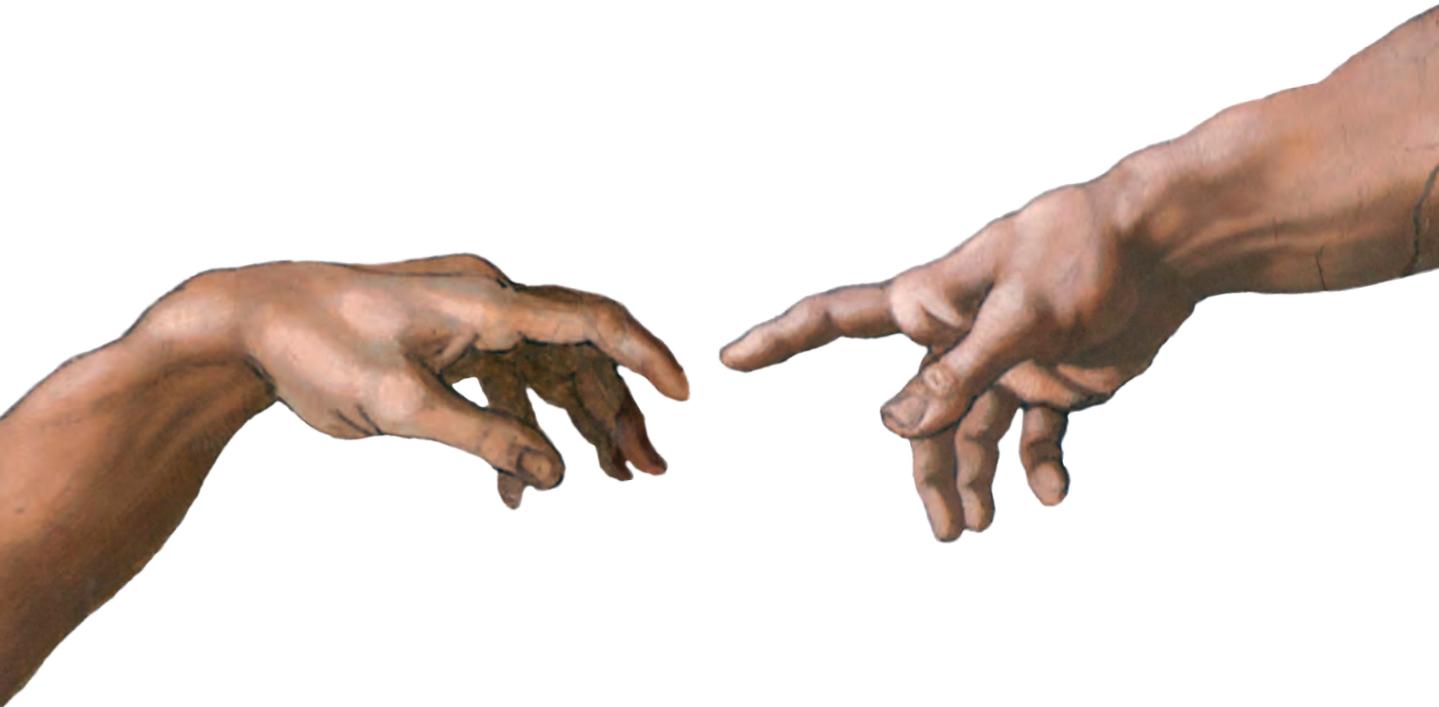


# How do You Know God is Real?

Kyle Butt

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## Dedication

To Glenda Jacobs Gardner, my high school English teacher whose bright smile and constant encouragement have urged me to reach higher. "She opens her mouth with wisdom, and on her tongue is the law of kindness" (Proverbs 31:26).

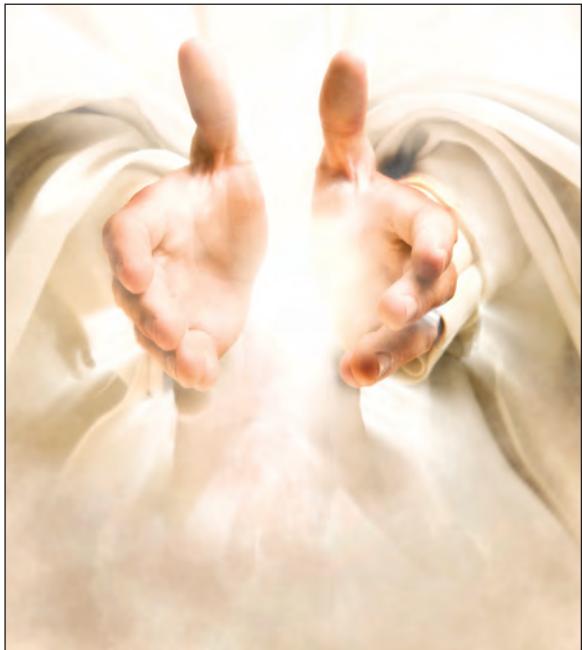
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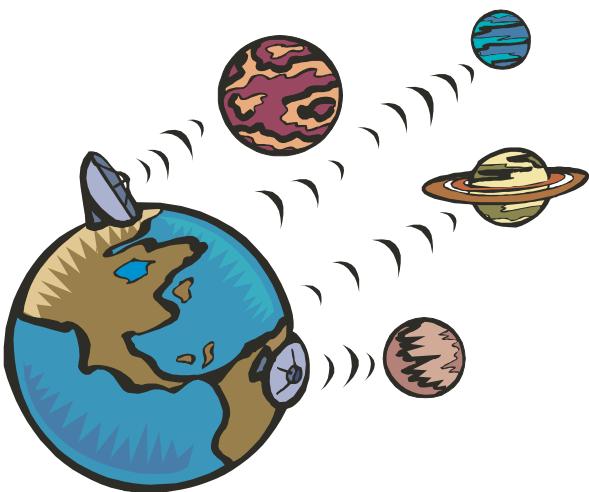
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# Chapter 1

## The Most Important Question in the World

**H**ave you ever wondered what is the most important question in the world? Maybe you have thought about some pretty big questions. For instance, maybe you have wondered if there is life in outer space. Is there life in space? That is an interest-

ing question, and one that the United States has spent millions of dollars trying to answer. Lots of science fiction books have been written about life in outer space. And many movies have been made about it. The truth is, however, there is no evidence that there is life in outer space. Maybe you have wondered how huge airplanes can defy gravity and fly through the air. How planes fly is a good question. It is a question you can find the answer to by studying the field of physics and the laws of motion and gravity. There are many other questions that are fun to ask, such as: "How high can a flea jump?", "What



is the biggest animal in the world?", or "How many people are born everyday?"



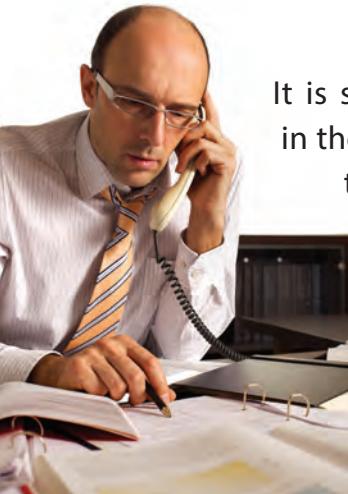
But there is one question that is more important than any other question in the world: Does God exist? At one point in their lives, all people ask themselves this question. The answer makes all the difference in the world. If the answer is "Yes, there is a God," that means that the Universe is not an accident. If there is a God, then He designed our world with a purpose in mind. The Universe is not an accident. Instead, our Universe was intentionally designed to fulfill God's plan. That also means that humans have a real purpose.

2

If God created humans, then they are not the result of time and chance over millions of years. Instead, humans are well-designed creatures who have been given a purpose and who are valuable simply because God made them. One man who does not believe in God explained that without a God, there is really no purpose in this life. If God does not exist, then what humans do is really not any more important than what animals or plants do. He said that, in the end, humans are like rats or broccoli. In one way, this man is right.

If there is no God, then a cockroach's life is just as important as the life of a human, since everything in the Universe is just one big accident. But if there is a God, then things do have purpose and meaning. Human lives are valuable. And what you do while you are on Earth really does matter.





It is sad to see many people in the world who do not take the time to find out the truth about God's existence. Many people think they are too busy with their jobs, or sports, or entertainment to take time to think about God.

These people know they should think about God, but they push the idea to the back of their minds. Sometimes, they reason that they will think about the question when they get older, or when they have more time. But such thinking is very dangerous. If the question of God's existence is the most important question in the world, then each one of us should spend whatever time it takes to find out the right answer.

If there is a God, we would expect Him to provide evidence that He exists. If knowing that God exists is so important, we would not think that God would keep Himself hidden. In fact, it would make sense that God would want humans

to know about Him and His design for them. When we look into the Universe, do we see evidence of God's existence? That is what this book is all about. We are going to explore some of the evidence that God has put here so that we can know He exists. God has not hidden Himself from humans. Instead, He has left His fingerprints throughout the Universe so that we can know He is real. By looking at



the Universe that God made, we can see abundant evidence that He exists. From this evidence, we can learn that God has a purpose for our lives, and we are not an accident. We have been intentionally designed by the master Creator to fulfill His purpose.

# Chapter 2

## How Do We Prove God Is Real?



**B**oth scientists and non-scientists use experiments to prove or disprove things. For instance, suppose you want to know why your bicycle tire keeps going flat. You might hold it under water to see if any air bubbles trickled up. You might put your ear close to it to listen for the *psshhh* sound of an air leak. Whatever way you choose, one of your five senses is involved—sight, sound, touch, taste, or smell.

In fact, all science experiments depend upon the five senses in some way. Without those senses, science has no way to find answers.

But some things in this world cannot be tested by using the five senses directly. For instance, things like love can-

not be touched, seen, smelled, tasted, or heard. Do you love someone? Of course you do. Is there any way you can perform an experiment on that love by using your five senses? Can you weigh love? No. Can you see what color it is? No, again. Can you put it in a bucket and feel if it is hot or cold? Certainly not! There are some things in this life that cannot be tested directly by using the five senses.

The same is true of God. We may not be able to prove He exists by seeing, touching, tasting, smelling, or hearing Him. But don't be fooled when people say we cannot prove God exists because we cannot use our five senses on Him.



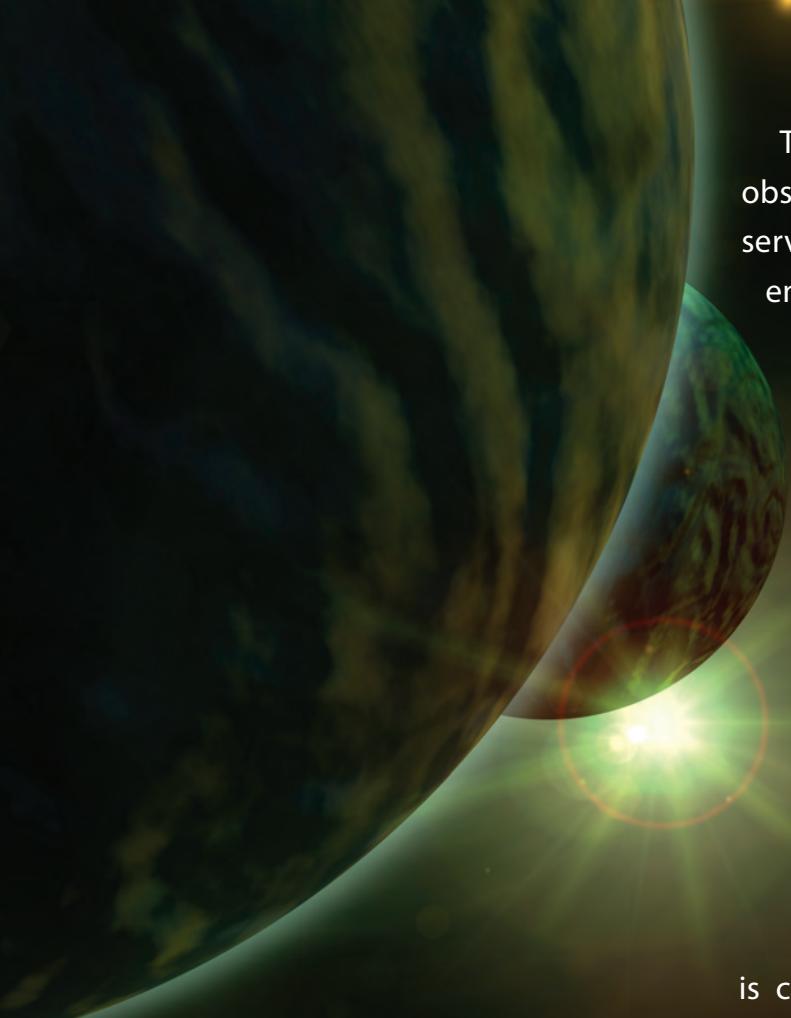


Many things (like love and God) cannot be looked at directly, yet we still know for certain that they exist. Suppose you were walking on the beach and saw a trail of human footprints in the sand, but no one else was around. Even though you couldn't see anyone, you still would know that someone had been there because you could see the tracks. In a similar way, even though we can't see God, we can see His "footprints" in the Universe, and we can know for certain that He exists.

In Romans 1:20, the apostle Paul wrote: "For since the creation of the world His [God's] **invisible** attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the **things that are made**." Paul meant that even though we might not be able to

see God, we can see the things that God has made and know a lot about Him. It is like how policemen use fingerprints. Each person in the world has a very special, unique set of fingerprints. No two sets of fingerprints are the same. When police find a set of fingerprints at the scene of a crime, they can know exactly who left the prints without ever seeing the person. They can look at the visible things (the fingerprints) and know about the person that they cannot see who left the fingerprints. Of course, God has not committed any crime. But He has left "fingerprints" all over the Universe. When we study the world, we begin to see things that only God could have made. The visible things in the Universe, like the Sun, the Earth, and people, tell us much about the invisible qualities of God.





