



# activated

CHANGE YOUR LIFE | CHANGE YOUR WORLD

## **IT'S WHAT YOU CHOOSE TO BELIEVE**

Design or random acts  
of chaos?

## **SOMETHING FROM NOTHING**

It started with a bang!

## **WORLD FORECAST: TROUBLE AND TRIUMPH**

An interview with God on  
the Endtime

PERSONALLY SPEAKING



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“Science Resurrects God.” The headline had my attention immediately. I was just starting my research on this month’s topic—the evolution vs. intelligent design debate—when I came across the article by Jim Holt, first published in *The Wall Street Journal* nearly a decade ago.\* That’s a switch, I thought. Admittedly it’s been awhile, but I was taught in school that science would “bury” God.

As I read on, Holt brought me up to date. “In the 19th century, it was the spirit of scientific rationality that allowed Nietzsche to declare that God was dead. By the turn of the century, skepticism about the claims of faith had become the norm among thinking types, including scientists. But if the scientific findings of the 19th century eroded belief in God, those of the 20th century have had just the opposite evidential force. Traditional arguments for the existence of God, which seemed outmoded a century ago, have had new life breathed into them.”

I have since read quite a bit more on the subject from other sources, and I was surprised at the number of highly respected scientists who have reached the conclusion that the universe couldn’t have come into being through evolutionary processes but had to be the work of an intelligent designer. I was also surprised by how numerous, varied, and sound these scientists’ arguments for design are. Nearly all of them had been taught evolution as fact in school, like I had, but were later persuaded otherwise by scientific research and reasoning. Cosmologists and astronomers, physicists and philosophers of science, biologists and biochemists—all had found God’s fingerprints on His creation. I hope their conclusions, a few of which I’ve included in this issue, will inspire you as much as they have me.

KEITH PHILLIPS

FOR THE ACTIVATED FAMILY

\*“Science Resurrects God,” Jim Holt, *The Wall Street Journal* (December 24, 1997).

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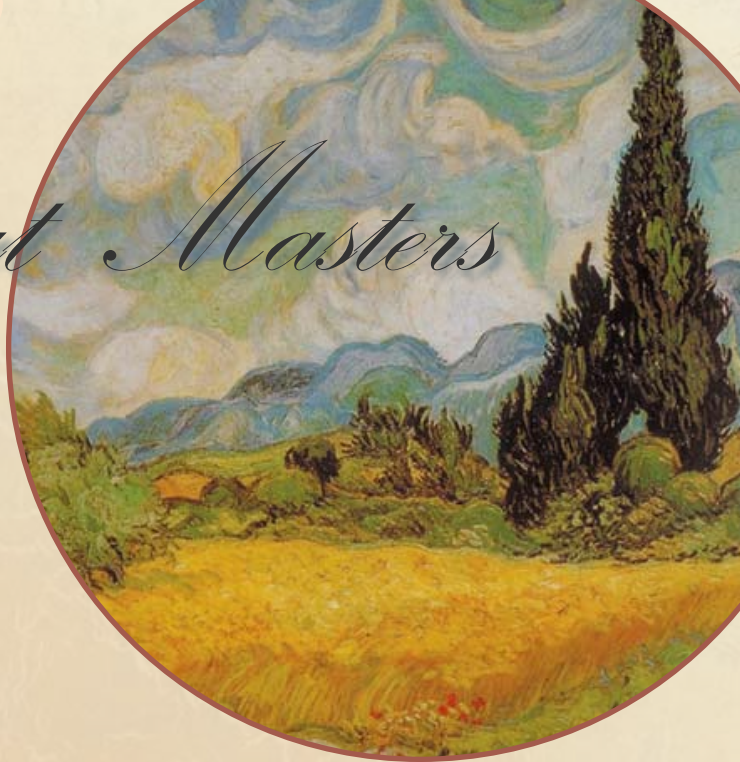
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# The Great Masters

By Abi F. May

**IT HAD BEEN SOME YEARS** since my husband and I had spent a winter in England, and it was turning out to be a very cold, windy, and damp one. We were in the habit of walking daily for exercise, but the prospect of walking in bone-chilling weather for weeks on end was not a pleasant one. Then one day, while strolling in the city, we came upon a way to escape the cold—a visit to the National Gallery in Trafalgar Square. The more than 2,300 paintings that line the long corridors comprise the largest collection of western European art in the world and are open to the public.

Unbundling ourselves, we were glad to resume our stroll in the warmth of the gallery. We were soon captivated by the portraits and landscapes, flowers and flocks. Such a variety of subjects and styles! It was easy to see why these artists are known as the Great Masters. The vibrant golden sunflowers of Vincent Van Gogh, the portraits of Rembrandt that seemed alive enough to step off the canvas and join our stroll, the gentle landscapes of John Constable, the softly colored gardens of Monet, and so much more. We became witnesses to the endeavors of men who had at their disposal small quantities of paint, a few paintbrushes, and a *lot* of talent. It was breathtaking to view, and the small plaques that accompanied each work, describing the artist's intent and technique, were fascinating to read.



