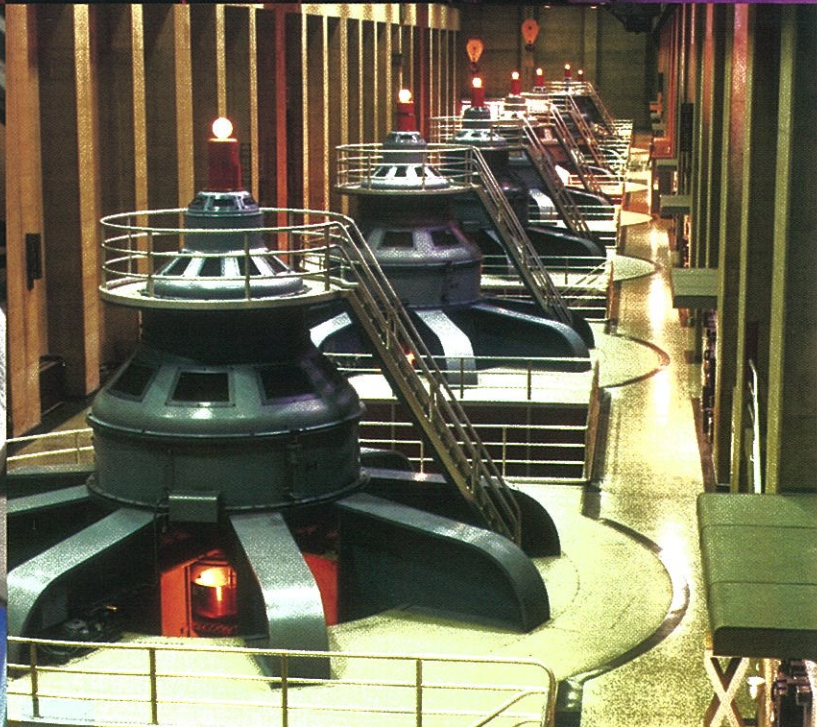
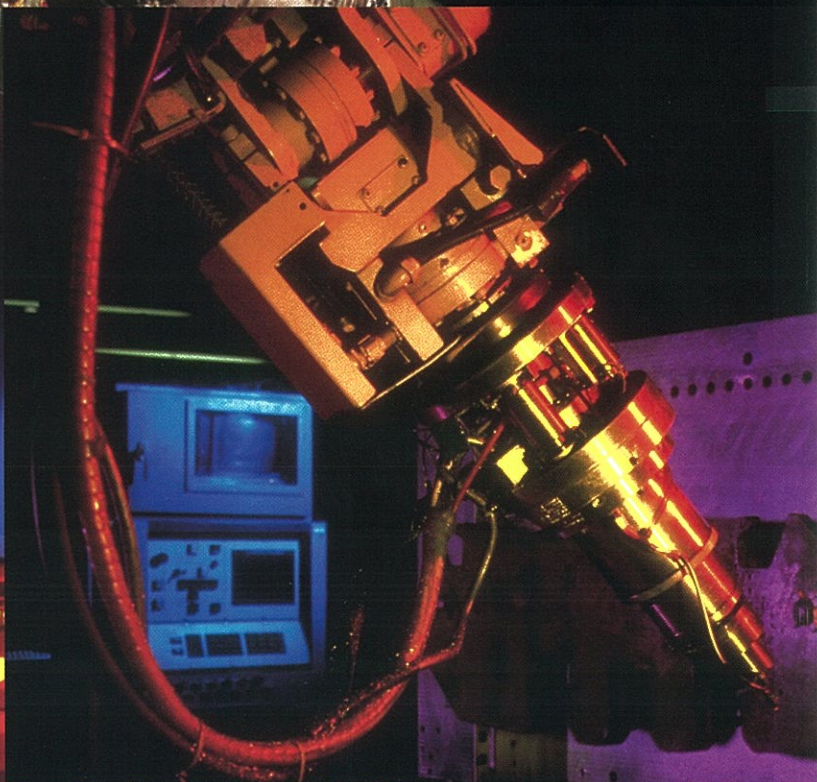
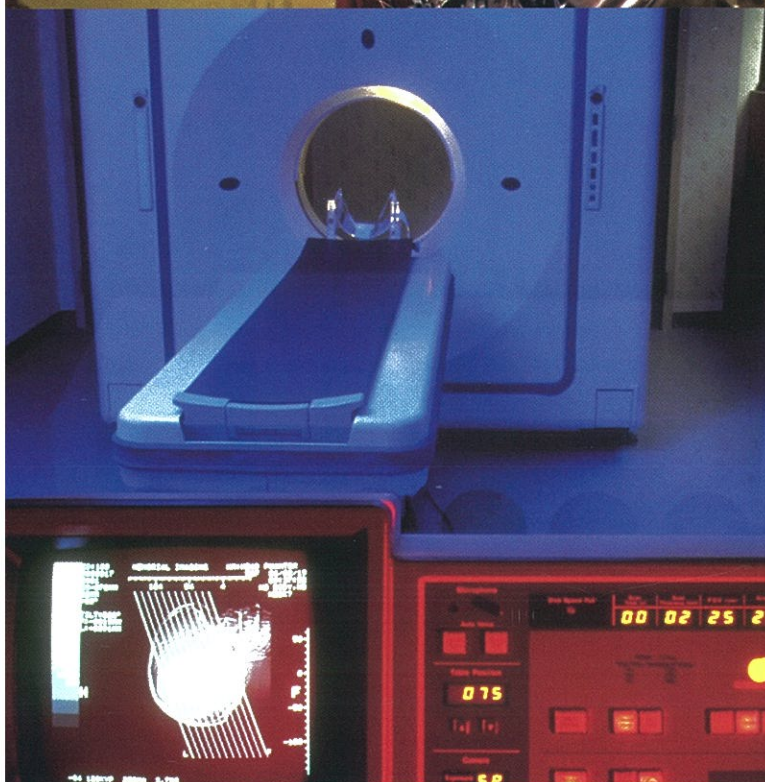