This way of thinking is called “indirect observation.” Scientists use indirect observation quite often. For instance, scientists who study stars and space are called astronomers. Since outer space is so big, there are many places that are too far away for scientists to see. Many astronomers have tried to find other planets that orbit far away stars. The problem is, far away planets do not have enough light to be visible. How can astronomers detect planets that they cannot see? All objects, like stars and planets, pull on the other objects around them. This pulling is called gravity. When planets pull on

stars, it causes the light of the star to shake, or to wobble. When scientists look at stars that are far away, they can see them “wobble.” Based on how much they wobble, they can determine what size planets orbit the stars. The astronomers never see the planets; they only see the wobble of the star. But they know the planets are there. They are using the same kind of reasoning that the apostle Paul used. They can know the size and speed of an “invisible” planet based on the visible wobble of the light from the star.

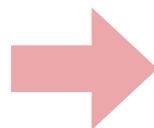
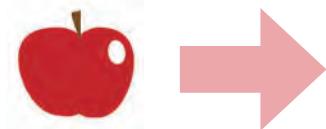
Let's think about it like this. Suppose you were standing on the Moon and thousands of discs begin to fall around you. When you pick up a disc and put it in a computer, it has blueprints on it. The plans, or blueprints, are the design for a special machine. This machine can capture sunlight and use minerals to make tasty food. When you build the machine



according to the plans, it works perfectly. If you found discs with plans on them on the Moon, you would know that some type of intelligent being designed the machine. You might not know exactly what that person looks like. But you could know something about how smart the being is based on how complex the plans were and how well the machine works.

Did you know that there are "machines" with "plans" all around us? Every plant and tree contains these special plans. Take an apple tree for example. Every apple contains seeds. Inside each seed there is a language that tells exactly how to build a new fruit tree. When the seed is planted, the information in the seed is used to "build" the new tree. The new apple tree is able to use the sunlight, water, and minerals to make hundreds or thousands of delicious apples. What does that mean? It means that by looking at the complex language and blueprints found in an apple seed, we can know an intelligent being designed the apples. We do not need to see the designer; we only

need to see what He designed. We can look at the “visible” apple or apple seed, and see the “invisible” intelligence of the being that made the seed.



In this book, we will look at the evidence that shows there is a God. We will see that the design of the Universe, the design of the human body, and scientific laws prove that there is a God. Of course, we won’t be able to do physical experiments on God directly (since God is spirit—John 4:24). But we will be able to know many things about the Creator by looking at the wonderful things He made.

# Chapter 3

## The First Cause

**I**magine that you are sitting in a school classroom one day while the teacher is at the front speaking. All of a sudden, a book flies off her desk going 100 miles per hour and crashes into

the back wall. All the students are stunned.

One student, Julie, turns to the teacher and says: "Ms. Smith, what caused that book to fly across the room?" Imagine how surprised you would be if Ms. Smith said, "Nothing caused it, Julie. Sometimes books just shoot across the room going 100 miles per hour." Could that happen? Of course not, and every first grader knows books don't fly across rooms without a cause. Why would it never happen? In order to answer this

question, we need to understand a little bit about a scientific law.

### Scientific Law

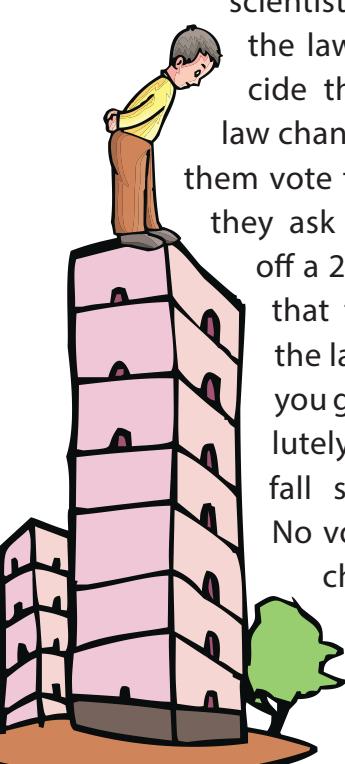
What is a scientific law? A law of science is very different from a law in our country. For instance, suppose the law says that on a certain street the speed limit is 50 miles per hour. If the people who make the laws think that 50 miles per hour is too fast, they can change the law.

Those people can vote to make the new speed limit 45 miles per hour, and the law is changed.

A law of science is very different. Laws of science cannot be changed or voted on. They are always the same for all people and places for all time. For instance,



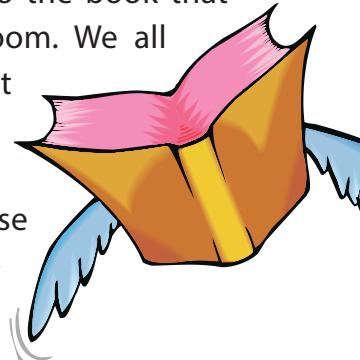
think about the law of gravity. There are some complicated numbers and equations involved in calculating the law of gravity, but the law basically says that things fall down, toward the center of an object (in our case, the Earth). That means that if you step off a 20 story building, you are going to fall down to the ground. Now suppose that we assemble one million of the most brilliant scientists in the world to vote on



the law of gravity. They all decide that they would like the law changed, so all one million of them vote to change the law. Next, they ask for a volunteer to step off a 20 story building to show that they have just changed the law of gravity by vote. Are you going to volunteer? Absolutely not, because you would fall straight to the ground. No vote by any scientists can change the law of gravity. Scientific laws, such as the law of gravity, cannot be changed by people. People can study

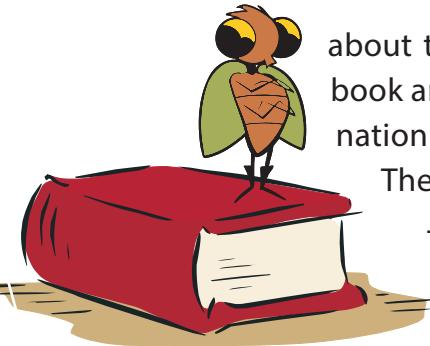
the laws. They can label the laws and try to understand them, but they cannot change the laws.

## **The Law of Cause and Effect**



Now, let's go back to the book that flew across the classroom. We all know that books don't fly across rooms by themselves. How do we know that? Because we all understand the Law of Cause and Effect. The Law of Cause and Effect says that for every effect we see in nature, there must be a cause that came before it (or happened at the same time), and a cause that is greater than or equal to it. A book flying across a room is an effect. Since it is an effect, we know it must have a cause. It is scientifically impossible for a book to shoot across a room by itself without a cause.

Not only must the book flying across the room have a cause, but it must have a cause that is great enough to bring



about the effect. If Ms. Smith claimed that a housefly landed on the book and catapulted it 100 miles per hour across the room, her explanation would be just as wrong as if she said that there was no cause.

The cause must be big enough for the effect.

The reason the Law of Cause and Effect is important in a book about God is because the Universe is an effect that must have a cause. Some atheists claim that the Universe created itself out of nothing. One man named Stephen Hawking said that our Universe just appeared out of nothing. That is impossible. It would violate the most basic scientific law, the Law of Cause and Effect.

## The Universe Is Really **BIG**

Our Universe is a really big effect. Have you ever wondered how big our Universe is? Did you know that if you could travel as fast as the speed of light (which travels about 186,000 miles **a second**), it would take you 28 billion years to go across our Universe? Also, our Universe contains an estimated 100 billion galaxies. Our Milky Way Galaxy is one of those 100 billion. If you had a spaceship that would travel as fast as



light, it would still take you 100,000 years to go across our one galaxy. Furthermore, the Milky Way contains between 200-400 billion stars. Our Sun is one star in the galaxy. It is so large that over one million planets the size of Earth would fit into it. And there are some stars in our galaxy that are 1,700 times as big as the Sun. This huge Universe where we live had to have a cause that came before it and was big enough

to cause it. That is where God comes into the picture.

There is nothing in nature that is big enough to cause a Universe like ours. The cause of our Universe had to be more powerful than anything in nature. Only a supernatural God, or a God that is outside of nature, could bring the Universe into existence. Genesis 1:1 says: "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the Earth." The first verse of the Bible gives the only possible cause for our Universe—God. We also learn that God is "almighty" (Genesis 17:1). That means God can do anything that it takes force or might to do. When we look at the Universe, we can see its massive size and realize that its cause must be all-powerful. That is why Romans 1:20 says when people look at the Universe they can see God's "eternal power." That is also why the writer of Psalms said: "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork" (Psalm 19:1).

## Does God Need a Cause?

Hold on just a minute! If we argue that every material effect must have a cause, and we say that only God could have caused the Universe, then doesn't the Law of Cause and Effect apply to God, too? Or, to put it another way—what caused God?

There is a single word in the law of cause and effect that helps provide the answer to this question—the word **material**. Every **material** effect must have an adequate cause that comes before it (or is simultaneous to it). Scientists formulated the Law of Cause and Effect based upon what they have observed while studying this Universe, which is made out of matter. No science experiment in the world can be performed on God, because He is an eternal spirit, not matter (John 4:24). So the Law of Cause and Effect does not apply to God. Science is far from learning everything about this material world, and it is even farther from understanding the eternal nature of God. There had to be a first Cause, and God was (and is) the only One suitable for the job.

# Chapter 4

## Our Unique Universe

**B**illy wanted to go to the movies. His mom said that he could as long as he cleaned his room. Billy thought that was fair, so he agreed to clean his room. The movie started at



6:00. By 5:30, Billy had not lifted a finger to clean his room, and it was very messy. His mom asked, "Billy are you planning to go to the movies? You haven't touched your room!" Billy answered: "Yes ma'am, I'm still planning on going. It won't take

me long to clean my room." By 5:50, Billy had not touched his room. "Billy," his mom said. "You are obviously not planning on going to the movies, since you have not cleaned your room." Billy headed to his room and answered, "Almost done." He then piled all of his clothes, electronic gadgets, and everything else in a huge mound in the middle of the floor. Underneath this pile he shoved a stick of dynamite, lit it, and walked out of his room. In a few seconds, his mother heard a huge explosion. She rushed up to the room, threw open the door, and what did she see? Do you think the huge explosion would have caused all of Billy's clothes to be neatly folded and tucked nicely into their drawers? Would she have seen all of Billy's jackets and hanging clothes "exploded" onto hang-





ers and in his closet, and all his electronic gadgets placed carefully on his desk? Of course not! Huge explosions do not cause order or design. Huge explosions cause chaos and disorder. It takes an intelligent being to put things together in an orderly way.

Those who do not believe in God say that a huge explosion called the Big Bang caused our Universe. The problem with this idea is that our Universe is very organized. In fact, it is put together so well that it runs better than any clock or machine that has ever been designed. Explosions like the Big Bang cannot explain how our Universe is put together so well. Let's look at just how well designed our Universe is.

## The Goldilocks Principle

In cosmology (that is the study of the origin of the Universe) there is something called the Goldilocks Principle. Maybe you remember the story of Goldilocks.

She went into the three bears' house. Everything that she tried of Papa Bear's did not work for her, and everything she tried of Mama Bear's did not suit her, but everything she tried of Baby Bear's was "just right." That phrase "just right" describes exactly how things in our Universe fit together for humans to live on Earth. Our Universe is "just right" in many different ways.

## The Earth's Perfect Orbit

Many years ago, scientists thought that our Earth went around the Sun in a perfect circle. We have learned this is not true. The Earth actually travels in an ellipse. An ellipse is a round shape that is "flatter" than a circle. That means that all the points of an ellipse are not the exact same distance from the center as they



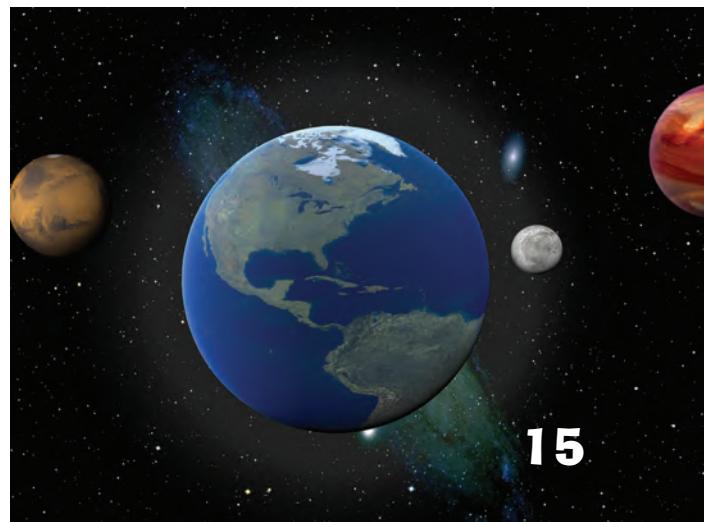
are in a circle. It just so happens that the Earth's elliptical orbit is perfect for life to exist. The Earth departs from a straight line about  $1/9^{\text{th}}$  of an inch every 18 miles (on average). If that distance were  $1/8^{\text{th}}$  of an inch we would get too close to the Sun and the heat would destroy life as we know it. If the Earth departed  $1/10^{\text{th}}$  of an inch every 18 miles, our planet would veer too far from the Sun and the Earth would get too cold to support life as we know it. The Earth's elliptical orbit is "just right."

## **Earth's Atmosphere**

The word "atmosphere" is the word we use for the air and sky that surround the Earth. The air that we breathe is made up of several different gases. About 78% is nitrogen, about 21% is oxygen, and the remaining small part contains gases like water vapor, carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, ozone, and argon. It just so happens that Earth's atmosphere is perfect for life. The amount of oxygen works perfectly for humans and animals to breathe. The small percentage of gases, such as carbon monoxide and ozone, fil-



ter out ultraviolet radiation waves that would harm humans and animals. In addition, the gases absorb the heat and keep the Earth the perfect temperature for life. What would happen if the Earth's atmosphere were different? When we look at Mars and Venus, the two closest planets to Earth, we can see exactly what would happen. Venus has a thick atmosphere that is made up of more than 90% carbon dioxide. This gas absorbs





so much heat that the temperature on Venus can reach up to 900 degrees Fahrenheit. That is hot enough to melt metal. When we look at Mars, we see that it has a very thin atmosphere, which is not able to absorb much heat. Because of its thin atmosphere, Mars can get as cold as 200 degrees Fahrenheit below zero. Earth's atmosphere is "just right" for life.