Weeks passed and the weather gradually improved. The parks of London came back to life as crocuses peeked up timidly to greet the first sunshine in months. Soon daffodils trumpeted the arrival of spring in an array of yellows and golds. Trees and shrubs budded, and the grass reverted to a rich green. Even the smallest daisy, with its tiny golden heart and delicate white petals, had its particular beauty. Walks became increasingly pleasurable as the weeks progressed. As spring turned to summer, the parks were awash in color. Birds sang, butterflies fluttered through the flowers, ducklings paddled after their mothers, swans stretched their elegant necks. This too was art—a living art that varied from day to day, an art that went beyond the visual to envelop us in sounds and scents.

What intent and skill had created such beauty? I can't believe that this all came about by chance. The masterpieces of the National Gallery were not produced by random splashes of paint on canvas; they were thoughtfully designed and skillfully executed. They were not the products of chance any more than the wondrous world around us was the result of random events. I agree with the Psalmist—"The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork" (Psalm 19:1). God is the Greatest Master of them all! ▣

Abi F. May is a member of the Family International in England.



## WHERE'S THE PROOF?

By David Brandt Berg

**A**FTER ALL THOSE MILLIONS OF YEARS of evolution, you'd think Earth would be ten feet deep in missing links and you'd find them every place you dug a hole, but it's not and you don't. There's no conclusive evidence of evolution having happened.

Those who believe in evolution say, "It had to have happened because the only alternative is that God created things, and we don't believe that. We can't see Him, and we don't believe in Him anyway—it's irrational." Well, they can't see any evidence for evolution either, unless it's some of the various hoaxes they've concocted and wild ideas they've dreamed up—that's what's really irrational!

On the other hand, there's plenty of evidence for Creation—the Earth and everything in it! The beauty, the majesty, the complexity of life, the Earth, and the heavens could only have come from the Creator, not from random chemical interactions over millions or billions of years. ▣

**IF LIFE HAD EVOLVED INTO ITS WONDROUS PROFUSION OF CREATURES LITTLE BY LITTLE,** then one would expect to find fossils of transitional creatures which were a bit like what went before them and a bit like what came after. But no one has yet found any evidence of such transitional creatures. This oddity has been attributed to gaps in the fossil record which gradualists expected to fill when rock strata of the proper age had been found. In the last decade, however, geologists have found rock layers of all divisions ... and no transitional forms were contained in them.<sup>1</sup>

—Paleontologist Niles Eldredge

**THE REASON FOR ABRUPT APPEARANCES AND GAPS** can no longer be attributed to the imperfection of the fossil record as it was by Darwin when paleontology [the study of ancient life by means of the fossil record] was a young science. With over 200,000,000 catalogued specimens of about 250,000 fossil species, many evolutionist paleontologists ... argue that the fossil record is sufficient.<sup>2</sup>

—Lawyer W.R. Bird

**THE UNIVERSAL EXPERIENCE OF PALEONTOLOGY** is that while the rocks have continually yielded new and exciting and even bizarre forms of life ... what they have never yielded is any of Darwin's myriads of transitional forms. Despite the tremendous increase in geological activity in every corner of the globe and despite the discovery of many strange and hitherto unknown forms, the infinitude of connecting links has still not been discovered and the fossil record is about as discontinuous as it was when Darwin was writing the *Origin [of Species]*. The intermediates have remained as elusive as ever and their absence remains, a century later, one of the most striking characteristics of the fossil record.<sup>3</sup>

—Biochemist and molecular geneticist Michael Denton

# DARWIN'S MISSING LINKS



**FIRST, AND PERHAPS MOST IMPORTANT,** is the first appearance of fossils. This occurs at a time called the “Cambrian.” The fossils appear at that time in a pretty highly developed form. They don’t start very low and evolve bit by bit over long periods of time. In the lowest fossil-bearing strata of all [the Cambrian], they are already there, and are pretty complicated in more-or-less modern form. This situation has troubled everybody from the beginning—to have everything at the very opening of the drama. The curtain goes up and you have the players on the stage already, entirely in modern costumes.<sup>4</sup>

—Lawyer Norman Macbeth

**THE EXTREME RARITY OF TRANSITIONAL FORMS IN THE FOSSIL RECORD** persists as the trade secret of paleontology. The evolutionary trees that adorn our textbooks have data only at the tips and nodes of their branches. ... A species does not arise gradually by the gradual transformation of its ancestors; it appears all at once and fully formed.<sup>5</sup>