July 2002  
Volume 13:7

# Discovery

*Scripture & Science for Kids*





# MAN, ANIMALS, AND TECHNOLOGY

BERT THOMPSON

**H**ow would you like to have lived 200 years ago? Covered wagons. Foods cooked over an open fire. Farming alongside a mule. No indoor plumbing. No televisions. No VCRs. No DVDs. No antibiotics.

Doesn't sound very exciting, does it? But people who lived in the 1800s were humans just like us. Why is it that we have made so much progress? Have **people** changed that much?

No, people haven't changed. But **technology** has. Man, unlike animals, has the ability to speak, write, improve his education, and develop

amazing technology. Man has always been incredibly intelligent and inventive. But while people of long ago could construct the Tower of Babel (Genesis 11), they could not build the Empire State Building. Why not? Part of the answer has to do with the

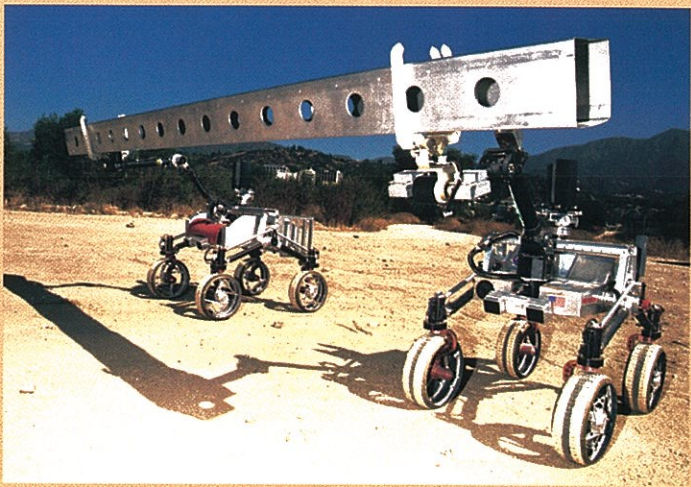
*The intricate designs of computer chips show men's amazing abilities.*

fact that people (again, unlike animals) have the ability to collect knowledge and build on past achievements. As a result, we know more today than we did 200—or 2,000—years ago. And we can do more with that knowledge. For example, we have begun to crack the human genome, constructed the Hoover Dam, and landed a robotic rover on Mars (to name just a few of our accomplishments).