### **The Earth and the Moon**

The Earth is about 240,000 miles away from the Moon. This distance is perfect for the Moon to "help" the Earth. Because of gravity, the Moon pulls on the Earth. This pulling causes tides in the ocean. The tides help keep the ocean moving and keep it from sitting still and getting dirty and contaminated. This is very helpful to animals and humans on Earth because tiny organisms called phytoplankton live in the ocean. These tiny plants, which you cannot even see without a microscope, take in carbon dioxide and use it to produce oxygen. In fact, scientists estimate that more than 50% of all the oxygen in our atmosphere comes from the work done by these tiny plants in

the ocean. It just so happens that Earth's distance from the Moon helps these tiny plants to stay alive and produce enough oxygen for animals and humans to live.

## **The Force of Gravity**

There are four main forces in the Universe. Gravity is one of the main forces that causes things to be the way they are. Gravity is the force that keeps the Earth rotating around the Sun. It is also the force that causes a ball to fall to the ground when you throw it into the air. Scientists who have studied gravity realize that it is perfect for the existence of our Universe and for the survival of life. If gravity were only a tiny bit different, our Universe would not exist as it does today. Gravity is "just right."



## **Someone Knew We Were Coming**

One scientist named Freeman Dyson, after looking at all the finely tuned aspects of our Universe said: "It almost seems as if the Universe must, in some sense, have known we were coming." Since explosions do not cause order and fine-tuning, something else must be going on. How could our Universe be put together perfectly from a huge explosion? It could not have. In fact, since our Universe works more perfectly than any finely tuned clock, we can know that an intelligent Designer created it. It was not the Universe that knew we were coming, but the God of the Universe Who designed our world specifically for humans to live on it. Many years ago, the prophet Isaiah said that God "created the heavens, and formed the Earth and made it to be inhabited" (Isaiah 45:18). The reason our Universe looks perfectly designed is simply because it is perfectly designed by the greatest Designer ever—God!

# Chapter 5



## Amazing Animals—Part 1

There are lots of places we could look to find design. One of the most enjoyable ways to discover design is to study the animal kingdom. Our world is filled with amazing animals. These animals can jump, run, fly, call, and squirm in all kinds of wonderful ways. The design found in the animal kingdom is excellent evidence that shows there is a God.

### The Polar Bear

This massive creature can grow to be 10 feet long and weigh over 2,000 pounds. It is the world's largest land-living predator. With its 42 razor-sharp

teeth, it can consume 100 pounds of food in a single meal. Although many pictures and postcards represent this animal as cute and cuddly, the polar bear is one of the world's most efficient predators.

Polar bears live in the Arctic region near the outer edges of the North Pole. The air is freezing cold and can reach temperatures of -50 degrees Fahrenheit. Polar bears, however, are not bothered by the extreme cold, because God designed them with special features that help them stay warm. These bears have two fur coats, an outer coat composed of longer hairs that are transparent, and a



thick inner coat. In addition to this thick fur, God designed polar bears with a layer of blubber that can be as much as four inches thick. Furthermore, the bears have small ears and tails, which help keep them from losing heat from these two areas.

Have you ever walked on ice? If you have, you know that it is very slippery and keeping your balance can be difficult. How do huge polar bears keep from slipping and sliding all over the ice? Again, God gave the bears special features to cope with the ice. Polar bears have massive paws that can be 12 inches across. These paws are so big that they act like snow shoes and keep the bears from sinking deeply into snow. Imagine a paw as wide as a one-foot-ruler! Also, on the pads of their paws, the bears have tiny bumps called papillae (PUH-pi-luh) that give them traction. The bears also have fur that grows between their toes and footpads, giving them additional traction. It is like they have been given their own set of snow tires.



Polar bears eat mostly seals. They have an amazing sense of smell and can use their noses to locate seals a mile away. Often, the bears find a small hole in the ice where seals come to the surface to breathe. The bears then wait patiently. Sometimes they have to wait for hours, and sometimes it can take days. When



the seal finally appears, the bear pulls it out of the hole and eats a meal. But seals are not the only thing polar bears eat. Sometimes they eat walruses (which can be twice as large as the bears). Polar bears have been known to eat muskoxen, whales, berries, birds, eggs, carcasses of dead animals, and even other polar bears! These creatures will eat just about anything that comes along.

One thing they do not eat is penguins. Many people have the idea that polar bears and penguins live together, since these animals both live in very cold regions. But that is not true. Polar bears live at the northern part of the Earth, and penguins live in the southern part of the globe. Polar bears do not see penguins, unless they live in a zoo and their cage is next to the penguin exhibit.

Polar bears are excellent swimmers. They use their huge front paws as massive paddles under water, while their hind legs act as rudders to steer them. These bears can swim very long distances in very cold water. Once, a polar bear



was recorded to swim over 60 miles! They can dive to catch food, as well, although most of their hunting is done on the ice.

When polar bears are born, they do not look like efficient predators. They weigh about one pound at birth, are only about one foot long, and are blind and toothless. Polar bear mothers usually give birth to two cubs in a den that she digs in the snow. She and the cubs stay in the den for many months. During that time, the mother does not eat or drink anything. Yet she still has enough energy to produce the milk that the baby cubs need to survive. Polar bear cubs usually stay with their mother for about two and

a half years. During that time, they learn to hunt and survive by following their mother and other bears.

God designed polar bears to be the perfect polar predators. He gave them all the necessary tools to stay warm, keep their balance on ice, smell food far away, and hunt successfully. Polar bears could not have evolved. Without all of their God-given tools, they could not survive in their frigid habitat.



## The Honey Bee

Teamwork is when every person on a team does his job so that the team accomplishes its goal. Also, on a team, not everyone does the same job. Did you know there is a very special “team” in nature? That’s right! A beehive happens to be one of the best examples in the world of teamwork.

Several different kinds of bees live in a hive. The queen bee lays all the eggs for a hive. Special worker bees take care of the eggs and help them hatch into bee larvae. Workers then feed the larvae and help them grow. Different worker bees clean up the area close to the queen where she lays her eggs. Worker bees have other jobs as well. As they get older, they begin to forage for food. They also guard the hive, ready to sting any attackers (like hungry bears trying to steal their honey). There are also a few male bees





called drones that mate with the queen so that she can continue to lay eggs.

Most of the worker bees in a hive are females that cannot lay eggs. But sometimes a hive needs a new queen. When this happens, a special baby bee is chosen and fed a diet of "royal jelly." This royal jelly somehow helps the

tiny bee to grow into a queen that can lay eggs.

Bees know their jobs and do them perfectly. Because of this, thousands of bees in a hive can live, make honey, and work in a very organized way.

### **The Bee Dance**

If we want to tell people how to get to a place, we simply give them directions. We might say that the place is four miles to the south. But how would we give directions if we could not talk, or if we could not write in a language with words?

God gave the honeybee a wonderful way to communicate without words. A worker bee that finds pollen and nectar brings them back to the beehive and passes the food to the other bees. As the worker bee passes out the food, it performs a very special dance. If the food is far away (which it usually is), the bee does a "waggle" dance. During the dance it makes sounds with its wings.

The amazing thing about the dance is that it tells the other bees exactly where

the food is. The bee uses the Sun as a reference point. If the bee dances in a straight line to the right, then the food is directly to the right of the Sun. If the bee dances straight up, then the food is straight toward the Sun. If the bee dances straight down the honeycomb, then the food is directly away from the Sun. Furthermore, the sounds that the bee makes as it “waggle” its body from side to side help the other bees know how far away the food is and exactly where to find it.

As you may know, the Sun constantly changes its position in the sky. It moves one degree to the west every four minutes. It just so happens that the bees know that the Sun moves, and they can change their dance to help the other bees find the food.

This remarkable “dance language” could not have evolved. Codes and languages such as this must have been programmed into bees by an intelligent Designer. Not only does the bee dance show other bees the way to food, but it shows humans that there is an awesome

God who gave the bees an astonishing way to communicate.



In the next chapter, we will see more of God’s design in the animal kingdom.

# Chapter 6

## Amazing Animals—Part 2

**I**n the last chapter, we looked at some of the amazing design in the animal kingdom. We know that if we see design, there must be an intelligent Designer. The awesome design found in the animal kingdom shows that God exists. In this chapter, we will explore additional evidence for God's existence by looking at more design in animals.

### Traveling Sea Turtles

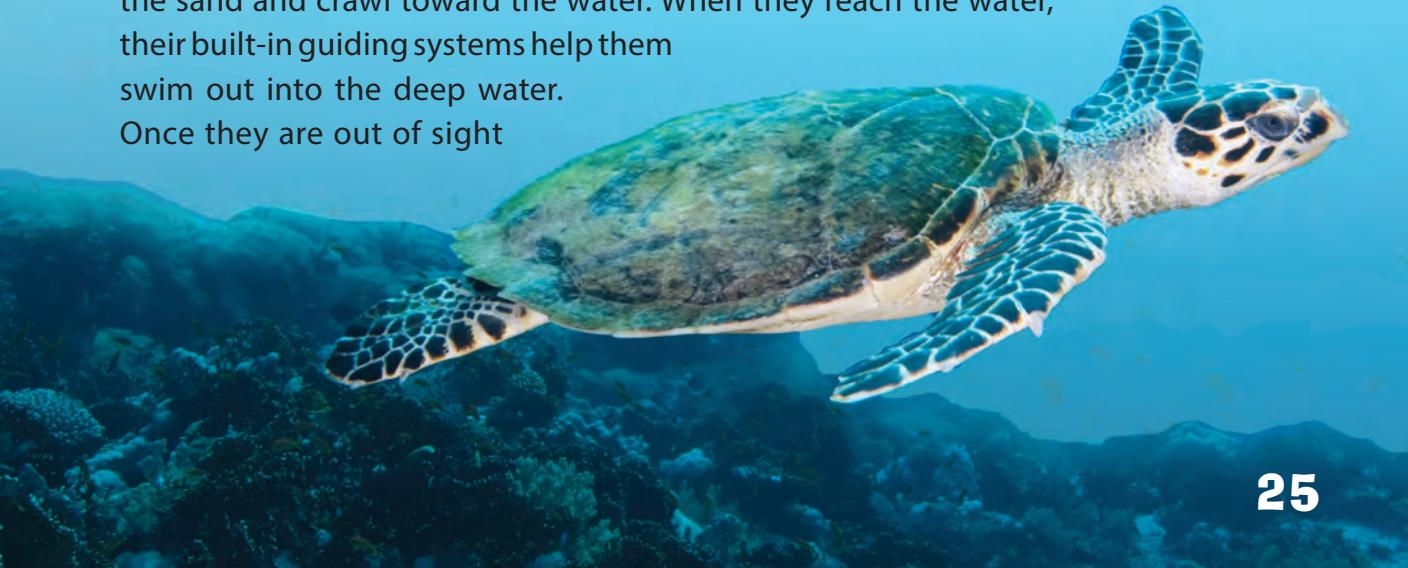
The race was on. The prize was one million dollars. The goal was to travel across the Mojave Desert. The vehicles in the race cost lots of money. They were loaded with all kinds of devices to help them steer, avoid dangerous obstacles, and keep them on course. These vehicles were supposed to travel 142 miles to their destination. But something hap-



pened. None of the vehicles finished the race. In fact, they all wrecked, broke, or quit working. The one that went the farthest only went 7.4 miles, and then it ran into something and caught on fire. What was the problem? There were no drivers. The vehicles were robots. Intelligent engineers were trying to build machines that could travel 142 miles without drivers. But they failed.

Did you know that God successfully designed animals that accomplish even greater things than going 142 miles across a desert? That's right. One of these animals is the sea turtle. Sea turtles are amazing because they have built-in systems that help them travel thousands of miles through the oceans and get to exactly where they want to go.

Mother sea turtles crawl onto beaches, dig holes in the sand, lay their eggs, cover them up, and crawl back into the ocean. When the baby turtles hatch, they dig out of the sand and crawl toward the water. When they reach the water, their built-in guiding systems help them swim out into the deep water. Once they are out of sight



of the beach, they do not get turned around and accidentally swim back. They are so well designed that they swim to special feeding areas thousands of miles away from the beach where they were born.

After many months of traveling thousands of miles, the females return to the exact same beach where they were born. There they lay their eggs and the process starts again. How do the turtles find their way back? Scientists aren't sure. They think that the turtles have a way to use the Earth's magnetic field to find their way home.

Intelligent humans haven't learned to build robotic vehicles that can travel just 142 miles by themselves. But sea turtles can travel thousands of miles back to the exact same beach where they were born. Therefore, one thing is for sure: turtles must have been designed by someone more intelligent than humans. The truth is, God designed the turtles and gave them their built-in guiding systems.

## The Thorny Devil

Imagine a lizard about the size of a baseball that is covered with hard spikes that stick out of its body in all directions. That mental picture will help you think about one of God's most amazing creatures, the Thorny Devil. You might won-



der how the Thorny Devil got its name. Of course, the spikes on the lizard's skin look like thorns, so the "Thorny" part of its name is easy to understand. But why is it called "Devil"? In 1841, a man named John Grey named the lizard Moloch Hor-

ridus. Grey named the lizard after the Canaanite god Moloch (also spelled Molech), because of the two horns that protrude out of the lizard's head. The term Horridus can mean rough and spiky, or it can mean terrible or dreadful. While the Thorny Devil may look dreadful, it happens to be a very easy-going, slow moving lizard that humans can handle without it becoming aggressive.