—Paleontologist, evolution advocate, biologist, and historian of science Stephen Jay Gould

**INTERMEDIATE LINKS?** Geology assuredly does not reveal any such finely graduated organic change, and this is perhaps the most obvious and serious objection which can be urged against the theory [of evolution].<sup>6</sup>

—Charles Darwin

**TO TAKE A LINE OF FOSSILS** and claim that they represent a lineage is not a scientific hypothesis that can be tested, but an assertion that carries the same validity as a bedtime story—amusing, perhaps even instructive, but not scientific.<sup>7</sup>

—Henry Gee

**THE CREATION ACCOUNT IN GENESIS** and the theory of evolution could not be reconciled. One must be right and the other wrong. The story of the fossils agreed with the account of Genesis. In the oldest rocks we did not find a series of fossils covering the gradual changes from the most primitive creatures to developed forms, but rather in the oldest rocks, developed species suddenly appeared. Between every species there was a complete absence of intermediate fossils.<sup>8</sup>

—Biochemist D.B. Gower

<sup>1</sup> Niles Eldredge, “Missing, Believed Nonexistent,” *The Manchester Guardian* (November 26, 1978), 1.

<sup>2</sup> W.R. Bird, *The Origin of Species Revisited* (Nashville, Tn.: Thomas Nelson, Thomas Nelson Co., Nashville, 1991), 48.

<sup>3</sup> Michael Denton, *Evolution: A Theory in Crisis* (Chevy Chase, Md.: Alder and Alder, 1986), 162.

<sup>4</sup> Norman Macbeth, speech at Harvard University, September 24, 1983, quoted in L. D. Sunderland, *Darwin's Enigma* (1988), 150.

<sup>5</sup> Stephen Jay Gould, “Evolution's Erratic Pace,” *Natural History* 86 (May 1977), 14.

<sup>6</sup> Charles Darwin, *Origin of the Species*, quoted in David Raup, “Conflicts Between Darwin and Paleontology,” *Field Museum Bulletin* (January 1979).

<sup>7</sup> Henry Gee, *In Search of Deep Time: Beyond the Fossil Record to a New History of Life* (New York: The Free Press, 1999).

<sup>8</sup> D.B. Gower, “Scientist Rejects Evolution,” *Kentish Times* [England] (December 11, 1975), 4.



By Curtis Peter Van Gorder

# Something from Nothing

**THE LAWS OF PHYSICS STATE THAT  
MATTER AND ENERGY CAN NEITHER  
BE CREATED NOR DESTROYED.**

**WHILE VISITING MY DAD FOR HIS 85TH BIRTHDAY**, we watched some of our old family movies. It was funny to see my brother as a one-year-old, crawling around, playing with the puppies, and eating from the dog's food dish. To think that this cute little baby would grow up to be a distinguished college professor and international lecturer! It got me thinking about how God makes special people out of nobodies. We come into this world naked and helpless, and God transforms us into the unique people we each are through our experiences and choices.

It's been said that God delights in making something out of nothing, and I believe it. In fact, I believe that God made *everything* out of nothing. The Nobel Prize-winning physicist Dr. Arno Penzias seems to agree. He put it this way: "The best data we have [about the formation of the universe] are exactly what I would have predicted had I had nothing to go on but the five books of Moses, the Psalms, the Bible as a whole. It was a moment of discrete [individually distinct] creation from nothing!"

Skeptics ask, "How could the universe have been created from nothing? The laws of science say that nothing can ever be created or destroyed—only rearranged. In our physical world, you have to have something to start with." Perhaps the clearest and most compelling answer I've found to that argument is put forth by James Perloff in *Tornado in a Junkyard*.<sup>1</sup>

"The most widely accepted theory of the universe's origin says that, at one time, all mass and energy were compressed in a tiny 'cosmic egg.' Then, about fifteen billion years ago, the egg exploded, creating the universe in the Big Bang. ...

"But the Big Bang itself violates natural law. The laws of physics state that matter and energy can neither be created nor destroyed. This is the First Law of Thermodynamics, the law of conservation of energy. As the well-known physicist Paul Davies wrote in his book *The Edge of Infinity*, the Big Bang 'represents the instantaneous suspension of physical laws, the sudden, abrupt flash of lawlessness that allowed something to come out of nothing. It represents a true miracle—transcending physical principles.'<sup>2</sup>

"If one allows for an event beyond natural law—a 'true miracle,' as Davies put it—then it is logically inconsistent to exclude other events, such as creation by God. If there was a 'cosmic egg,' who put it there? The cosmic chicken? Scientists have always agreed that there is a cause for every effect. How then can the greatest effect of all—the universe itself—have arisen without a cause?"

That cause, I believe, was God's command. God spoke and—*BANG!*—the universe was created. ■

<sup>1</sup> James Perloff, *Tornado in a Junkyard* (Arlington, Mass: Refuge Books, 1999), 29.