Now, compare mankind's achievements to those of the animals, who possess no greater knowledge today than they did 200—or 2,000—years ago. Animals today fare little better (if any) than their ancestors. Humans, however, not only learn from their past but also build

for their future. No animal does that. Man, because he was created in the "image of God" (Genesis 1:26-27), has the ability to invent technology that allows him to improve and progress—a trait obviously lacking in the animal kingdom.

Man is also creative. Consider Michelangelo's paintings, Mozart's music, or Shakespeare's writings. Man has built spaceships that travel to the Moon; he has made artificial hearts for the sick; and he has constructed computers that perform billions of calculations in a fraction of a second. Animals lack the built-in creative ability to do such things. Beavers build huts, birds construct nests, and spiders weave webs, but they are guided by instinct. They work by a rule furnished to them, not as architects that design something from their own mental resources. Animals possess neither the intelligence nor the ability to develop technology. But man possesses both. A huge gap separates man from animals. Technology is evidence of that gap, and of the fact that humans are indeed "fearfully and wonderfully made" (Psalm 139:14).



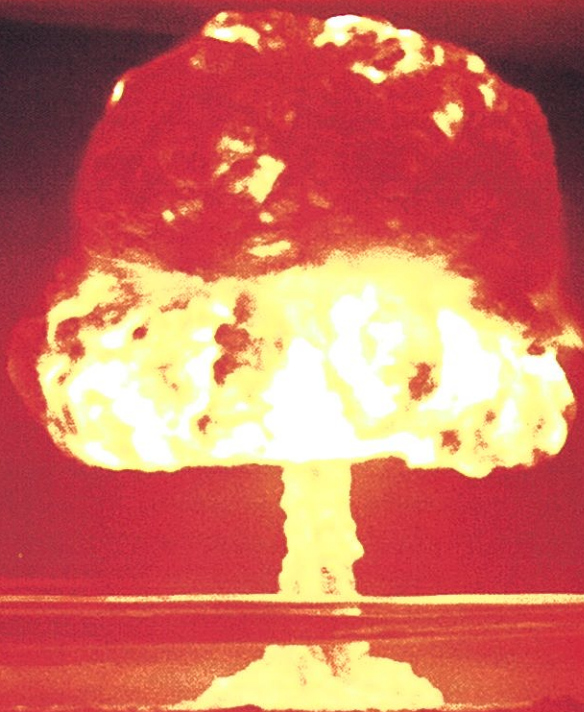
*Rovers like the two in this picture are being prepared to make trips to Mars. Man has created many amazing things by using his ability to build on past knowledge.*



*This explosion from a nuclear bomb testing shows just how destructive technology can be.*

# TECHNOLOGY—A TWO-SIDED COIN

KYLE BUTT



If you have ever flown in an airplane, you know the feeling of looking down to the Earth and seeing cars that look like ants, and houses as small as mole hills. Isn't it amazing the wonderful things that the human mind has been able to accomplish? Humans have built planes that fly, space shuttles and satellites that can be launched into orbit, artificial hearts that can help sick people stay alive longer, and a million other things that make our physical lives better.

Yet, as wonderful as all that technology sounds, sometimes it is not that wonderful. After all, the same technology used to build **passenger** planes can be used to build **fighter** planes that often fall into the hands of evil people who use them to kill innocent people. Nuclear power plants can be used to furnish electricity and energy for cities, but that same technology can be used to build bombs that kill thousands of men, women, and children. Brilliant scientists have discovered how to clone mammals, make bombs, and build ships, but science can never tell us if we **should** or **should not** do something. Science can only tell us what we can do, not what we should do.

For instance, each of us has the ability to walk into a grocery store, steal a dozen eggs, and throw them against a brick wall. Science can tell us that those eggs will break, the liquid inside will ooze out, and the other physical things that will happen. But science cannot tell us if we should or should not steal the eggs. Science simply cannot provide any answers about what is right and what is wrong.