Not only is the Thorny Devil very unique in the way it looks, but God also equipped this little wonder with some amazing tools and skills. Since the Thorny Devil lives in the deserts of central Australia, water is often very difficult to find. In order for the Thorny Devil to make the most of any water it comes across, God specially designed the lizard's skin. Along the lizard's body there are hundreds of tiny, grooved channels that all lead to the corners of the animal's mouth. When water touches the skin of a Thorny Devil, the tiny grooves "suck up" the water by using something called capillary action. Think about it like this. Suppose you spill a glass of water and use a

paper towel to clean it up. When you dip the paper towel in the water, the water seeps up the towel to parts that are not even touching the water. Also, it is like putting a wick in oil, and the oil seeps all the way through the wick, even to parts that are not touching the oil. In the same way, the Thorny Devil "sucks up" water. So, if the Thorny Devil wants a drink, it can simply step in water and suck up the entire puddle and bring the water to its mouth with the tiny channels on its skin. It never even has to put its mouth in the water. This ability keeps the lizard alive, because any dew or moisture on plants or in the sand can be taken into its body this way.

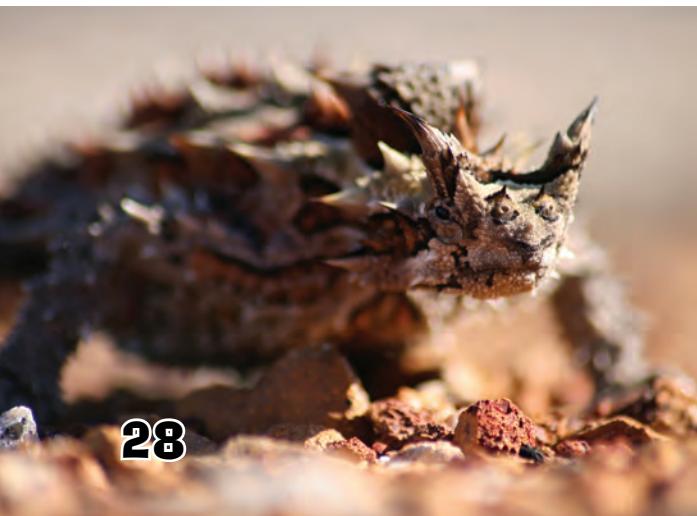


Also, God gave the Thorny Devil several interesting ways to defend itself. Of course, the most obvious defensive tool of the Thorny Devil is its spiky skin. Just think, if you were a predator, would you want to eat something that looks like a pincushion, full of sharp spikes? Me neither. In addition to its spikes, the Thorny Devil has a "false head" on its neck just behind its real head. This false head is large and spiky. When the Thorny Devil is threatened, it can lower its real head between its front two legs and raise its "false head" to look like a head. By doing this, it protects its vital, important organs, and makes its spiky "head" look much more difficult for a predator to swallow. As if that were not enough, the

Thorny Devil can puff itself up by sucking in air so that it looks like an even bigger spiky pincushion. And it can even change color.

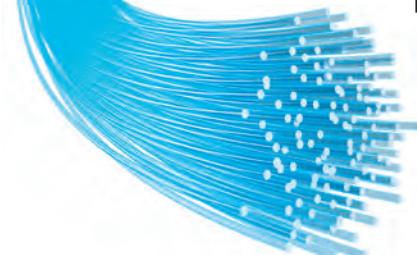
Maybe you were wondering what this prickly little critter eats. Ants. That's it, just ants, all the time, for every meal, every day. But it sure can eat a lot of them. A Thorny Devil finds a trail where ants are walking. Then, it positions itself along the trail so that it can stick out its sticky tongue and catch one ant at a time. It is so fast, that it can catch 45 ants per minute, and some people say that it can eat 1,000-3,000 ants per meal. That is one ant-loving, bristly lizard.

The Thorny Devil is a great example of God's amazing design. False ideas like evolution can never explain the Thorny Devil's amazing skin and effective defense system. Only God could design such an interesting, ingenious creature that can thrive in desert climates. The Thorny Devil is a big, thorny problem for people who don't believe in God.



## The Venus Flower Basket

The last time you picked up a phone to call your friend about a homework project, you might



have been using fiber optics. The last time you logged-in to the World Wide Web

from your home computer, you might have been using fiber optics. We hear a lot about fiber optics these days, but what are fiber optics? In simple terms, a fiber-optic cable has a core (center) made of very thin glass. Light can travel through the glass and relay light signals that can reproduce sound and other information. Fiber-optic cables stretch thousands of miles all across the world, and they do a great job sending information.

But there are some problems with these cables. First, since they are glass, they can be brittle, which means they can crack and break. Digging up the cables and replacing them is very expensive. Second, in order to produce the

cables, factories must use very high heat, which is also very expensive. Fiber optics are amazing, but they could use some improvement.

That is where God's design comes into the picture. Today, scientists have found an amazing sponge that has wonderful fiber-optic "cables." The sponge, called the Venus Flower Basket, lives in the deep waters of the ocean. This sponge produces several fiber-optic "cables" that grow out of its base. These tiny "cables" are about as wide as a single human hair, and they grow to be from two to seven inches long.

The fibers produced by the Venus Flower Basket have several advantages over the ones produced by men. First, they are produced in cool temperatures. If we humans could learn to copy this, we



could save millions of dollars. Second, the fibers from the sponge are very strong and flexible, plus they do not crack and break like the ones humans produce. In fact, the fibers from the sponge are so flexible they can be tied into a knot. If our scientists could learn to make such strong, flexible fibers, we would not have to spend as much time and money repairing the fiber-optic cables.

Intelligent scientists have been working on fiber-optic cables for many years, just to get them to work as well as they do now. Yet, the Venus Flower Basket has fibers that are produced in cool temperatures and are strong and flexible. If it takes an intelligent scientist to produce the cables we have today, that means the designer of the Venus Flower Basket must be very intelligent as well. The design in the sponge's fiber-optic "cables" proves that animals like the Venus Flower Basket were created by an intelligent Designer.

## Conclusion

If you were to see a remote controlled mouse zip across the floor at your feet, you would know that an extremely intelligent person designed such a neat machine. If you saw a huge robot the size of a polar bear trek across frozen tundra, you would be amazed at how smart the person who designed that robot would be. And yet we live in a world filled with marvelous creatures whose designs are far superior to anything that brilliant humans have been able to invent. The animals we see in our world provide excellent evidence for us to know that our world is not an accident. Instead, it is a perfectly ordered Universe designed to show the intelligence and brilliance of its Designer—God.



# Chapter 7

## Design in the Human Body

**S**uppose you were sitting at your desk in school, and your teacher stood before the class and announced that she had a very special guest to introduce to the class. You were expecting to see a new student. But when the door opened, it was not a new student. It was a robot. The robot was the size of a normal fifth-grade boy. It had arms and legs, and walked with a jerky motion. It walked to the front of the class and said, "Hello, class."



Your teacher said that this was the latest robot designed by a panel of brilliant scientists. The robot, named Chip (for the amazing microchip in its head), had the ability to be programmed with over 40 different languages. It could answer questions and store lots

of information. Your teacher urged you to ask Chip some questions. Lucy, the girl sitting in front of you, asked, "What is the speed of light?" Chip answered: "Approximately 186,317.2 miles per second." The class was amazed. Billy raised his hand and asked, "Why did the chicken cross the road?" Billy was the class clown. Chip did not understand the question. Your teacher explained that Chip could not really understand humor or jokes. At the end of class, your teacher said that Chip cost 18 million dollars to make, and "he" took several brilliant scientists nearly 10 years to complete.

Now suppose that on another occasion you were sitting at your desk in school, and your teacher stood before





the class and once more announced that she had a very special guest to introduce to the class. This time, it was a new student. The student's name was Cindy. She was from California. She said hello to the class, and even understood Billy's joke. She did not walk with a jerky motion, and she was not "manufactured" by scientists. She was an "ordinary" fifth grader.

Let's think about that for a moment. The robot was designed by brilliant scientists over several years, but he could not even understand a joke. Cindy was a normal fifth grader who could do many more things than Chip. Yet, those who believe in evolution want you to believe that your body was not designed. They want you to think that it accidentally evolved over millions of years by chance. That does not make sense. If the robot was designed

by brilliant scientists, then the human body, which can do much more than any robot, had to be designed. Let's look at some of the amazing design of the human body and learn about God, the amazing Designer.

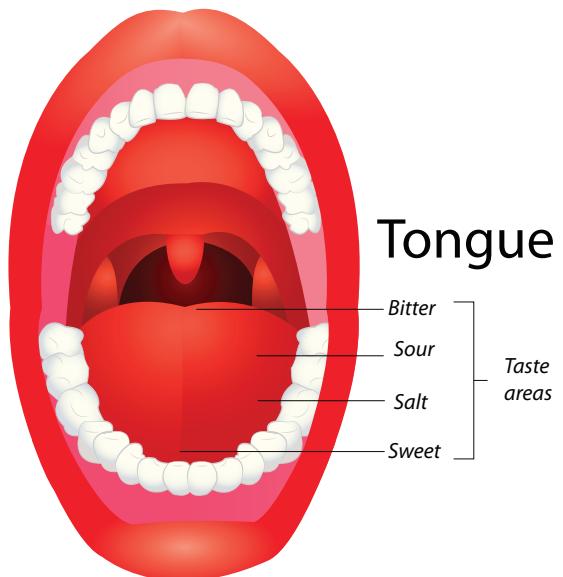
## **The Tongue**

What happens when you stand in front of a mirror and stick out your tongue to say, "Ahhh"? You see your tongue, right? Have you ever wondered just how important your tongue is? Try talking without using your tongue. Ever tried swallowing without your tongue? What about tasting? When you think about it, your tongue is one of the most important parts of your body.

Your tongue is made up of several groups of muscles. These muscles help you make sounds like the sound of the letters "L" and "R." Without these flexible muscles in your tongue, you would not be able to talk or sing.



Look closely at your tongue and you will see many raised dots. These dots are called papillae (PUH-pi-luh). Some people think those dots are taste buds, but they aren't. Your taste buds are actually small groups of cells on the papillae that you cannot see. Your tongue has about 10,000 taste buds. Each taste bud is a group of 50-100 taste cells. The taste cells in each bud don't live very long. They only live about two weeks, and then new taste cells replace them. What do the taste buds do? They help you taste things, of course. But taste is more important than some people realize. If you could not taste things that are bitter, sour, salty, or sweet, you might accidentally drink sour milk, eat bitter poison, or take in too much salt. If you did drink sour milk, you likely would become

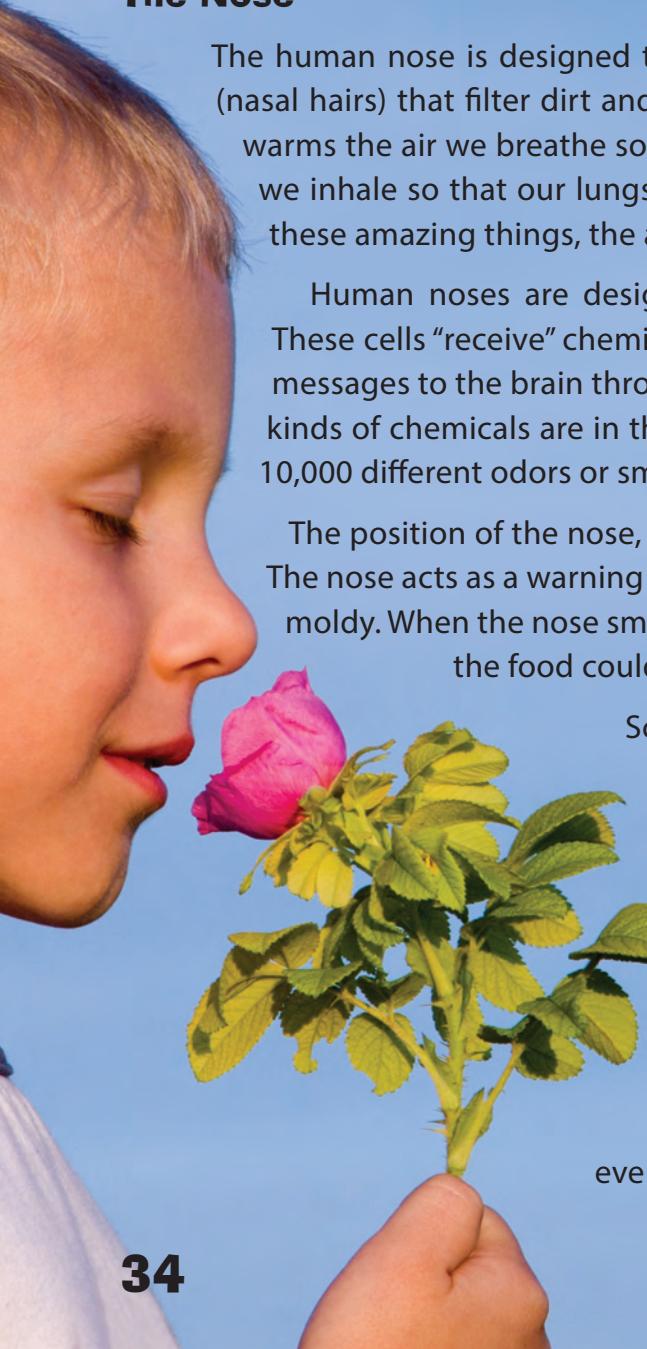


sick. Bitter poison might kill you, and eating too much salt could cause your body to dehydrate.

Besides helping you talk and taste, the human tongue is designed to help the body fight germs. On the back of your tongue, special germ-fighting tissue protects your body from infection and disease. The tongue is a magnificent organ. It is specifically designed to do many unique and important jobs.



## The Nose

A close-up photograph of a young child's face in profile, looking down and to the right. The child is smelling a pink rose held by an adult's hand. The rose is in sharp focus in the foreground, with its green leaves and stem. The background is a clear blue sky.

The human nose is designed to do many wonderful things. It contains hairs (nasal hairs) that filter dirt and germs from the air we breathe. The nose also warms the air we breathe so our lungs don't freeze. It even moistens the air we inhale so that our lungs can use it. Yet, even though the nose does all these amazing things, the act of smelling may be even more astonishing.

Human noses are designed to have about 10 million receptor cells. These cells "receive" chemicals from the environment. The cells then send messages to the brain through nerves. These messages tell the brain what kinds of chemicals are in the air. Humans have the ability to detect 3,000-10,000 different odors or smells—like oranges, roses, cookies, or garbage.