<sup>2</sup> Paul Davies, *The Edge of Infinity* (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1981), 161.

Curtis Peter Van Gorder is a member of the Family International in the Middle East.



# leap of faith

**I THINK PEOPLE WHO BELIEVE** that life emerged naturalistically need to have a great deal more faith than people who reasonably infer that there's an intelligent designer.

—Origin-of-life expert Walter Bradley<sup>1</sup>

**THE CREATION OF THE UNIVERSE** is supported by all the observable data astronomy has produced so far. As a result, the people who *reject* the data can arguably be described as having a “religious” belief. That is, people who refuse to consider the evidence because it conflicts with their preconceived ideas are following a “dogma” in the most stubborn sense of the word.

—Physicist and Nobel laureate Arno Penzias<sup>2</sup>

**WHAT'S IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTAND** is how reversed the situation is from, say, a hundred years ago. Back then, Christians had to maintain by faith in the Bible that despite all appearances to the contrary, the universe was not eternal but was created out of nothing a finite time ago. Now, the situation is exactly the opposite. It is the atheist who has to maintain, by faith, that the universe did not have a beginning a finite time ago but is in some inexplicable way eternal after all. The Christian can stand confidently within biblical truth, knowing it's in line with mainstream astrophysics and cosmology.

—Philosopher William Lane Craig<sup>3</sup>

**THERE IS A KIND OF RELIGION IN SCIENCE;** it is the religion of a person who believes there is order and harmony in the universe. Every event can be explained in a rational way as the product of some previous event; every effect must have its cause; there is no First Cause. ... For the scientist who has lived by his faith in the power of reason, the story ends like a bad dream. He has scaled the mountains of ignorance; he is about to conquer the highest peak; as he pulls himself over the final rock, he is greeted by a band of theologians who have been sitting there for centuries.

—Astronomer, physicist, and cosmologist Robert Jastrow<sup>4</sup>

**IT'S BEEN SAID THAT SCIENCE IS THE STUDY OF** proving the existence of God, and it's true. Science is continually digging deeper and deeper into the wonders of God's creation to find what marvels are there, but then they must ask themselves, “Who made it? How did this ever come to be?” And any honest scientist will acknowledge that it couldn't possibly have happened by chance, that creation had to be the work of an intelligent designer.

—David Brandt Berg<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Quoted in Lee Strobel, *The Case for Faith* (Grand Rapids, Mi.: Zondervan, 2000), 108.

<sup>2</sup> Quoted in Chuck Colson, “A Big Brain Interprets the Big Bang,” *Breakpoint*, May 9, 2003; available at: <http://www.breakpoint.org/listingarticle.asp?ID=5512> (accessed September 21, 2006).

<sup>3</sup> Quoted in Lee Strobel, *The Case for a Creator* (Grand Rapids, Mi.: Zondervan, 2004), 120.

<sup>4</sup> Robert Jastrow, *God and the Astronomers* (New York: W.W. Norton, second edition, 1992), 105, 116.

<sup>5</sup> David Brandt Berg (1919–1994) was the founder of the Family International.

# IT'S WHAT YOU **choose** to believe

How did the universe and all that is in it come into existence?  
Did some inexplicable event set off the process  
or was it the work of an **intelligent designer**?

## THE TWO SIDES OF THE DEBATE

**TRUE SCIENCE IS BASED** on what is known as the “scientific method,” by which knowledge is advanced by formulating a question, collecting data about it through observation and experiment, and testing a hypothetical answer. Only after such experimentation has proven a scientific theory to be true by producing observable and repeatable results does the theory move into the realm of scientific fact.

Atheistic and materialistic science proposes two major theories for our origins. First the big bang theory to explain how the universe came into existence, and then evolution for how life began.

More and more evidence is being uncovered that indicates the universe and all that is in it was the work of an intelligent designer, not chance. The truth is that the theories of the big bang and evolution are not as factual and convincing as their proponents pretend.

Because neither of these theories nor the belief in the Creation being wrought by God can be observed or repeated under observable experimental conditions, they are all belief systems that remain within the realm of faith. It comes down to what—and whom—you choose to believe.