If we cannot go to science for the answers about right and wrong, where can we go? The truth is, there is only one place to go to find out what should or should not be done—the Bible. Since

God is the Creator of the Universe, He knows what things we humans should or should not do. Proverbs 3:5-6 says: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths." Everything that science has the ability to do needs to be compared to God's Word to see if we humans should do it. We should let God's Word direct our paths—including the paths of technology.



*Nuclear technology allows plants like this one to generate energy for homes and businesses. But that same technology can be very dangerous.*



# AMAZING ANCIENT **ACHIEVEMENTS**

ERIC LYONS

**W**ere our forefathers the ignorant, unlearned “nitwits” that many people today make them out to be? Did they resemble the brutish, club-carrying cavemen that Hollywood movies show—savages who communicated by using grunts and groans rather than real language? Did our ancestors really lack the brainpower to build houses, erect monuments, and count time by watching the Sun, Moon, and stars? Absolutely not!

Research shows that many of our ancestors were very intelligent. Take, for instance, the ancient Egyptians. More than 4,000 years ago, they built great pyramid-shaped “tombs” in which to bury their dead kings. One of these tombs, known as the Great Pyramid, stood nearly 500 feet high. [That is three times taller

365.2420 days long. They also figured the orbit of Venus to be 584 days, when current science shows it at 583.92 days. Amazing! What accuracy! What intelligence!

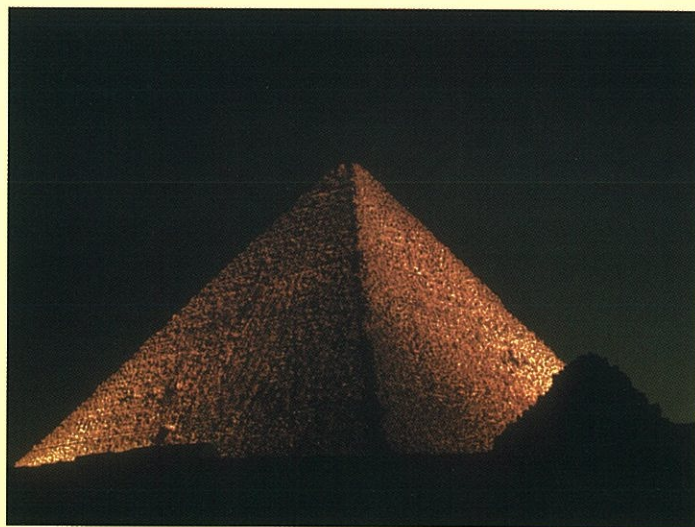
As you would expect, the Bible verifies these historical facts. By reading just the first six chapters of Genesis you learn that: (1) Adam was created with the ability to speak a language (naming all of the animals God brought to him the very day of his creation); (2) Jubal, one of Cain’s descendants, “was the father of all those who play the harp and flute” (4:21); (3) Tubal-Cain, Jubal’s half-brother, formed tools out of bronze and iron (4:22); and (4) Noah built an ark bigger than many modern-day cruise ships. All of these things were accomplished without electronic calculators or lightening-fast computers.

Truth be told, our ancestors were no dummies; man has been intelligent since the beginning of time. God made us that way. He created us in His own image (Genesis 1:26-27), and crowned us with glory and honor (Psalm 8:5).

*Ancient Aztec Indians carved many of these circular stones, which they probably used as a type of calendar.*

than the Statue of Liberty, and almost as tall as the Washington Monument—the tallest stone structure in the world!] The Great Pyramid was made of over 2 million blocks of stone that had to be cut, transported, and assembled to create the almost 6-million-ton structure. To this day, modern man still does not know how the Egyptians built such a pyramid. What an amazing accomplishment!