The position of the nose, above the mouth, is perfectly designed as well. The nose acts as a warning detector, smelling things that are rotten, old, or moldy. When the nose smells anything rotten, it tells the brain that eating the food could hurt the body.

Scientists have spent years studying our sense of smell, and they still do not completely understand it. They have attempted to make machines, called "electronic noses," that have the ability to "smell" certain chemicals. It is interesting that brilliant scientists have spent thousands of hours designing "electronic noses." Yet these machines cannot do all the things that human noses can do. That means that whoever designed the human nose must be smarter

than scientists. In truth, it is easy to sniff out God's design in our sense of smell.

## A Bionic Arm

A ten-pound, four-million-dollar machine connected to the shoulder of Claudia Mitchell made her one of the first "bionic" women in the world. After losing her left arm, Mitchell received an artificial limb specially designed to work using nerve impulses from her body.

On September 14, 2006, Mitchell unveiled the new arm in a Washington, D.C. news conference. Mitchell's doctor, Todd Kuiken, has done some amazing things to make this bionic arm a reality. Kuiken and his team were able to move nerves into Mitchell's chest, disconnect those nerves from actual muscles, and connect them to sensors in the metal arm. These nerves make six motors in the arm move.

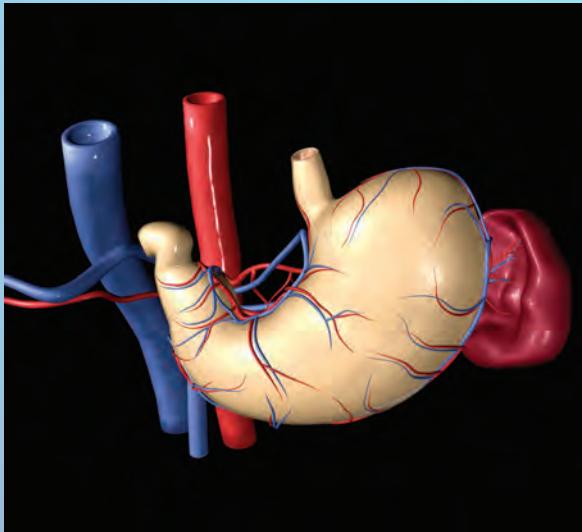
Mitchell's doctors were excited to see her use the arm to do many things that a regular arm can

do. They said, however, that even though the arm is good for an artificial arm, it is still clumsy compared to a human arm. Very smart humans have spent millions of dollars and thousands of hours to design a "clumsy" mechanical arm, but "regular" human arms are still much better. That means that whoever designed the human arm has to be smarter than the smartest scientists (Reference 1).

## The Stomach

British scientists call it the first artificial stomach ever made. It cost the British government about \$1.8 million. Commercial food companies are looking to it for help. Dr. Marin Wickham holds the patent on this amazing contraption. This new machine is about the size of a five-gallon bucket. It is designed to copy human digestion. Its advanced plastics and metals can withstand the corrosive qualities of the acid and enzymes used in digestion. Once food is placed in the receiving funnel, computer software determines how long the food





stays in one place. The model attempts to copy real muscle contractions in the stomach that help humans digest their food. The machine is a technological wonder.

One very important point needs to be noted about this artificial stomach: it is complex, expensive, and took hundreds or thousands of hours to design and build. But it still cannot accomplish all the processes of a real human. The machine has computer software that determines when the food moves. Such computer programs can be designed and used only by intelligent beings. Once

again, we can see that if design was necessary to develop the inferior artificial stomach, then the real stomach that works much better must have an intelligent designer (2).

## Conclusion

In the book of Psalms, King David said this to God: "I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well." He was exactly right that the human body is wonderfully made and marvelous. It provides outstanding evidence to show that there is an intelligent God who designed humans.

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<sup>1</sup> Robert Davis (2006), "Meet the \$4 Million Woman," *USA Today*, September 14, [http://news.yahoo.com/s/usatoday/20060914/tc\\_usatoday/meetthe4millionwoman](http://news.yahoo.com/s/usatoday/20060914/tc_usatoday/meetthe4millionwoman).

<sup>2</sup> "Scientists Build World's First Artificial Stomach" (2006), <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/15655255/wid/11915773?GT1=8717>.

# Chapter 8

## All Life Points to God

Where do peach trees come from? They come from peach seeds, of course. And where do peach seeds come from? They come from peach trees. Where did those peach trees come from? Can you see where this is going? At some point there

thousands of years. Those who do not believe in God say that the first living things evolved from non-living chemicals. This idea is known as spontaneous generation.

### **Life from Non-Life Does Not Happen in Nature**

Spontaneous generation is the idea that life can come from chemicals found in rocks, dirt, water, and the air. For hundreds of years, people believed that life often popped into existence from lifeless chemicals. As “scientific” proof of this idea, they would give examples like this one. If you leave a steak on the kitchen counter in the middle of the summer for two weeks, guess what will “spontaneously generate” on it? Maggots. That’s right. Since people many years ago did not see any maggots crawl onto the steak, they believed that the maggots



had to be the first peach tree or the first peach seed. Where did the very first one come from? That is a question that people have been trying to answer for

popped into existence from non-living chemicals in the air and on the steak.



## Francesco Redi

National Institutes of Health



In the late 1660s, a scientist named Francesco Redi did a very simple experiment. He had three groups of jars with meat in them. One of the groups of jars he sealed tightly so that no air or flies could get to the meat.

Another group of jars he left open so that air and flies could get to the meat. He covered the third group of jars with a netting-like fabric so that air could get in, but flies

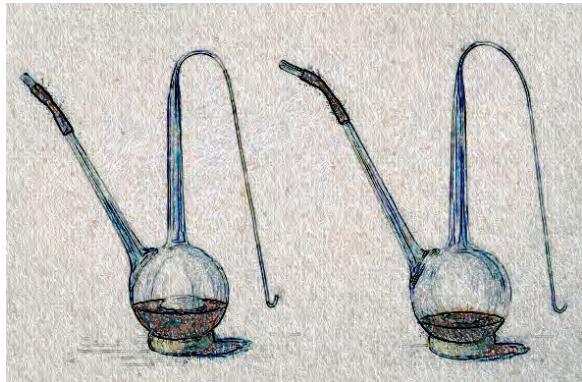
could not. As he watched the jars and the meat, he saw flies trying to get into the sealed jars, but they could not. He also saw flies landing on the uncovered meat, and landing on the netting fabric. Within a few days, he saw maggots on the uncovered meat and on the netting. He did not see any maggots on the meat that was covered by netting or on the sealed meat. Redi rightly concluded that the maggots came from the flies, and they did not spontaneously generate. His research helped others see that life does not spontaneously generate.

## Louis Pasteur

For another 200 years after Redi, many people still believed in spontaneous generation. The man who destroyed the idea was a French scientist named Louis Pasteur. In the mid 1860s, scientists were using microscopes to look at tiny bacteria in things like



meat or hay broth. Since they did not see any of these bacteria “flying into” the broth, they thought the bacteria must be popping into existence out of the non-living chemicals found in the broth and air. Pasteur knew this was not the case, and he arranged an experiment to prove it. He designed special flasks with long, narrow necks that were shaped like the letter “S.” These flasks were designed to let air into the broth, because those who believed in spontaneous generation claimed that the chemicals in air helped make life happen. The necks of the flasks, however, were designed to trap any microscopic bacteria in the curve of the “S” shape before it reached the broth. Pasteur then boiled the broth and killed any



bacteria in it. He allowed the air to come back into the broth through the special shaped neck of the flask. All the bacteria in the air were trapped in the neck of the flask, and no bacteria formed in the broth. This experiment was very important for two reasons. First, it shows us



how we can kill bacteria and keep foods and drinks safe. The next time you drink milk, if you look on the side of the carton, you will see that it has been “pasteurized.” That means it has been heated to kill the bacteria and sealed quickly so bacteria can’t get back in. Second, the ex-

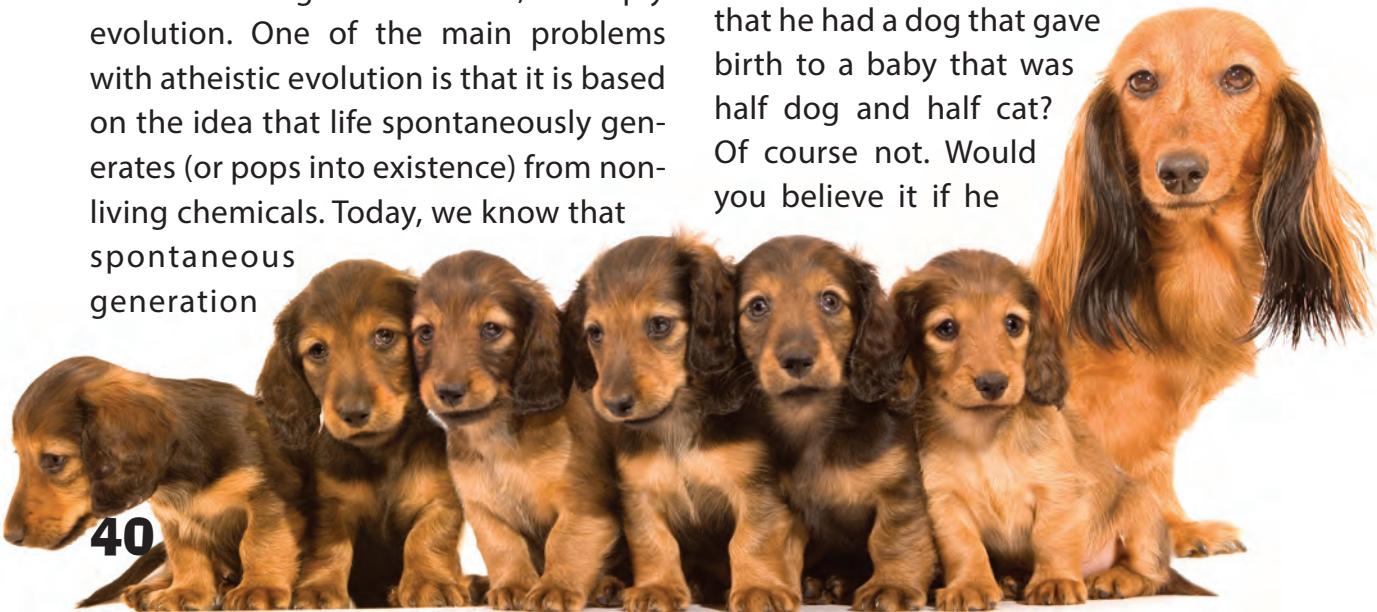
periment shows us that life does not come from non-living chemicals. The experiments of Redi, Pasteur, and others help us see another important scientific law—the Law of Biogenesis.

## The Law of Biogenesis

The scientific Law of Biogenesis simply states that all life in the natural world comes from previously existing life of its own kind. This law is very helpful in showing that there is a God, and here is why. Those people who say that there is no God believe that life evolved from non-living chemicals billions of years ago. They claim that chemicals such as ammonia, hydrogen, and nitrogen somehow got together by accidental, random processes and formed the first single-celled life. They also believe that all animals that are in the world today evolved from that first, single-celled creature. This idea is known as organic evolution, or simply evolution. One of the main problems with atheistic evolution is that it is based on the idea that life spontaneously generates (or pops into existence) from non-living chemicals. Today, we know that spontaneous generation

is impossible. Life in the Universe cannot come from non-living chemicals in nature. It is impossible. Life comes from pre-existing life of its own kind. That means that atheism cannot be a scientific idea, because it violates the Law of Biogenesis.

Another major problem with evolution is that it says that life evolved into different "kinds" of life. According to evolution, the first single-celled creature evolved over billions of years into all the different kinds of life. That can't be true, because the Law of Biogenesis says that life comes from previously existing life **of its own kind**. You are very familiar with this truth. Let me explain. Would you believe it if a student in your class said that he had a dog that gave birth to a baby that was half dog and half cat? Of course not. Would you believe it if he



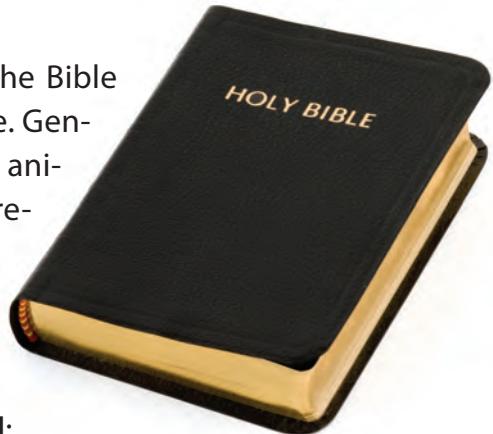
said the baby was 98% dog and 2% lizard? No. Would you believe it if he said the baby was 99% dog, and 1% bird, with only one tiny bird feather on its tail, and fur everywhere else? Absolutely not. Why wouldn't you believe that? Because you understand the Law of Biogenesis, even if you didn't know it was called that. You might not have been there when the dog gave birth to a baby, but you can know that it was a puppy based on the fact that life comes from life of its own kind. Dogs always have puppies, never llamas, or part puppies and part sheep. Cats always have kittens. Humans always have human babies. That is true, biological science. And these facts show that evolution cannot be true. They also show that the world is working exactly the way God arranged it.



## God Is the Giver of Life

In the book of Genesis (which means beginning), the Bible gives the only scientific explanation for the origin of life. Genesis 1 explains that God created all the living plants, animals, and humans on days three, five, and six of the Creation week. In addition, the Bible explains that God "set up" the Law of Biogenesis so that all living things have been producing after their own kind for thousands of years. In Genesis 1:24, the Bible says: "Let the Earth bring forth the living creature **according to its kind**: cattle and creeping thing and beast of the earth, each **according to its kind**"; and so it was." The reason peaches always come from a peach seed, is because that is how the Creator designed it from the very beginning. It is true that dogs may have babies that might be a different color, size, or height than their parents, but they will always be dogs. They will never be cats, canaries, or cows. No natural process

can explain life on the Earth. It had to be placed here by God who put into place the Law of Biogenesis. This law of science is just one more proof that God is real.