## SCIENTIFIC LAWS THAT BIG BANG/EVOLUTION DEFY

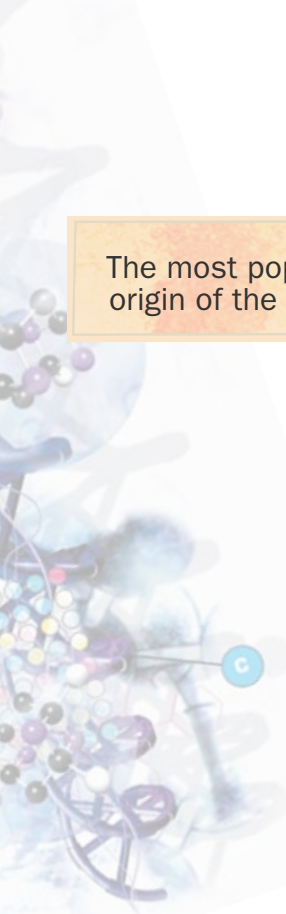
**WHEN SOMETHING IS A LAW OF SCIENCE**, it means that it is an unchanging principle of nature. It is a scientifically observable phenomenon that has been subjected to extensive measurements and experimentation and has repeatedly proved to be invariable throughout the known universe (e.g., the law of universal gravitation and the laws of motion).

A scientific law that is defied by the big bang theory is the law of the conservation of angular momentum. This law states that if an object is spinning and part of that object detaches and flies off, the part that flies off will spin in the same direction as the object it detached from.

The big bang theory goes through constant revision as new data is interjected into the equation, but in essence it states that the universe began from a furiously spinning, infinitesimally small but immensely dense dot. The dot exploded in the “the big bang” that threw out matter that expanded into all the astral bodies that comprise the universe, which is still expanding.

It is true that the planets are observed to be spinning, but according to the law of the conservation of angular momentum, if all the planets spun off from the same original object, then they would all be spinning in the same direction. Even an examination of our own solar system shows that Venus and Uranus spin in the *opposite* direction than the rest of the planets do. This evidence alone disproves the big bang theory.





The most popular atheistic theory as to the origin of the universe is the big bang theory.

One of the laws of physics is termed the second law of thermodynamics. This law observes the fact that the usable energy in the universe is diminishing. Ultimately, there would be no available energy left. Stemming from this fact we find that the most probable state for any natural system is one of disorder. All natural systems degenerate when left to themselves. Famed scientist, science fiction writer, and big bang/evolutionary proponent Isaac Asimov put it this way:

Another way of stating the second law then is, “The universe is constantly getting more disorderly.” Viewed that way we can see the second law all about us. We have to work hard to straighten a room, but left to itself it becomes a mess again very quickly and very easily.

### JUST FOR FUN

God is sitting in Heaven when a scientist says to Him, “God, we don’t need You anymore. Science has finally figured out a way to create life out of nothing. In other words, we can now do what You did in the beginning.”

“Oh, is that so? Tell Me,” God replies.

“Well,” says the scientist, “we can take plain dirt, form it into the likeness of You, and breathe life into it, thus creating man.”

“That’s very interesting. Show Me,” says God.

So the scientist bends down to the earth and starts to mold the soil into the shape of a man.

“No, no!” interrupts God. “Get your own dirt.”

Even if we never enter it, it becomes dusty and musty. How difficult to maintain houses, and machinery, and our own bodies in perfect working order; how easy to let them deteriorate. In fact, all we have to do is nothing, and everything deteriorates, collapses, breaks down, wears out, all by itself—and that is what the second law is all about.

But the crux of evolutionary theory is that things are gaining in complexity, simple life forms giving rise to more sophisticated ones, disorder giving rise to order. This flies in the face of the second law of thermodynamics. On this point alone the theory of evolution would have to be disallowed.

Evolutionists counter this argument by claiming that an energy source can reverse the second law. For example, an outside energy force such as a housekeeper can tidy a disorderly room. They point to the sun as the outside source of energy, and say over billions of years the sun’s energy would be like the busy housekeeper. Simple observation, however, would show that energy from the sun alone is not capable of creating life from something with no life, or complexity from simplicity.

Consider the sun shining on two seedlings: the one alive, the other dead. When equal amounts of water and nutrients are added to both, the live plant flourishes but the dead one decays. Energy from the sun is not enough to give rise to life. And as for the dead plant, it rots and disintegrates in accordance with the second law of thermodynamics.

## IRREDUCIBILITY

**THE THEORY OF EVOLUTION POSTULATES** that small, incremental, beneficial steps propel the evolutionary process forward. It is much like a device where only one component of that device is modified at a time, so as to improve the efficiency of the device in some way, while at the same time allowing the device to remain functioning without any other modifications. Once the device has settled into the fact that it now has an improved component, it then “sees” the benefit of upgrading another one. The point is that it takes these steps one at a time, sees how good that step is, and then takes another step. The device must both continue to function and improve its functionality.

But what if the upgrade requires more than one improvement at a time? Evolutionary theory cannot accommodate this. The improvement must be one step at a time, and if a component doesn't offer an advantage to an organism (i.e., it doesn't function), it will be lost or discarded. Are there devices occurring in nature that therefore cannot be explained by evolution? Indeed there are many, but it only takes one to disprove the theory.