The ancient Mayans are another example of our “finely tuned” forefathers. More than one thousand years before astronomers found that the length of a year was precisely 365.2422 days, the Mayans (without computers or modern measuring devices) calculated it to be

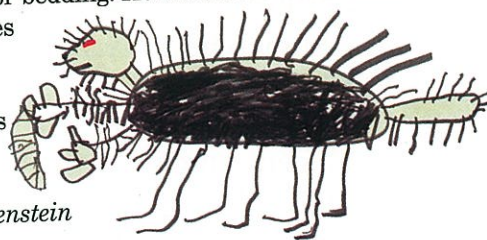


*The Great Pyramid of Khufu stands as a constant reminder of the intelligence of the ancient Egyptians.*



1st

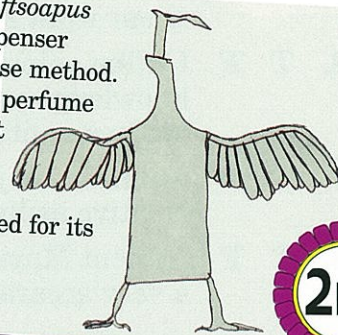
This creature is a venomous weasel. He is active at night (nocturnal) and has good night vision. He is found on islands, and eats coconuts. He has two small arms with powerful paws and long claws. The venom is in his claws. When he grips the coconut, he injects the venom to break down the hard shell of the coconut. He also likes the palm leaves for food and for bedding. He makes his home under tree stumps, using his eight powerful legs for digging. He carries leaves in his mouth to his home. He has a flat, strong tail that he uses to thump the palm trees to shake loose the coconuts. He has hair (similar to a porcupine) that protects him. When he is mad, his eyes glow red, he thumps his tail, and he lets out a terrible screech to warn other animals. He is able to move fast or very slow.—Jacob Rubenstein



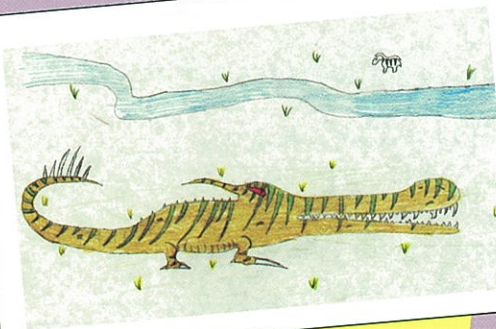
## Create your own creature

In April of this year, we announced our contest called Create Your Own Creature. Many of you entered your own creatures. It is obvious from the critters that we received that we have some very intelligent and creative readers. Among the animals submitted were a Car-cat, a Big Head Cactus Beast, a Liongoatrilla, and a host of other wacky creatures. The winners on this page were determined by looking at several categories such as the age of the participant, the quality of the picture, the description, and overall creativity. It was difficult to pick the winners because all the entries were very good. Thanks for your participation. Look forward to more contests in the future.

The soapdispenserhawk (*Softsoapus dispensorialis*). The soapdispenser hawk has an amazing defense method. It excretes a sweet-smelling perfume that the predator can't resist smelling. This gives the hawk time to escape. It is endangered because it is killed for its perfume—also called "soap!" —Jamie Calhoun



2nd



Saberback crocodiles live along the rivers at subtropical climates where they feed on zebras and water buffalo that try to cross the rivers. Saberback crocodiles have the most powerful jaws in the animal kingdom. They can slam their mouths shut with 75 tons of pressure. They grow to 40 feet long and can weigh up to two tons. Only two have been seen by humans, but scientists estimate there are at least one thousand living in the wild. The spikes on its tale carry a venom strong enough to kill a human. —Isaac Taylor

3rd

My creature is *Rabbitosaurus*. It is an omnivore because it eats both meat and plants. One of its defense mechanisms is breathing fire through its mouth at its enemies. It is a cross between a rabbit and dinosaur. Because of this, it has long ears like a rabbit, and hops, but is green like a dinosaur and has very sharp teeth. My creature has a split personality. It can be gentle like a rabbit or ferocious like a dinosaur. I like my creature. —Rachel Henry



5th

See this mouse with the kite on its body. It can fly away from cats. —Hannah Knabe Age 5