# Chapter 9

## Evil, Pain, and Suffering



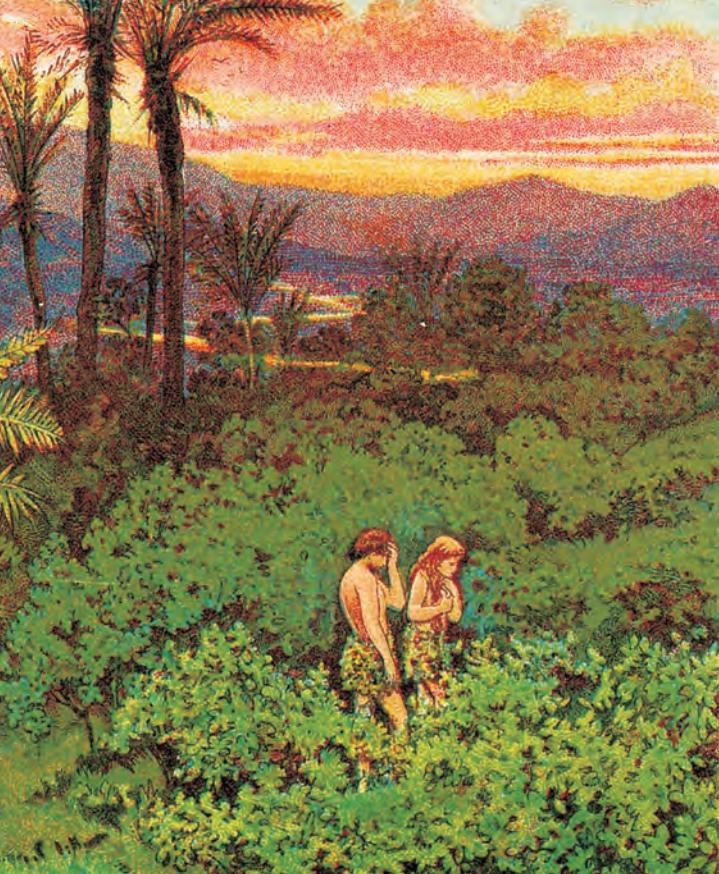
We do not have to live very long before we learn that many people suffer. Some people have cancer, others have AIDS, and still others have hundreds of different sicknesses. In fact, every single person in the world eventually suffers some kind of pain such as a broken arm, the death of a loved one, or emotional pain like rejection or abuse. Some people think that suffering in the world proves that there is no God. They think that if there is an all-powerful God in heaven, then He would stop all the pain and sick-

ness in the world. Because there is still pain and suffering in our world, these people say there cannot be a loving God in heaven.

So why doesn't God stop all the suffering and pain? The Bible says that He is all-powerful (Revelation 4:8). That means He has the power to stop it any time He chooses. The Bible also describes God as being a God of love (I John 4:8). Wouldn't a good person want to help someone who is suffering? How can a loving God who is all powerful allow people to suffer?

In order to answer this question, we must go all the way back to the Garden of Eden. Before Adam and Eve sinned, there was no death. Everything God had made was pure and good (Genesis 1:31). One of those good things that God gave Adam and Eve was the freedom to make

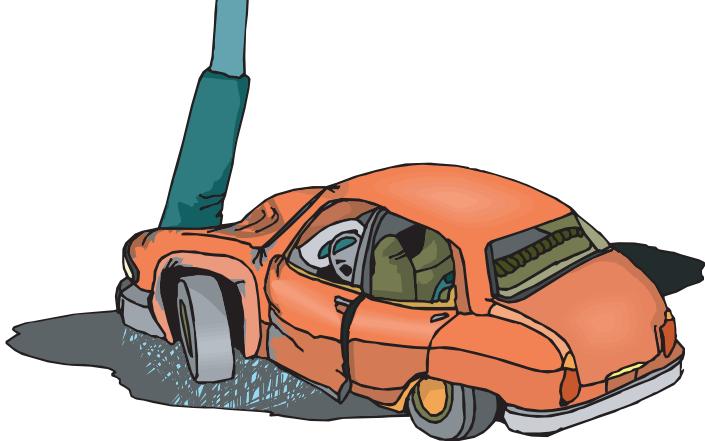




their own choices. They were given the ability to decide if they wanted to obey or disobey God. The heavenly Father did not create humans to be like robots that must do what they are programmed to do. God is love (1 John 4:8), and love allows people to make their own decisions. In Psalm 32:9, King David wrote: "Do not be like the horse or like the mule, which have no understanding, which must be

harnessed with bit and bridle, else they will not come near you." God has never **made** people do the right thing. He does not want us to be like the horse or mule that must be tied up and forced into service. Instead, He allows humans to make their own decisions, because He loves us.

Unfortunately, Adam and Eve made the wrong decision. They chose to disobey God, and their sin brought pain, suffering, disease, and death into the world (Romans 5:12). These terrible consequences of sin are not God's fault. They are the results of sinful human beings. And one reason that God does not remove all suffering in this life is because He wants us to be free to make our own decisions—just like Adam and Eve. And just like with Adam and Eve, we might suffer for wrong decisions that we make. For instance, if a teenager disobeys his parents and drinks alcohol and then drives a car, he has made a wrong decision. If he is in a car accident and injured, he is the one who has caused his own pain and suffering. It is not God's fault that the teenager chose

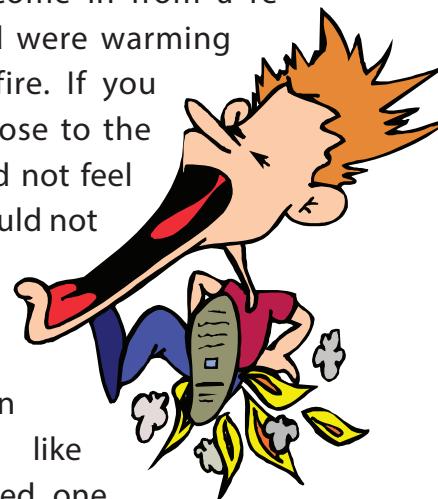


to do wrong. It is the teenager's fault who made the wrong decision. Many people cause themselves to suffer pain when they make wrong decisions.

But what about innocent people such as babies? Why do they sometimes suffer, even when they have done nothing wrong? Look at the life of Jesus. He suffered terribly, even though He never did anything wrong. Innocent people sometimes suffer because those around them make wrong decisions.

As we think about the pain and suffering in this world, we must remember that pain is sometimes very helpful. What if you could feel no pain? That sounds like it would be wonderful, doesn't it? You could run faster and farther and your side would not hurt. You would never

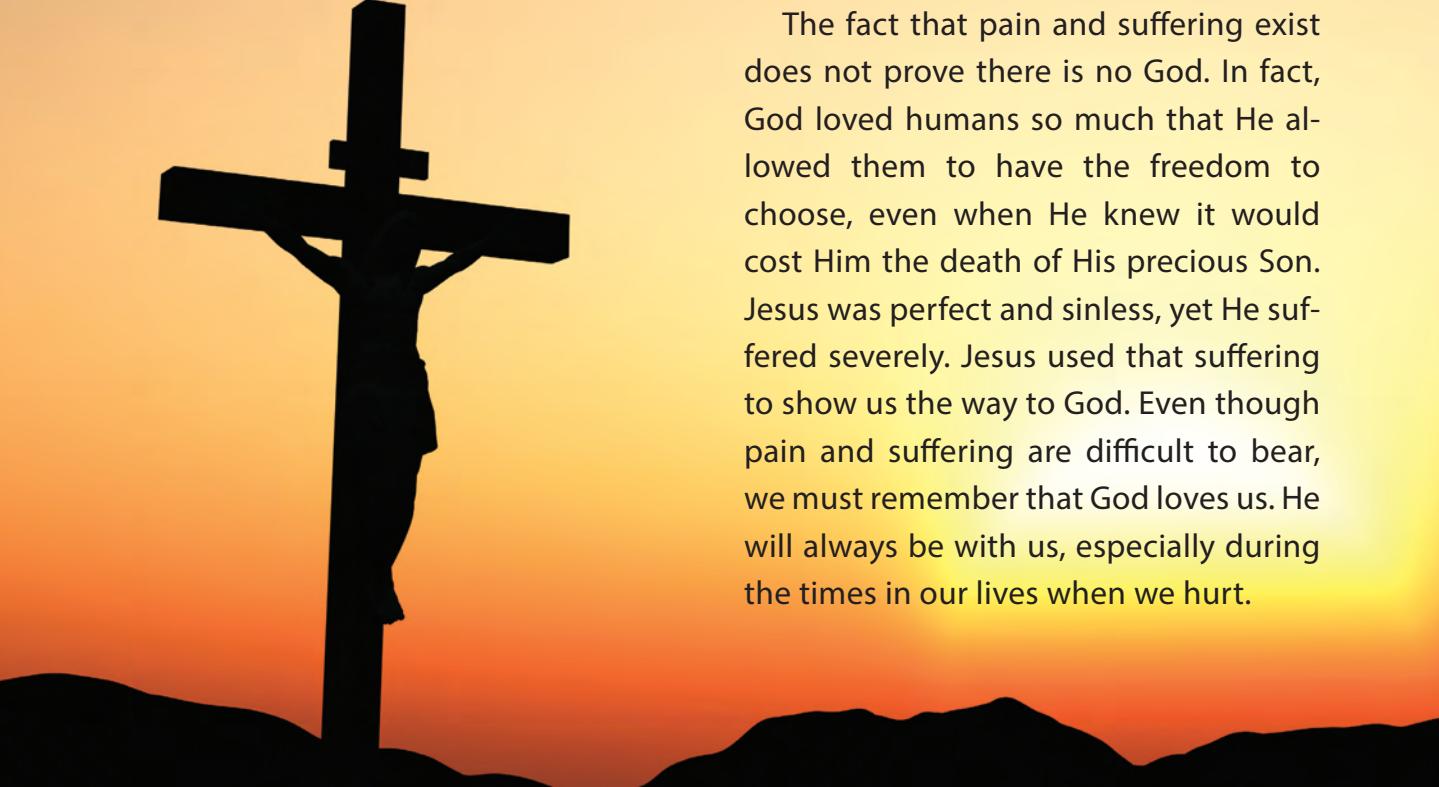
have to worry about crying when you fell down, because it would not hurt. But would it really be good to feel no pain? What if you were getting in your car and accidentally slammed your finger in the door? It would not hurt, but the door would cut off the blood from getting to your finger, and it would probably do permanent damage. Or, imagine if you had just come in from a really cold day and were warming yourself by the fire. If you backed up too close to the fire, but you could not feel pain, then you would not even know that your legs were burning. Pain often helps us. Even emotional pain, like the loss of a loved one, can help us grow into mature Christians. In the New Testament book of James, we read: "My brethren count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience" (James 1:2-3). Pain



and suffering can help us trust in God and have more patience.

Even though suffering and pain seem terrible now, we must remember that they are only for a short time. This world was not created to be our final home, and the suffering that God allows to take place on this Earth is small compared to the joy that He will give to faithful Christians. It

is very much like when a parent allows a doctor to give a baby a shot that will hurt for a minute, but will keep the baby from getting a terrible disease for the rest of its life. The apostle Paul wrote about this when he said: "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us" (Romans 8:18).

A large, dark silhouette of a person on a cross is positioned on the left side of the page. The background is a warm, orange and yellow sunset or sunrise, with dark silhouettes of hills at the bottom. The cross is centered vertically on the page.

The fact that pain and suffering exist does not prove there is no God. In fact, God loved humans so much that He allowed them to have the freedom to choose, even when He knew it would cost Him the death of His precious Son. Jesus was perfect and sinless, yet He suffered severely. Jesus used that suffering to show us the way to God. Even though pain and suffering are difficult to bear, we must remember that God loves us. He will always be with us, especially during the times in our lives when we hurt.

# Chapter 10

## Right, Wrong, and God



**H**ave you ever seen a movie or read a book about some strange, imaginary planet in the future that is ruled by monster robots that want to destroy all humans, or some other wild science-fiction idea? Through the years, many people have imagined “worlds” that weren’t really possible. What if we could imagine a world without God? What would such a world be like?

First, we must start by saying that such a world simply could not exist. God created everything. He made the dirt, the sky, the planets, and everything in the Universe. Without God, nothing would exist, and nothing could ever be made. But in spite of this fact, let’s try to imagine a world without God. In this imaginary world, there would be nothing good, since all good things come from God (James 1:17). There would be



no good hugs or kisses from a parent to a child. There would be no good food to



eat, or taste buds to enjoy food. Without God, everything in the world would be harmful, bad, sad, mean, and disgusting.

Also, if there were no God, then there would be no real rules. Every person could do whatever he or she wanted to do. God is good, and He has made rules such as don't steal, murder, lie, or cheat. Without God, people could murder whomever they wanted whenever they wanted, and they would not be doing anything wrong. If there were no God,

stealing would be just as good as working for money. A world without rules from God might sound fun at first, but it actually would be terrible.



When the Founding Fathers of the United States of America decided to break away from Britain, they wrote a famous document called the Declaration of Independence. In that document, they said: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." These words are very famous. They show us that the men who founded our country understood that human rights come from the Creator.





If God made each person in His image, then all people are equal and deserve to be treated with respect and dignity.

But what if a person believes the false idea of atheism? According to atheism, people were not created in God's image. In fact, according to atheism, humans are just another kind of animal that arose by accident over millions of years. Since atheists cannot say that God created humans with certain rights, the idea of atheism has led to some very bad things. For instance, some people in the past believed that certain groups of humans were not as highly evolved as other groups. Some atheists and evolutionists believed that the Aborigines in Australia were not "totally" human. They believed the Aborigines could be treated like animals. This never would have happened if these people had understood

the truth that all humans—Aborigines, Caucasians, Asians, Africans, Hispanics, and all others—are created by God and deserve equal treatment.