We will choose one which everyone will be familiar with—the amazing human knee joint. The knee joint is unique in our bodies. It is quite unlike the ball and socket joints of our hips or shoulders and the pivot joint of our elbows. Although those are all marvels of engineering, the knee is truly exceptional. It consists of several elements, but the critical design parts are (a) the two condyles of



the femur bone that rotate in (b) the matching concave grooves of the tibia, and (c and d) the two cruciate ligaments (so called because they cross over each other) that fit in the space between the condyles.

If a structure is so complex that all of its parts must initially be present in a suitably functioning manner, it is said to be irreducibly complex. The knee joint is irreducible; all four of these parts must be present for the knee to work. (The knee has other parts, but these four are essential to each other for them to function in the way they do.) Any one, two, or three of them on their own would not perform any useful function. They are all unique to the knee.

Therefore it is impossible for the knee to evolve from a simpler joint like the hip or the elbow, according to the theory of evolution. How such a device could have evolved in a gradual, step-by-step process as required by classic Darwinian evolution is an insurmountable obstacle to evolutionists.<sup>1</sup>

## SCIENTIST SEES DESIGN

The laws of nature seem to have been carefully arranged so that they can be discovered by beings with our level of intelligence. That not only fits the idea of design, but it also suggests a providential purpose for humankind—that is, to learn about our habitat and to develop science and technology.

—Physicist Robin Collins, quoted in: Lee Strobel, *The Case for a Creator* (Grand Rapids, Mi.: Zondervan, 2004), 147.

<sup>1</sup> Stuart Burgess, “Critical Characteristics and the Irreducible Knee Joint,” *Creation Ex Nihilo Technical Journal*, Vol. 13, No. 2, 1999.

## A MATTER OF FAITH

**NEITHER CREATION NOR BIG BANG/EVOLUTION CAN BE CONCLUSIVELY PROVEN** by scientific methods. So whether you choose to believe in Creation or big bang/evolution, it takes faith. And for faith to be sustained and grow, it must eventually be rewarded with some evidence, however small. Here is where creationists—and Christians in particular—are at a distinct advantage. Proponents of atheistic theories have their faith bolstered every time a new discovery is made that seems to support them, only to have their faith shaken when that new “evidence” is proven scientifically unsound. Creationists, on the other hand, have their faith rewarded every day. From the synchronization of the cosmos to the wonders of nature and the intricacies of the DNA molecule, everything points to the hand of an intelligent designer behind this universe of ours.

And that’s not all. Those who have made a personal direct connection with the Designer through His Son, Jesus Christ, can experience His loving presence. Through the answers we receive to our prayers and through the truth and freedom He reveals to us through His Word, our faith is continually rewarded and strengthened. Just as truly loving human relationships engender faith and trust between the parties, all that we receive from God helps us to trust Him and take Him at His word. Because the other things He tells us in the Bible ring true, we are able to view the Genesis account of Creation from a position of faith—not the faith of a gullible simpleton, but that of a thinking, sensible person who bases his or her decision on the character of a close and trusted friend who is the author of the account.

If you don’t yet know the Creator but would like to, you can start now by accepting Jesus as your Savior and inviting Him into your life. Simply pray:

*Jesus, I want to know You personally, so I invite You to come into my heart. Thank You for dying for me that my sins may be forgiven and so I can have the gift of eternal life in the world to come. Amen. ■*

“It’s What You Choose to Believe” is adapted from *Evolution, Fact or Fable?*; Richard Johnston (Aurora Production AG, Switzerland, 2002).

## FEEDING READING *God the Creator*

### FROM THE BOOKS OF MOSES:

Genesis 1:1  
Exodus 20:11  
Deuteronomy 4:32

### FROM THE OTHER OLD TESTAMENT (O.T.)

#### HISTORICAL BOOKS:

1 Samuel 2:8  
2 Kings 19:15  
2 Chronicles 2:12  
Nehemiah 9:6

#### FROM THE O.T. POETICAL BOOKS:

Job 38:4  
Psalm 8:3–4  
Proverbs 3:19  
Ecclesiastes 11:5

#### FROM THE O.T. PROPHETIC BOOKS:

Isaiah 45:12  
Jeremiah 14:22  
Amos 4:13  
Zechariah 12:1

#### FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT HISTORICAL BOOKS:

Mark 13:19  
John 1:1–3,10  
Acts 14:15

#### FROM THE EPISTLES:

Romans 1:20  
2 Corinthians 4:6  
Colossians 1:16

#### FROM THE BOOK OF REVELATION:

Revelation 4:11



# WORLD FORECAST:

## TROUBLE AND TRIUMPH OUT OF TRIBULATION

### PART 3 OF AN INTERVIEW WITH GOD ON THE ENDTIME

**Interviewer:** *At what point will the coming Antichrist's world government curtail personal freedoms and demand complete compliance to its rules and dictates, and eventually even worship of the Antichrist?*

**GOD:** Three and a half years after the signing of the Holy Covenant. The continuing squabbles and even wars between its signatory nations and entities will provide the pretext for the Antichrist, the arbiter, to declare the Covenant void and declare a type of international martial law. At that point, he will proclaim himself free from any constitutional restraints and assume dictatorial power. The Mark of the Beast will be declared mandatory, and anyone not receiving it will be regarded as an outlaw. It is at this point that the period called the Great Tribulation will begin.