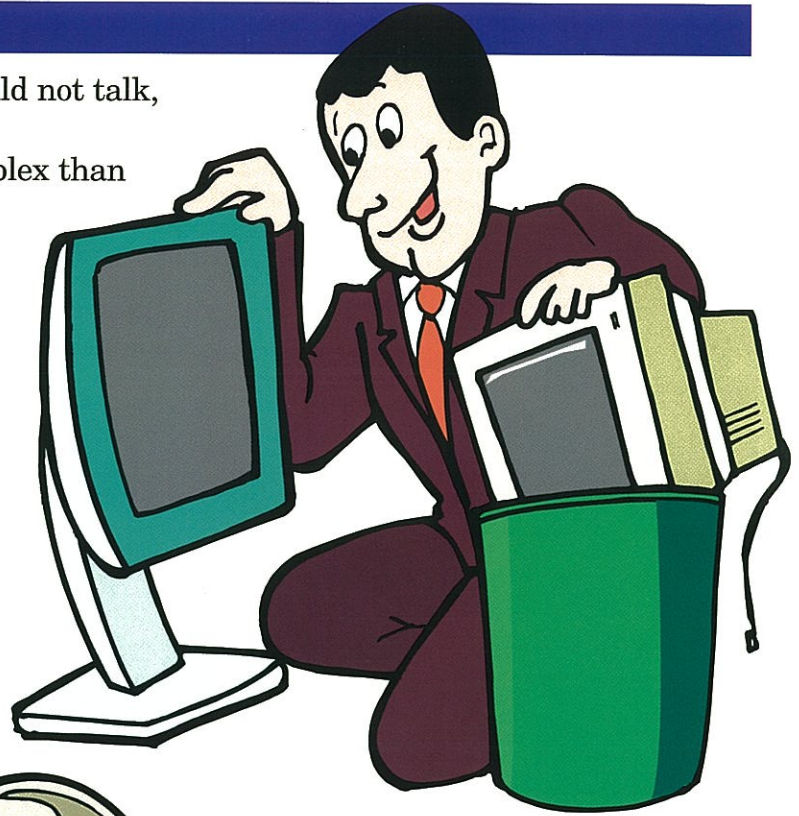
4th





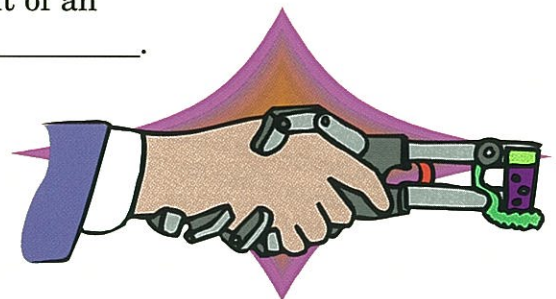
## TRUE OR FALSE

1. **T F** Our ancestors were ignorant and could not talk, but grunted like "cavemen."
2. **T F** The human brain is much more complex than the best computers.
3. **T F** If computers must be designed by intelligent humans, then the human brain must have a designer as well.
4. **T F** Technology is always a wonderful thing.
5. **T F** Science cannot provide answers about what should be done.
6. **T F** Unlike animals, humans can collect knowledge and build on past achievements.
7. **T F** Animals are just as intelligent and creative as humans.
8. **T F** Ancient Mayan Indians developed a very accurate calendar.



## FILL IN THE BLANKS

1. Research shows that our \_\_\_\_\_ were very \_\_\_\_\_.
2. A huge \_\_\_\_\_ separates man from \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Science can only tell us what we \_\_\_\_\_ do, not what we \_\_\_\_\_ do.
4. Computers aren't self-aware, they can't \_\_\_\_\_, and they don't work well \_\_\_\_\_!
5. God created us in His own \_\_\_\_\_ (Genesis 1:26-27), and crowned us with glory and \_\_\_\_\_ (Psalm 8:5).
6. The brain isn't merely an advanced \_\_\_\_\_ — it's the result of an Intelligent \_\_\_\_\_.





## WORD SEARCH

Y	O	P	Y	R	A	M	I	D	F
C	G	D	S	Y	E	H	G	F	I
O	I	O	Q	D	M	I	Z	N	K
M	T	V	L	G	K	G	V	U	L
P	B	T	C	O	P	E	L	W	M
U	K	R	L	J	N	V	Z	A	Z
T	P	Q	A	T	G	H	Y	G	U
E	U	O	I	I	P	A	C	D	P
R	S	V	Y	J	N	N	Z	E	N
M	E	V	I	T	A	E	R	C	T

