learning helps us to be more like Jesus and to conform to His will.

Colossians 1:10
2 Peter 1:2–8

Understanding of the natural world is acquired only as God reveals it.

Job 32:7–8
Job 36:22
Proverbs 2:6–7,9
Ecclesiastes 2:26
Daniel 2:21–22
Romans 1:19–20

Godly learning is founded on God's Word.

Psalm 119:130
John 8:31–32
John 17:17
2 Timothy 3:16–17

Secular thinking, in refusing to acknowledge God, is void of absolute truth and wisdom.

Job 21:14
Psalm 14:1
Proverbs 1:29–31
Jeremiah 8:9
Romans 1:21–22,28
1 Corinthians 3:18–20
1 Corinthians 8:1–2

Wisdom and truth are not found through the pursuit of worldly knowledge.

Job 32:9
Ecclesiastes 1:18
Ecclesiastes 12:12
1 Corinthians 1:25
2 Timothy 3:7

Pray to discern between what is true and beneficial and what is false and perverse.

Romans 16:19
2 Corinthians 11:3
Ephesians 4:14,17–18
Colossians 2:6–8
1 Thessalonians 5:21
1 Timothy 6:20–21
2 Timothy 2:16–17
2 Peter 3:17

PRAYER FOR THE DAY

Dear Jesus, I thank You that I am living in this exciting time preceding Your Second Coming. Help me to see things through Your eyes and to understand Your plan—for the world in general and me in particular—as it unfolds. Help me to stay close to You and Your Word so that I will be, as You said of Your first disciples, in the world but not of the world (John 17:14–15). And thank You for Your tender loving care, ever-present, unailing, and eternal. Amen.

FORBIDDEN PLANET

A MOVIE WITH A MEANING

BY DAVID
BRANDT BERG

FORBIDDEN PLANET (1956) WAS AN EARLY SCI-FI FILM AND ONE THAT I CONSIDER A SCI-FI MASTERPIECE, with more significant meaning than almost any other sci-fi.

It begins with a spaceship from Earth traveling to a strange planet where 20 years earlier another spaceship had crashed. Everyone on board had been presumed dead, but recently there had been some rather odd radio signals from this planet, so the crew of this second spaceship went to investigate.

Once they land on the planet, they discover a beautiful palatial villa where a scientist and his beautiful daughter live. Attached to the villa is a gorgeous garden where there are all kinds of tame animals, including ones that are normally savage.

The race of very intelligent beings that had originally inhabited the planet

had mysteriously died off, but all of their machinery was still running. The most amazing machine of all was the “thought machine,” through which they could create things by more-or-less wishing them.

The scientist had figured out how to use the thought machine, and it was all very nice in the beginning when he created things like lovely meals and pet tigers. But things got out of control when he became jealous of his daughter’s love for the space captain, and the machine began creating demons from the imaginings of his evil heart and jealous spirit—like an enraged tiger that tried to kill his daughter and the monster that eventually killed the scientist himself.

It seemed that the highly developed civilization that had once existed on the planet had done about the same thing in using monsters to protect it

from invaders, but the monsters turned on the people who'd created them and wiped them out too.

Probably without realizing it, the moviemakers were illustrating a spiritual truth. God's Word teaches that if we entertain a fear, it will come upon us (Job 3:25). So spiritually speaking, those things *can* happen.

Some people take drugs or flip out in some way, and they slip over the border into the spirit world where the present material world is no longer their reality. Some of them go crazy with schizophrenia or whatnot, and their demons and nightmares and hallucinations become real to them. It starts in their imagination, but once they slip over the border into that spirit world in their mind, it all becomes very real and horrifying, because they don't have Jesus and His protection.

The Lord says we shouldn't think about the dark side at all. "Whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things" (Philippians 4:8).

Whenever thoughts of evil come to mind, we should call on Jesus for protection. Jesus said, "All authority has been given to Me in Heaven and on Earth" (Matthew 28:18), so if you have Jesus, you've got all that power. All the devils of Hell, including Satan himself, are subject to your power because you have the power of Christ. So "resist the Devil and he"—as well as the evil thoughts he inspires—"will flee from you" (James 4:7).

This problem with evil thoughts entered the world in the Garden of Eden, when first Eve and then Adam ate the forbidden fruit of the "tree of knowledge of good and evil"

(Genesis 2:16–17; 3:1–6). This movie's title seems to be a play on words, with that in mind.

Science is sitting at the foot of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil and plucking off its fruit, but the trouble is that some of it's good but some of it's bad. The evil imaginations of evil minds *can* be brought to life by science, and some of them have been. What is about the most evil thing that science has ever created?—The atomic bomb! But now they have created bombs that are many times more powerful than those that wiped out Hiroshima and Nagasaki—horror bombs that could wipe out whole countries!

God says, "Whatever a man sows, that he will also reap" (Galatians 6:7). You can't create such evil just to use against your enemies, because the inviolable law of the Bible is that the sower is the one who will reap the consequences. Those who have sowed the wind may very well reap the whirlwind (Hosea 8:7). Revelation chapter 18—which seems to be describing a coming nuclear war—says, "In one hour such great riches came to nothing. ... Thus with violence the great city Babylon shall be thrown down, and shall not be found anymore" (Revelation 18:17,21).