*Will that be a time of enormous trouble for everyone, or just these "outlaws"?*

It will be a time of trouble for everyone. The Christians by now would have wised up to what is happening, but many of them will be in quite a state of shock. Many people of other religious persuasions will also be in active opposition to the Antichrist, as will libertarians who don't want to have anything to do with his system. Whole nations will rebel, and there will be wars between the armies of the world government and these nations. There will also be an increase in natural disasters and plagues, as some of man's genetic engineering projects go awry and produce mega-insects and other biological freaks. It will be a world in chaos and confusion.

*But why let it happen?*

Man will have achieved his ultimate civilization: a united world government and economy based on his technological wonders. Yet it will lead the world to the brink of ultimate disaster. It is man at his pinnacle, but it will show just what a lousy job he does. It is the ultimate demonstration that, left to his own devices, man will make a terrible mess out of things.

*But this isn't man on his own, right? I mean, we end up with the Devil for our leader. No wonder it is such a disaster.*

Humanity as a whole chooses the Devil to be its leader.

*But won't humanity be forced into it?*

Manipulated, but not forced. Each individual will have a choice, and many will choose not to follow him.

*Well, there You go. Not everyone goes down the merry path to destruction, so the world is not all bad.*

I didn't say the world was all bad. I said that humanity as a whole, when left to its own devices, will make a hash of it. But there are those who will remain in resistance to the Antichrist and his government.

*How will they survive if the regime is so totalitarian and the economy so controlled that they can't buy or sell?*

In some areas the situation will be looser than others. It is a big world, and the Antichrist and his government will have a hard time controlling it all.

*Am I right in supposing that Your sympathies are with the rebels?*  
Exactly. I will be helping them and will eventually rescue them.

*Why "eventually" and not right away? You mentioned earlier that many Christians don't expect to be in the middle of all of this.*

*Why leave them in it?*

For the same reasons there are Christians in the world today. Their purpose is to be an example of their faith, to tell others about Jesus and to bring them into My kingdom. During the Great Tribulation, this will be needed more than ever.

*But a lot of them aren't exactly good examples of their faith now.*

Unfortunately not, but they really won't have much choice then. They will have to either stand up for what they believe or become part of the Antichrist's system. They will soon find out that the Antichrist won't tolerate them, so they will have to cast their lot in with the rebels.

*Okay, we have the Great Tribulation happening. What next? I hope there is a bit of an upswing.*

The Great Tribulation will last for approximately three and a half years; one thousand two hundred and sixty days, to be precise. Then Jesus will return in the clouds with all the host of Heaven. Everyone will see Him as He circles the globe calling all His people to come to Him. Then will be the great Rapture I spoke of earlier, when all those who have received Jesus into their hearts, dead and alive, will rise to meet Him in the air.

*I even have a bit of trouble flying in an airplane, but here You have people flying up to meet Jesus. I hope You do a number on me, otherwise I'm going to have to keep my eyes closed the whole time.*

Don't worry! You'll find that you will have a new, transformed, superhuman body, similar in style to what you have now, but greatly improved and enhanced and impervious to harm. In these new and eternal bodies, all who believe will rise up into the sky in a mighty wave.

They will then be taken to the centerpiece of Heaven, the Heavenly City, where they will join with all those in Heaven to celebrate this great deliverance and victory in an event known as the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. It will truly be the most



wonderful occasion to date held in Heaven.

Meanwhile on Earth, the troubles will intensify and multiply dramatically. Many people will die and still more will wish to die to get away from the horrible plagues and disasters that will be occurring.

*What about those who were in the rebel resistance who were not Christians? It hardly sounds fair if they get caught up in all this too.*

I will protect them during this time. It is during this period that the Antichrist will amass his forces to try to annihilate the main force of the remaining rebels. Battle will be joined on the plain of Megiddo in Israel. This is the famous Battle of Armageddon, a battle so fierce and terrible as to dwarf all other battles in its ferocity and carnage. It is in the midst of this battle that the forces of Heaven, under the leadership of Jesus Himself, will intervene and annihilate the Antichrist and his forces. The Antichrist himself will be captured and cast alive into the very depths of Hell. The Devil also will be imprisoned in his own special jail known as the Bottomless Pit.

*Gripping stuff! With those two baddies out of the way, I guess we all go back to Heaven and live happily ever after.*

We live happily ever after, but not just confined to Heaven.