Computer

Pyramid

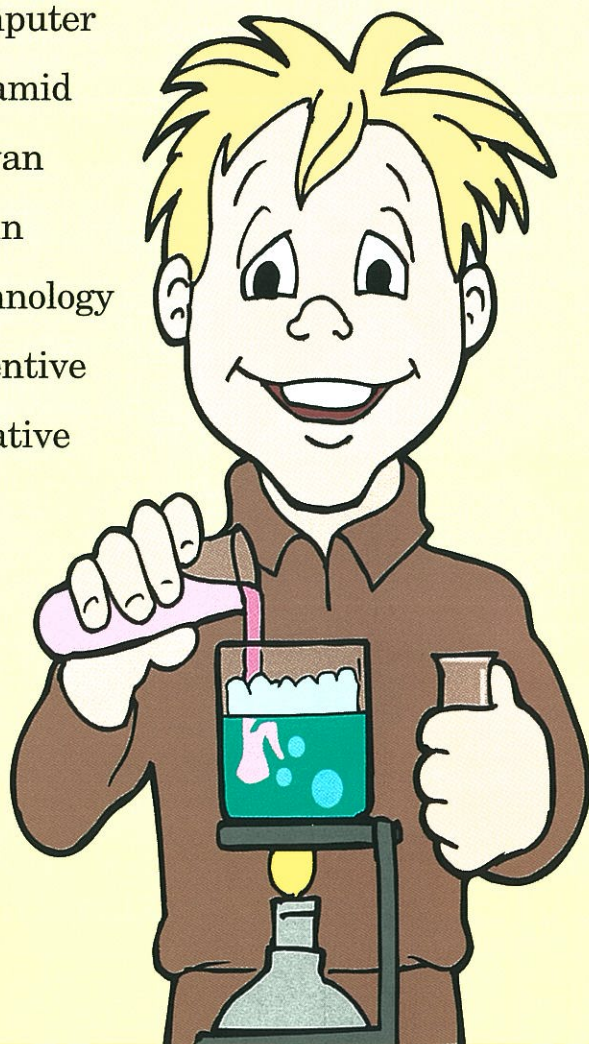
Mayan

Brain

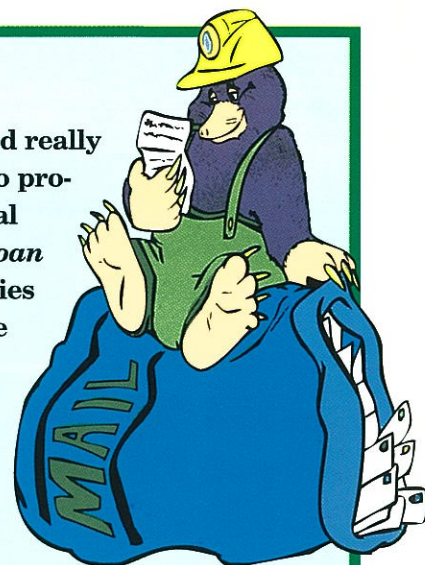
Technology

Inventive

Creative



Dear Digger Doug,  
Do you think it would really have been possible to prophesy in the Medieval times? In the book *Joan of Arc*, Joan prophesies that the French were losing the battle to England. Then a week later the news came that it was true.—Aurie Adams, Memphis, TN.

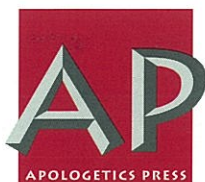


Dear Aurie,

During Bible times, God spoke directly to His prophets and told them what would happen in the future. However, God said there would be a time when no one would be able to prophesy anymore. In the book of Zechariah, He said there would be a time when the prophets would “depart from the land” (13:2). In the New Testament, in 1 Corinthians 13:8, the apostle Paul mentioned a time when prophecies “would fail” (meaning that no one would be able to prophesy). When would the prophets depart from the land and prophecies fail? The apostle Paul said it would happen “when that which is perfect has come” (1 Corinthians 13:10). When we turn to the book of James, we read that the law of liberty is perfect (1:25). The law of liberty James is talking about is the New Testament. Once the New Testament was completed (by A.D. 100), all prophecy would stop. There would be no way for Joan of Arc to prophesy in Medieval times.