The Bible admonishes us, "Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life" (Proverbs 4:23). In other words, we need to watch the imaginations of our hearts, lest they turn evil and become realities that can destroy us. This is why we all need Jesus and the Holy Spirit abiding in us, and why we need to fill our hearts and minds with the light of God's Word. Then we will dwell in the secret place of the Most High, under the shadow of the Almighty, where no evil can befall us (Psalm 91:1,10). □

**PROBABLY
WITHOUT
REALIZING
IT, THE
MOVIEMAKERS
WERE
ILLUSTRATING
A SPIRITUAL
TRUTH**

THE MIDNIGHT MIRACLE

IT WAS A LITTLE PAST MIDNIGHT, AND MICHAEL, JOY, AND I WERE MAKING OUR WAY HOME BY TAXI AFTER SPENDING THE EVENING WITH FRIENDS. Suddenly a motorcycle coming from the opposite direction hit the center barrier, flew over our taxi, and landed behind us. The rider was thrown from the motorcycle when it hit the barrier, and he landed in the road directly in front of us. Our taxi driver managed to stop just in time.

We were all dazed for a moment, but quickly realized that the man lying in the street was seriously injured. If we didn't help him, who would? There were almost no other cars on the road at that time of night.

Then I heard the Lord's voice in my mind. *Move! Do exactly what I tell you to, right now.* I've always wondered how I would do in a situation like that, so it was wonderfully reassuring to hear the Lord's voice so clearly.

I asked Joy and Michael to pray for the man, while I tried to find someone who could call an ambulance. The nearest houses were all dark and surrounded by fences and walls—not easy to get to for help at that late hour—so I tried to stop the next car that drove by. It passed without stopping. So did the next one. Finally a third car came along. By then I was jumping up and down in the middle of the road and yelling for the car to stop. It did, thank God. One of the two men in the car had a cell



phone and called for an ambulance. I ran back and joined Michael and Joy, who were hovering over the man on the road, still praying.

I don't think I've ever seen anyone so seriously injured, except in movies. Blood was everywhere. The man's face and one of his legs were badly torn up from having hit the pavement face down and skidding across the road. From the angle the leg was bent at, we were sure it was broken. He had lost a tooth, and his eyes were already black and swollen. We found out later that he had also broken his pelvis. He was conscious but nearly incoherent as he cried out in pain, calling on God in Arabic.

I'm sure it was the Lord who helped me overcome my aversion to blood,

pain, and suffering, as I'm normally very sensitive to those things. That I was able to stay calm and think clearly as we tried to help this poor man was in itself a miracle.

Very carefully, I put my handbag under his head and began stroking his head as I prayed and tried to comfort him. "You're going to be okay. God loves you and Jesus loves you," I whispered in his ear. "Help is coming. Hold on." Michael spoke to him in Arabic. The man was obviously in a lot of pain, but gradually got much quieter.

The next 10 or 15 minutes seemed like eternity, waiting for the police and ambulance to come. We knew we shouldn't try to move him, considering the seriousness of his injuries, and there was very little else we could do for him physically. *Pray for him and comfort his spirit*, the Lord kept telling us. *That's the most important thing right now*. So that's what we did.

The police arrived first, then the ambulance. When one of the paramedics asked the man his name, he managed to get it out—Nasseem. We also found out what hospital he was being taken to.

The next day we visited Nasseem in the hospital. He was still in critical condition, but the ICU staff let us in to see him. One of Nasseem's brothers was also there at the time, so we gave him the flowers and inspirational reading material we had brought for

Nasseem, to give him later. We had thought Nasseem was unconscious or asleep during that visit, but when Michael touched his arm and said goodbye, Nasseem whispered in English, "Thank you for coming."

We went back and saw him again a few days later, and spent quite a bit of time with him and his family, who were gathered around his bed. We recounted how we had prayed for Nasseem at the accident scene, and said that we believed God had engineered things so we would be with him at that time. It encouraged his faith when we told him that he had cried out to God, and that we believed God had answered his prayers. He didn't remember anything about the accident—only riding his motorcycle and waking up the next day in the hospital.

"This has bonded us," Nasseem's teary-eyed father told us. "We have to be close friends forever!"

We don't know all that the Lord did that night to spare Nasseem's life, but we had prayed for a miracle and believe we got one—two, in fact. Nasseem is alive and recovering well, and God is working another miracle in his heart by helping Nasseem better understand and appreciate His love and mercy. □

SANDRA SANDERS IS A FULL-TIME VOLUNTEER WITH THE FAMILY INTERNATIONAL IN THE MIDEAST.

**I HEARD THE
LORD'S VOICE
IN MY MIND.
"MOVE! DO
EXACTLY
WHAT I TELL
YOU TO,
RIGHT NOW!"**

Understanding.

Answers.

Faith.

What may seem logical to you in a particular situation isn't necessarily right, because you're human and fallible. It also may not be the way I see it, because "My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways. As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts" (Isaiah 55:8–9).

You may be able to figure some things out and get some things right, but you'll do much better if you learn to ask Me for My insight and solutions. I understand it *all*, and I am ready, willing, and able to pass that understanding on to you when you ask Me to.

Sometimes I will lead you to the answer in My Word. Sometimes I will give you the answer in a flash of revelation. Other times I may guide your thoughts until you reach the right conclusion. I may even give you the answer through someone else. The point is, you'll get much farther by praying for My guidance than by trying to reason things out yourself. Not only am I able to give you understanding of situations and answers to your problems, but I am also able to give you the "intangibles"—love, faith, happiness, peace of mind, and a general sense of well-being that comes through living close to Me.

So come to Me with the faith of a little child. Come to Me with an open heart and an open mind, and let Me give you all that I have for you.