*How so?*

It is at this point that Earth is given over to the personal rule of Jesus and those who follow and love Him. For the next thousand years, it will be run the best way. There will be much to do to restore its damaged environment and to try and turn the world back into the Edenic state that it was in the beginning.

*I suppose the cities will need a lot of repair as well, after all that they would have gone through.*

As a matter of fact, I am not so keen on fixing up the cities. At least the major ones. I think the world is better off without them.

*Without them? Where will we live? Uh oh! I sense that the answer is obvious. We are not all going back to the farm, are we, for goodness sake?*

You don't like the farm?

*Farm life is okay once in a while on a weekend maybe, but living there?*

Don't get too excited. There will still be urban centers, but they won't be the huge, overcrowded cities of today. They will be smaller, more intimate, more humane, and I assure you much more pleasant to live in. If farm life really isn't your cup of tea, there will be lots of alternatives.

*And this lasts for a thousand years.*

That's right.



*So this is the good news You talked about at the beginning? The beginning of it.*

*There is more?*

Goodness gracious, yes! A thousand years is a drop in the bucket of eternity. This thousand years of peace and plenty and love and happiness is only the prelude.

*I assume things only get better from then on.*

Yes. There is a minor hiccup at the end of the thousand years, but that is all in the plan.

*A hiccup?*

It's all under control, so don't worry.

*But a hiccup? Want to elaborate on this? What happens after the thousand years?*

Let's just say the best is yet to come.

—To be continued in the next issue of *Activated*

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# God's

## SPACE

By David Brandt Berg

eating as many bugs as they can. And they're very clever, acrobatic fliers. It amazes me how they can fly at full speed through a tiny hole or crack and into their nests.

It's also wonderful to be able to look up and see the sky. Everything going on up there is God's doing—the clouds and the air currents and the changes in temperature and atmospheric pressure that cause the clouds to form and flow and eventually empty to revive the earth, the birds in flight, the sun by day, and the moon and the stars by night—so many wonders of God's creation are in the sky, and very few of man's. Airplanes are like intruders into God's space.

Have you ever noticed how sometimes doves will drop out one by one from flight? One or two of the younger or weaker ones will drop out when it gets to be a little too much for them. Then, as though on a given signal, they'll *all* swoop low and flutter their wings and come to rest together on a roof or wire.

God's creation continually amazes me! The view out my window is like a magnet that draws me to it! It's so attractive, I can hardly leave it!

Watch the doves circling beautifully. You can tell they're really enjoying that. They're all enjoying living, so why shouldn't we? That's the way God intended for us to live, like those doves, happy and carefree as we enjoy God's creation and each others' company.

Doves are a symbol of God's love, of the Holy Spirit, and of His tender loving care. They are also a wonderful example of how we should be, enjoying God's beautiful creation, nesting in His love and care, and creating and caring for more little doves for Him. The doves do no one any harm. They just make the world beautiful and fill it full of peace and love and beauty and thrill our hearts with the beauty of God's creation. Let's do the same. ▣

**“EVERYTHING IS BEAUTIFUL** in its own way, like a starry summer night or a snow-covered winter's day!” as the old Ray Stevens song goes. It's inspiring to watch God's beautiful creation and creatures from the window, to see how well organized the Lord's creation is, how peaceful and beautiful. It helps you trust in Him. When we realize what good care God takes of all His creation, you know He'll take good care of you too.

Two swallows are sitting side by side on a wire outside my window. They must have a nest nearby. It's wonderful how the Lord takes care of them and how they help take care of themselves. We don't do a thing for them. All we do is admire them from a distance. They feed themselves and take care of their babies, they build their own nests, and they help us by doing a good job of

# Try Me



## FROM JESUS WITH LOVE

If you don't know Me yet, then I have a proposal for you: Rather than trying to figure Me out, why not give Me a chance to show you the truth? I am not just talking about right and wrong, or good advice, but supernatural truth. All that I am cannot be comprehended by the mind. You have to seek and understand with your heart. Why not see for yourself if I'm real and "the way, the truth, and the life" as I told My first disciples? (John 14:6). Why not put Me to the test? Accept My love and presence into your life, and then see what I can do for you.

I can be your closest friend and confidant. I can help you when things go wrong and you need sup-

port. I can give happiness in place of grief, and I can bring beauty out of the ashes of failures and mistakes. Once you ask Me into your life, I will never leave you. That's a solemn pledge! I will always love and care for you in spite of everything, including your own faults and failings.

Once you connect with Me personally, then as you delve into what I have revealed in the Bible—and particularly in the Gospels—you will discover pure and life-giving truths within My Word. There's a personal message from Me to you within that book.

All you need to do to start to receive all that I have to offer is open your heart and invite Me in.