So, how do we explain Joan’s correct prediction about the French? First, she had a fifty-fifty chance—only the French or English could be winning. If I said flipping a coin will land on heads, and it does, would that make me a prophet. No. Second, maybe Joan knew that the French were weaker than the English. If I predict that the Lakers will win the NBA championship, and they do, am I a prophet? Or could it be that I just knew they had a stronger team. Whatever reason Joan guessed correctly, it was not because she was a prophet.





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Editor: Kyle Butt, M.A.  
Associate Editor: Eric Lyons, M.Min.  
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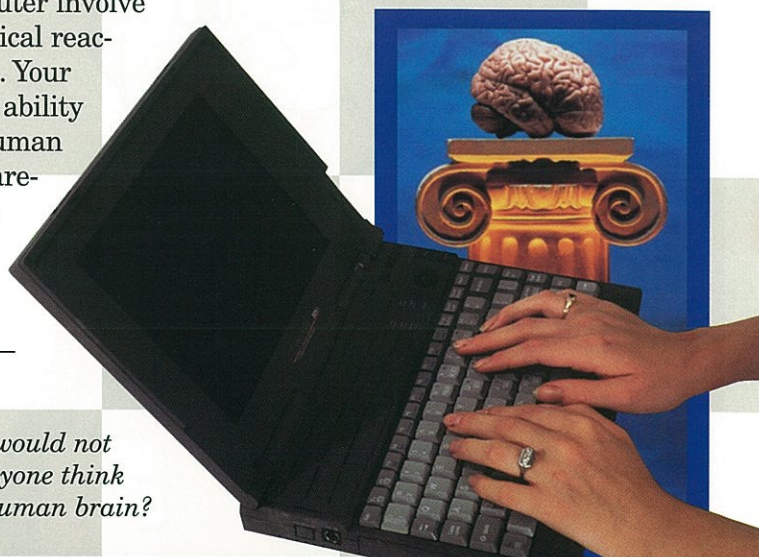
# CHECKMATE

BRAD HARRUB

On Friday, March 24, 1995, an Intel Supercomputer named Socrates beat Grandmaster Gennady Sagalchik in a game of chess by using only 56 moves. Following the match, headlines proclaimed that a machine had beaten a man. Is it true that machines are better than the human brain? Are computers going to replace humans one day? Walk into any office, hospital, or even grocery store and you will find yourself surrounded by machines. We use computers almost everyday (they even played a major part in getting this article to you). But we all know that computers didn't arrive on this planet by mere chance. Computers require someone designing and manufacturing them before they can be turned on and used. In comparison, the human brain is better and far more complex than the very latest computers available. A computer is great at processing, and even can outperform some humans in many arithmetic or statistical problems (such as a game of chess). But when is the last time a computer grabbed a pencil to compose a short story or a poem? How many computers are capable of taking a piece of wood, carving it into the shape of a violin, and then sitting down to play our National Anthem? It has been said that if we learned a new fact every second, it would take three million years to completely fill the human brain, and yet evolutionists say the brain "just happened."

Evolutionists don't give that squishy gray matter much credit. They like to "simplify" the brain down to the level of modern-day computers. They point out that the human brain can rapidly process, store, and recall bits of information just like computers. Also, many evolutionists compare the nerve cells in the brain to the wiring found within computers. However, the inner workings of a computer involve one thing—electronics. The brain, however, relies on chemical reactions, and does far more than recall and store information. Your brain also provides you with memories, emotions, and the ability to communicate using language. We also know that the human brain can reason and think—because we possess "self-awareness." Computers aren't self-aware, they can't reason, and they don't work well unplugged! They have an incredible capacity to carry out multiple tasks—but not without the programming and instruction from "self-aware" humans. Plainly put, the brain isn't merely an advanced computer—it's the result of an Intelligent Creator.

*If we found this laptop sitting in the middle of the forest, we would not say that natural forces produced it "by accident." How can anyone think that natural forces "just happened" to produce the amazing human brain?*



## ANSWERS

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5-image, honor; 6-computer, Creator; 7-ancestors, intelligent; 2-gap, animals; 3-can, should; 4-reason, unplugged; 1-F, 2-L, 3-T, 4-F, 5-L, 6-L, 7-F, 8-L.

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