The idea of atheism also leads to an incorrect view about unborn babies. According to many atheists, unborn babies are not really people, and they should not be guaranteed the right to life. In fact, one atheist named Sam Harris said that he views unborn babies like he views rabbits. Because of his atheistic views, he believes and teaches that it is fine to kill unborn babies, just like people kill some types of animals. Another atheist named Peter Singer believes that if a child is born with certain physical or mental handicaps, it would be alright to kill that child,



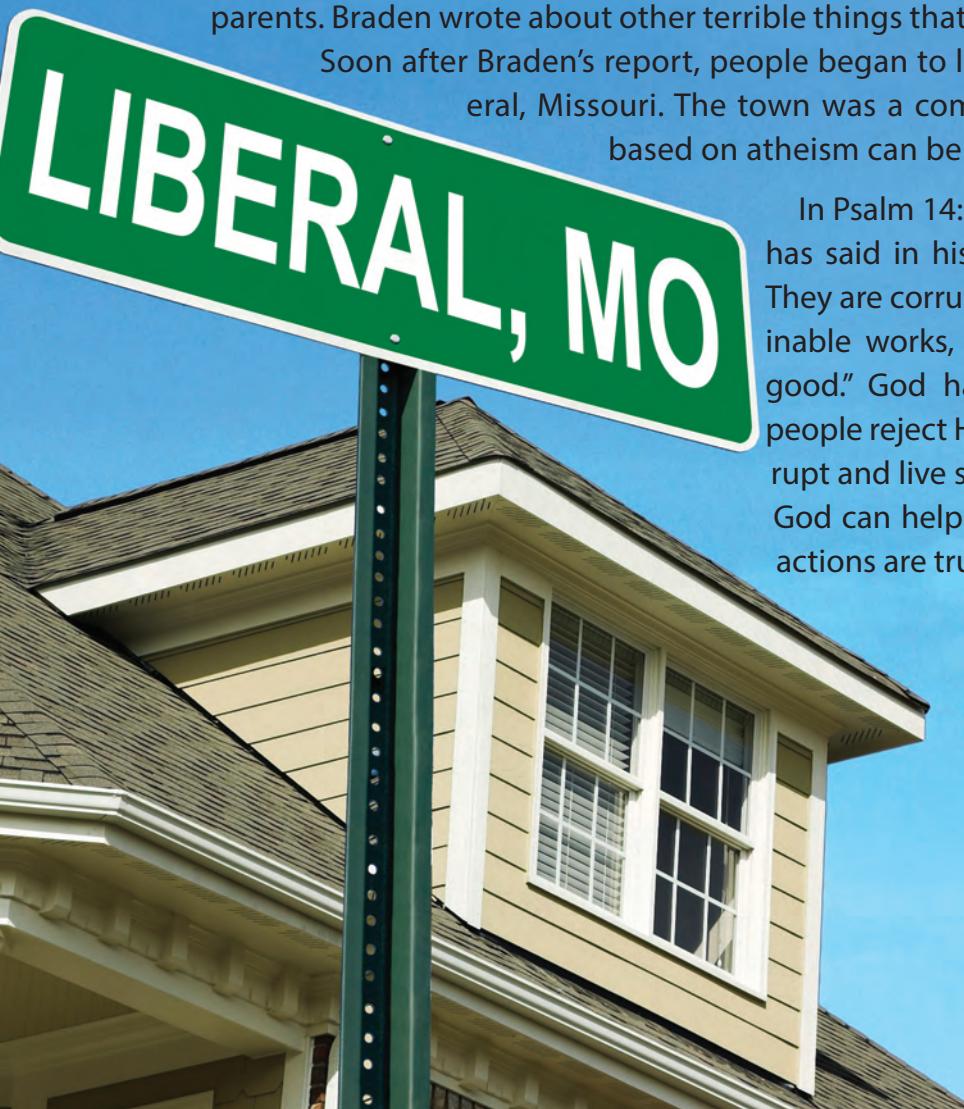
even after the baby is born. These men believe it is right to kill babies, because they do not believe that humans are created in God's image. Yet knowing that God did create humans, we can see that men like Sam Harris and Peter Singer are wrong. All humans, even unborn babies and those with handicaps, deserve to be treated with dignity and respect.

Also, since atheists believe that people are just complex animals, many atheists believe we can watch animals and learn how to behave. They believe that since we see animals killing their babies, fighting each other, or stealing food from other animals, then it would be right for humans to do the same things. But this idea is wrong. Humans are not merely

complex animals. People are special creations designed by God. Humans cannot say that stealing is right just because some animals steal food from other animals. Humans are different from animals. We do not learn what is right or wrong from watching animals. We learn what is right and wrong from listening to our Creator's teaching found in the Bible.

## **Liberal, Missouri**

In the year 1880, a man named George Walser started a town that he named Liberal, Missouri. This town was going to be different from other towns. Liberal was different because it was founded on the idea of atheism. Walser did not want anyone who believed in God or the Bible or



Heaven or Hell to be a part of his town. He wanted to show the world that a group of atheists could live together in peace and could be productive citizens. Walser's town failed miserably. A believer in God named Clark Braden visited Liberal and wrote about all the disgusting things that were happening there. He reported that many of the people got drunk often. He mentioned that many of the men, women, and children of Liberal used bad language and curse words, and the children did not obey their parents. Braden wrote about other terrible things that were going on in Liberal.

Soon after Braden's report, people began to learn the truth about Liberal, Missouri. The town was a complete failure. No society based on atheism can be productive or good.

In Psalm 14:1, the Bible says: "The fool has said in his heart, 'There is no God.' They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none who does good." God has always known that if people reject Him, they will become corrupt and live sinful lives. Only a belief in God can help people understand what actions are truly right and truly wrong.



# Chapter 11

## Not All People Believe in God

In July of 1969, the United States launched a space-craft called Apollo 11. The mission of that craft was to land on the Moon and have the crew walk on the Moon's surface. That mission was successful. Neil Armstrong, the commander of the crew, stepped onto the surface, and video was taken of him walking on the Moon. Samples of rocks and dirt from the Moon were brought back for scientists to study. Since then, several space-crafts have successfully landed on the Moon. The crews of these crafts have taken pictures, brought back samples, and shot videos of their time there. But in spite of all the evidence that Americans have landed on the Moon, there is a group of people who deny that it is true. These Moon-landing deniers claim that all the pictures are fake and that all the men who claim to have walked on the Moon are lying. They do not believe any of the samples of rocks and dirt are really from the Moon. They simply refuse to believe the evidence. It seems that no amount of persuasion can convince these people that Americans have really walked on the Moon. By learning about Moon-landing deniers, we can see something very important: some people will not believe the truth, regardless of the evidence that is available. This fact can be seen in the lives of those who choose not to believe in God.



Even though God has provided us with plenty of evidence to know He is real, not all people believe there is a God. Some people have chosen to ignore the evidence and believe that this Universe created itself out of nothing. They refuse to admit that the design in the world proves that there is a designer. Instead, they believe that the world is a huge accident, and humans are accidents as well. In this chapter, we will learn some of the names for those who do not believe in God. We will also look at some of the reasons for their unbelief.

## Atheist

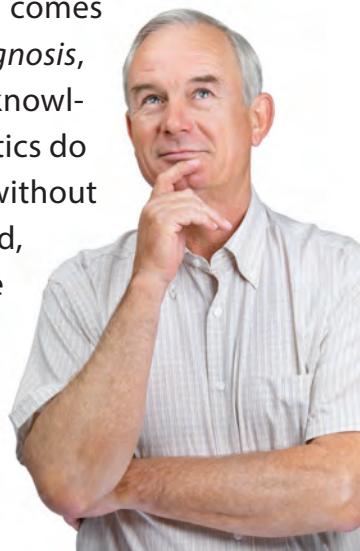
The word “atheist” comes from the Greek word *atheos*, which means “without God.” An atheist is a person who believes that there is enough evidence

to know that God does not exist. Some atheists believe so strongly that there cannot be a God, that they write books claiming that they can prove God

does not exist. Many of these men and women also travel around the world and give speeches about why they think God is not real.

## Agnostic

The word “agnostic” comes from the Greek work *agnosis*, which means “without knowledge.” Of course, agnostics do not think that they are without any knowledge. Instead, they believe that there is not enough evidence to prove that there is a God. They are not sure that there is no God, but they are not sure that there is one either. They do not believe that there is enough evidence (or knowledge) to make a good decision about the existence of God. For them, there might be a God, but they don’t think He has left enough evidence to prove He exists, so they do not believe they need to think much about Him.





## **Skeptics, Infidels, and “Freethinkers”**

Those who do not believe in God call themselves many different names. Skeptics are people who are “skeptical” about God’s existence. They question and doubt the evidence that is available. Infidels are those who are “without faith” (that is what the word means). Most of them do not believe in God or in any type of religion. Many of those who have chosen to disbelieve in God call themselves “freethinkers.” They claim that belief in God hinders them from thinking freely (but that is not true, and they are not as free thinkers as they want us to believe).

All of the people who are atheists, agnostics, skeptics, infidels, and “free-thinkers” claim that there is not enough evidence to believe in God. But the truth is, they are denying the evidence that is available. They are like those people who deny that Americans have ever landed on the Moon. They have chosen not to properly think through the evidence that is available.

When we think about these groups of people, we may wonder why they choose not to believe the truth about God. There are several reasons why people choose not to believe in God.

## **If There Is No God, People Can Act Any Way They Want**

One of the main reasons people choose to disbelieve in God is so that they will not have to feel guilty about living immoral lives. If there is no God, then humans can act any way they want to act without having to answer to their Creator. That means that those who don’t believe in God could sometimes lie and not feel like they have done anything wrong. If there is a God, then humans are responsible to obey Him. Humans would need to follow His teachings and obey His commands. Many of those who don’t want to obey God’s commands simply choose not to believe in Him. The problem with this thinking is that it is wrong. If there is a God (and we have shown that there is), then all people should obey Him. If a person chooses not to believe in

God, that does not mean there is no God. If a person chooses not to believe that there are police, that does not mean there are no laws. If that person disobeys the laws, he will still be responsible for breaking the law.

## Are All the Smart People Atheists?

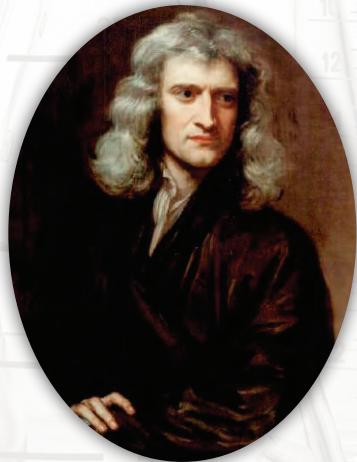
Some people hold the false belief that all the smart people are atheists or agnostics. The idea is that religious people who believe in God are easy to trick and are not very smart. Since many college and university professors are atheists, they teach their students that atheism is a belief for intelligent people, and religion and belief in God are ideas that ignorant, uneducated people have. This kind of pressure influences some people to adopt atheism, because they want to be viewed as intelligent. They don't want others to think they are ignorant, and they want to fit in with "intellectuals." The truth is, however, all the "smart" people are not atheists! In fact, when a person properly looks at all the evidence with an open mind and honest heart, he cannot be an atheist. The truly "smart" people are those who follow the truth where it leads—to God.



Louis Pasteur



Wernher Von Braun



Isaac Newton

## Learning Atheism Early in Life

One day I was talking to a group of people about the existence of God. In the audience were two people who now believe in God, but who were atheists in the past. One of them was an atheist until he was 19, and the other was an atheist until he was 40. These two men had been taught that atheism is the truth. They had



accepted atheism and never questioned whether or not it was right. I asked them why they were no longer atheists, and they said that they decided to look at the evidence. When they took the time and effort to study the evidence for themselves, they realized that they had not been taught the truth. These men explained that the evidence that God has given for His existence is what convinced them to turn away from atheism. If a person is taught atheism from childhood, it might be difficult to change. But an honest look at all the evidence will cause a person to believe in God.

## This Is Never the Reason for Atheism

Many atheists and unbelievers claim that they don't believe in God because there is not enough evidence to prove He exists. They claim to be thinking correctly about the evidence and using their minds to follow the evidence where it leads. This simply is never the case. No person is an atheist or unbeliever because of the evidence. Atheists and un-

believers can choose not to believe in God if they wish, but they will choose not to believe in spite of the evidence, **never because of it**.



The apostle Paul explained that God has provided so much evidence to prove He exists that those who deny His existence will be "without excuse" (Romans 1:20). Not one single "good reason" exists that a person will be able to give God for choosing not to believe in Him. We should all determine that we will follow the truth wherever it leads. When we do, we will find that the truth always leads to God.

# Chapter 12

## The Bible as Evidence for God

In order to prove that there is a God, we must be able to prove that there are things in our world that could not have occurred without God. We have seen that our Universe must have an adequate cause, and that the only good explanation is God. We have also looked at the wonderful design in the Universe, the human body, and the animal kingdom. We have seen that design demands a designer, and the designer must be God. It might surprise you to learn that there is something else in our world that cannot be explained

without God—the Bible. That's right: the Bible is good evidence for God. When we say that, however, we must stress that we are not saying that there is a God just because the Bible says there is. We are saying that the Bible has characteristics that are "supernatural." That means that the Bible does things that no humans can do. The Bible accurately predicts the future, and the Bible is always correct about the facts it mentions. Many people have tried to produce books like the Bible, but mere humans cannot write such a book. Only a supernatural God could have written a



perfect book that predicts the future and is always right. Let's look more closely at some things in the Bible that prove that there must be a God who wrote it.

## Predicting Babylon's Future

Babylon was one of the richest cities in the world between the years 740 to 680 B.C. During those "glory days," the city prospered greatly. It was located between the Tigris and the Euphrates rivers—a strip of land so good for growing crops that today it is known as the "fertile crescent."

But its farming was not the reason for its fame. Babylon gained its reputation because of its high, massive walls and strong military defense. In fact, its walls were said to be 14 miles long and over 300 feet high—taller than most buildings today. Not only were the walls long and high, but in some places they were 75 feet thick. The wall was not the only form of defense. The Euphrates River surrounded the city, making a perfect moat that ranged from 65 to 250 feet across.

This wall and moat system seemed to make the city unbeatable.

Yet, in spite of the military strength of the city, the Bible predicted its destruction. In Jeremiah 50:9, the prophet said that God would "raise and cause to come up against Babylon an assembly of great nations from the north country." This prediction probably seemed silly at the time it



was made, because none of the countries in the north was strong enough to defeat Babylon. But many years after the prophecy, Cyrus, king of the Medo-Persian Empire, gathered a huge force of many different nations and marched southward against Babylon.



The details of the fulfillment are amazing. Jeremiah recorded that God had declared: "I will dry up her sea and make her springs dry" (51:36). Also, the Lord had said: "I will prepare their feasts; I will make them drunk, that they may rejoice, and sleep a perpetual sleep and not awake" (51:39).

Listen to the story as history unfolds. The Euphrates River ran underneath the great walls. After a siege of two years, Cyrus was able to alter the river to make it flow into a huge marsh. By doing this, he "dried up the rivers" of Babylon and provided an easy way for his soldiers to enter under the city walls where the water once flowed. The Babylonians still

could have defended the city, but instead they were feasting and getting drunk. They had no idea what was happening. Cyrus ordered his men to act like drunken men, and by the time the Babylonians realized what had happened, the place was filled with enemy troops who defeated the city. The prophets in the Bible predicted exactly what would happen to Babylon. This shows us that there must be a God Who knows the future and wrote the Bible.



## **The Prophecy Concerning Tyre**

In Ezekiel 26:1-14, the Bible tells about a city named Tyre. This city was very wealthy and secure when Ezekiel wrote about it. Yet, the holy prophet Ezekiel predicted that the city would be destroyed. Many people did not believe Ezekiel because the city looked like it was too powerful to be destroyed. But the prophet told many detailed things that would happen to the city. First, he said that a king from Babylon by the name of Nebuchadnezzar would fight against the city. After that, many nations would come up to fight Tyre, and the city would

be leveled and scraped clean like a bare rock. Ezekiel also predicted that the city's stones, logs, and soil would be thrown into the sea. The area around the city would become a place for the spreading of fishermen's nets. And, finally, the city would never be rebuilt to its former glory.

What is amazing about this story is that Ezekiel was exactly right about everything he said. History records that each one of these predictions came true. Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, surrounded the city of Tyre and broke through the strong walls. But when he finally was able to take the city in about



573 B.C., his victory was empty. He did not know that the people of Tyre had left the city and moved to a little island just off the coast. That island remained safe for about the next 241 years. Then, in 332 B.C., Alexander the Great conquered the city. To get to the island, he literally had his army “scrape clean” the inland city of all logs, stones, and dirt. He then dumped those materials into the ocean, creating a “land bridge” to the island.

The city never regained its position of wealth and power. The prophet Ezekiel looked hundreds of years into the future and predicted that the city of Tyre would be a bald rock where fishermen gathered to open their nets. And that is exactly what history records as having happened.

## **The Coming Christ**

In addition to its prophecies dealing with people, places, and events, the Old Testament contains more than 300 prophecies about Jesus. These prophecies are called “messianic” prophecies because they tell about the coming

“Messiah” or Savior. These prophecies were written to tell the world about the One Who would come to save humankind from sin.

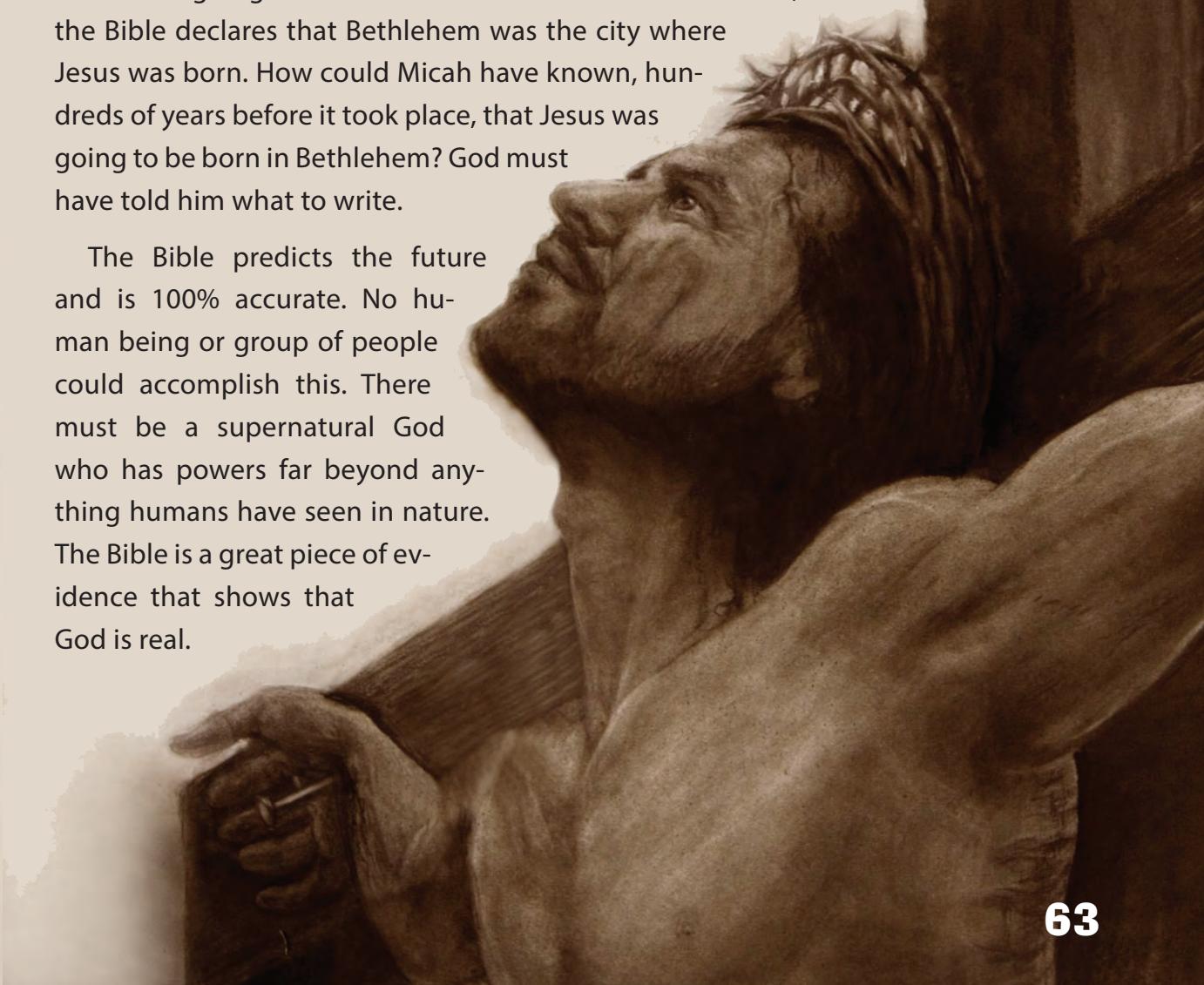
Psalm 22:16-18 is a great example of a messianic prophecy. David wrote Psalm 22 in approximately 1000 B.C. In that psalm, he described exactly what would happen to the Christ Who was supposed to come and save the world. David said that sinful people were going to pierce the hands and feet of the Messiah. He also explained that those same mean people were going to “cast lots” (like rolling dice) for the clothing of Christ.

David’s prophecy is amazing because it came true almost 1,000 years after he wrote it. In Matthew 27:35, the Bible tells us that Christ was crucified. When a person was crucified, big nails were driven in his hands and feet. Also, soldiers who hung Jesus on the cross “cast lots” for His clothing. How did David know that Jesus’ hands and feet would be pierced, and that soldiers would cast lots for His clothing? David could have known such

small details about the future only if God inspired him to write the psalm.

Another amazing prophecy about Jesus is found in Micah 5:2. In this verse, the prophet predicted that the Savior of the world was going to be born in Bethlehem. In Matthew 2:1, the Bible declares that Bethlehem was the city where Jesus was born. How could Micah have known, hundreds of years before it took place, that Jesus was going to be born in Bethlehem? God must have told him what to write.

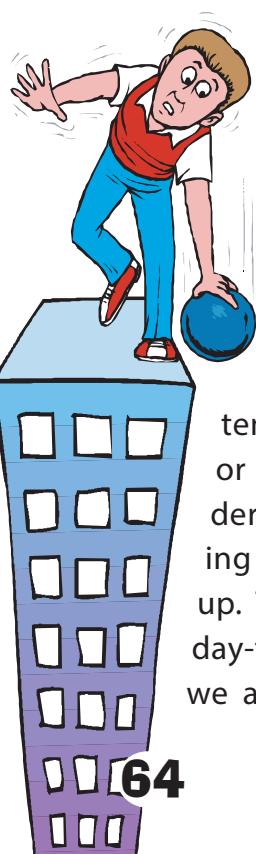
The Bible predicts the future and is 100% accurate. No human being or group of people could accomplish this. There must be a supernatural God who has powers far beyond anything humans have seen in nature. The Bible is a great piece of evidence that shows that God is real.



# Chapter 13

## What Does God Mean to Me?

In very simple terms, the Law of Gravity says that objects fall to the Earth at 9.8 meters per second squared. That means that if you drop a bowling ball off of a building, after one second it will be traveling 9.8 meters per second; after two seconds it will speed up to 19.6 meters per second; after three seconds it will be traveling 29.4 meters per second, and so on. That is good information to know, but most of us really don't think about the acceleration of an object due to gravity very often. In fact, we may go months or many years without ever wondering how quickly an object falling from a building is speeding up. That doesn't really affect our day-to-day lives. Most of the time, we are not "worried" about acceleration due to gravity because it doesn't have much to do with us. But now let's suppose that you jumped out of an airplane and are wearing a parachute. You need to know how fast you are speeding to the ground in order to know when to pull your parachute cord. Does your acceleration based on gravity matter to you while you are speeding toward the ground? Of course it does. Why? Because your knowledge of gravity and when to pull your parachute cord could mean the difference between life and death.



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Of course it does. Why? Because your knowledge of gravity and when to pull your parachute cord could mean the difference between life and death.

In a similar way, some people go through life without thinking about God very often. They may know He ex-





ists, but they don't think that He does very much. They do not think that He cares for them, and they don't think that He still works in the world today. They picture God sort of like

a watchmaker who designed the Universe, wound it up like a watch to get it started, and now lets it run on its own. For these people, a belief in God does not change the way they live. The truth is, however, that God is very active in the world today. He did not wind it up like a clock and leave it alone. He is constantly "working" with the Universe.

## **God Upholds All Things**

In the book of Hebrews, the Bible says that God is "upholding all things by the word of His power" (Hebrews 1:3). That means that God is constantly at work in our Universe keeping it together and keeping the natural laws working like they do. Since He is constantly at work, the image of a watchmaker winding up

a watch and leaving it alone cannot accurately describe how God works. Instead, God is more like a designer Who is holding the Universe in His hands and causing everything to work perfectly by breathing "His Word" into the creation. The Universe simply cannot work without God. God does not "put the Universe down" like a clock on a shelf to run by itself, because without God it would not stay together or work. God's power is constantly at work holding the Universe together.



## God Cares For His Creation

Since God is always at work holding the Universe together, it makes sense that He cares what happens in the world. God did not leave animals and humans alone to find their own way in the world. Instead, He has always provided for them. The Bible explains that God feeds the birds of the air and takes care of all His creatures, including humans (Matthew 6:26). In fact, not a single bird ever falls to the ground without God knowing and caring about it (Matthew 10:29). The apostle Paul proved to his audience that God exists by showing that God "did good, gave us rain from heaven and fruit-

ful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness" (Acts 14:17).

The fact that God cares about His creation does not mean that nothing bad will ever happen, because God can use the bad things that happen to bring about good things. It simply means that without God, nothing good

would ever happen (James 1:17). Only God can provide good things like "food and gladness."

## God Went Through the Trouble to Send Us a Message

If God did not care about humans, then He would not have bothered to talk to them. But if He made the effort to communicate to humans, we know He cares about them. Throughout human history, God has communicated to humans in different ways. Thousands of years ago, He spoke directly to holy prophets who recorded His words and passed them to other people. At other times, God spoke to people through dreams or vi-



sions. When Jesus came to Earth, God was speaking through Him. Today, God does not speak to humans directly like He once did. Now God speaks to people through His Word, the Bible. The Bible is a group of 66 books that were written over a period of about 1,600 years. God took great care to make sure His message was preserved in the Bible so that we can know what He wants us to do. If our Creator went through so much trouble to give us the Bible, we should try very hard to learn it and understand what it says. Not only does the Bible help us understand that there is a God, but it also shows us how our Creator wants us to live. The Bible is our guide to help us live exactly as we were designed to live.

## **Belief Without Action**

### **Is Useless**

Is it good to know that there is a God? It can be great, but it can also be useless. There are lots of people in the world who believe and know things, but they don't act on their beliefs. For instance, there are many people who know that eating

right and getting exercise is good for them and would help them be healthy. But not all of those people exercise or eat healthy food. They are not healthy and sometimes they get very sick. Their knowledge about diet and exercise does them no good, because they don't **do anything about it**. In a similar way, if a





person knows there is a Creator, but does not try to obey the Creator's will, then his knowledge does him no good. In the book of James, we read some very interesting verses about this. James 2:19-20 says: "You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble! But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?" James is saying that even the demons know that there is a God, but they don't try to obey Him. Their knowledge is not put together with action.

Throughout this book, you have seen the evidence that God is real. He is the first Cause who designed the world. He created the first life, and commanded it to multiply after its kind. He is the reason that humans can know that some things are right and other things are wrong. Once we know that there is a God, we must try our best to learn what God's will is. We can do that by studying the Bible. When we study the Bible and learn God's will, it is our job as God's creatures to do His will. The only thing worse than not believing that there is a God, is knowing that He exists, but not doing anything about it.



*“The heavens declare the glory of God;  
And the firmament shows His handiwork.”*  
— Psalms 19:1 —



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