

# DOES GOD EXIST?

Second Quarter 2026  
Volume 53 Number 2

*A nonprofit effort to  
convince mankind that  
God is real and the  
Bible is His Word.*

A man and a woman are seen from behind, sitting in a small white boat on a calm lake. The sun is setting, creating a warm, golden glow on the water and the sky. The background shows a dark line of trees on the shore.

**FINDING GOD  
THROUGH  
HIS CREATION**

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I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also.

2 Timothy 1:5 NIV

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A photograph of a man and a woman in a small white canoe on a calm lake. The scene is set during sunset or sunrise, with a warm, orange and pink sky reflecting on the water. The background shows a line of trees on the shore. The title "Finding God Through His Creation" is overlaid in a large, stylized, yellow font with a black outline.

# Finding God Through His Creation

People find God in many ways. For some, their relationship with God is through their family. If you were raised by parents who had a great relationship with each other and with God, you are blessed in a very special way. That is the way God wants families to be. The Bible tells of people who had great faith because of their parents' faith. The book of James was written by James, the son of Joseph and Mary, and therefore the physical brother of Jesus. In writing to Timothy, Paul said, "I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also" (2 Timothy 1:5).

Many of us were not blessed with having been raised by godly parents who lived their faith and raised us with the kind of love God wants us to have. Another way that some find God is through suffering and tragedies in life. When I was in the military, there was a saying in our infantry that "there are no atheists in foxholes." A serious illness, a horrible accident, or a debilitating disease can bring a person to God.

My personal path to faith in God did not involve any of these, and most people today have not come to faith in God through any of these paths. Like many people, I was raised by parents who did not believe in God and did not do anything that would encourage me to have faith. My parents did more than not provide a basis for faith; they

were active in denigrating people who believe in God. My parents were not evil people, and they were very successful in the academic world. On Sunday, our family would go to the swimming pool at Brown County State Park in southern Indiana because there were fewer people there than on other days. They told me that Christians were hypocrites and the cause of racism, immorality, ignorance, and intolerance. That is the picture the media presents of Christians today, which is why when people are asked about their religious affiliation, over 40% of people in America say “none.”

So how does a person like me come to believe in God? The answer does not come from organized religion. Every denomination that I had contact with as an unbelieving young person had no answer for my lack of faith. Churches were social clubs and provided no basis for belief in God. As a college student at Indiana University, I saw kids from conservative Christian churches go morally wild when their parents left them at the university. My parents allowed me to join a fraternity, and I lived in a dormitory for two years, where I saw firsthand the results of a lack of moral guidance.

The campus life I saw and the distance that grew between my parents and me, combined with my military experience, led me into a different world. Military field camps in Grayling, Michigan, and Camp McCoy, Wisconsin, put me in a natural world far different from the college life I had known.

Spending several summers in a family camp on Lake Michigan in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula, I saw nature at its best. I spent many hours in a boat seeing a creation that was far too complex and far too beautiful to be explained as the product of accidental evolution. I also saw the result of faith in God in the lives of people who were serious about knowing why they existed. The recent writings of atheists about why there is something instead of nothing are an admission that atheism can give no reason for existence.

I was blessed to have companions who had a reason for living and believed that life in this world is only part of human existence. These intelligent and well-educated people had something I wanted. They had a relationship with the God who created the natural world I had come to know well. I had found God through his creation. I found him, first through the natural world he had created and then through people who had found his plan for successful living.

My relationship with Jesus Christ has given me the power to overcome personal challenges and pain. It has also guided me to a ministry that has allowed me to associate with people who have blessed my life.

—John N. Clayton

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## Tile Pattern Design in the Natural World

*Science News* highlighted an intriguing report on tile pattern design found in nature. Biologist John Nyakatura and colleagues at Humboldt University of Berlin examined tile-like patterns in various plants and animals. They aimed to discover ways to incorporate these biological tilings into bioinspired devices. They documented 100 examples in the journal *PNAS Nexus*.

The skin of an elephant has a tile-like pattern, with cracks and wrinkles that trap water and mud. This arrangement helps dissipate heat to cool the elephant. Butterfly wings use overlapping tiles arranged to display colors while repelling water and reducing drag during flight. The eye of a fly features a tile pattern made of closely packed rods, each transmitting an image to the brain, making it extremely difficult to swat the fly. Instead of bones, the cartilage skeletons of sharks and rays consist of thousands of individual tiles that grow as the animals mature.

Research shows that other living organisms also benefit from tile pattern design. The sunflower's head consists of a tile-like pattern of tiny flowers called florets. By packing the florets in a tile-like structure, the sunflower becomes more attractive to pollinators. Armadillos are protected by overlapping tiles that provide stiffness while allowing them to roll into a ball. The earliest forms of life also used tiles, indicating that tiles did not evolve recently by chance. The fossilized shells of ancient cephalopods, known as ammonites, show squiggles along the edges of their shell's tiles.

Understanding the usefulness of tile designs opens the door to significant new benefits for humanity. The more we study living things, the more we recognize God's wisdom and planning. The statement in Romans 1:20 that we can know there is a God through the things he has made is supported by every scientific discovery.

— JNC



# Searching for Human Ancestors

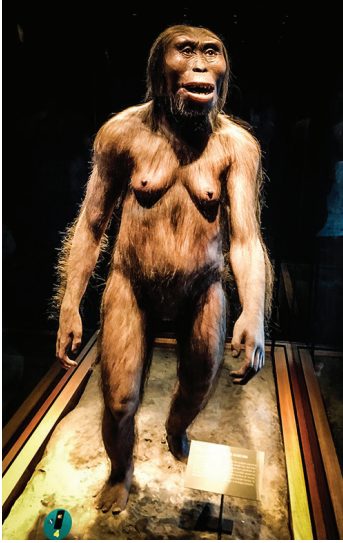
The history of attempts to develop an evolutionary explanation for modern humans is filled with errors and assumptions. Some foot bones found in 2009 in the Afar Region of Ethiopia, along with other bones discovered since then, have led to the naming of a new “species,” *Australopithecus deyiremeda*. The Afar Region is also where the fossil known as “Lucy” was discovered, and these fossils have been celebrated as ancestors of modern humans.



The first problem with this type of report is that the word “species” is used very loosely. When I took biology classes, species was defined as “a form of life that can breed and produce fertile offspring.” A dog and a cat are different species because they cannot breed to produce fertile offspring. Most of us remember that a horse and a donkey can breed and produce a mule, but the mule is sterile because horses and donkeys are different species.

Today, we have two ape forms considered distinct species. The evidence includes a few foot bones, fragments of pelvis, skull, jaw, and teeth — not a complete skeleton. Because these bones were found in close proximity, researchers assumed they must belong to the

same species, not to Lucy's species, *Australopithecus afarensis*. Since these supposedly show a progression among the ancestors of modern humans, how much variation do we see in humans and apes today?



Museum reconstruction of "Lucy"

The name *Australopithecus* literally means "the ape from the south." These are not humans but apes. None of this has any connection to the biblical account of God's creation of humans. The statement in Genesis 1:26, "Let us make man in our image ..." does not refer to God's physical image. God is a spirit (John 4:24). Genesis 2:7 describes man's physical creation from "the dust of the earth." The Bible does not tell us what that man looked like, how he was made, or how long it took.

Biblical critics and believers alike should not be concerned about the latest discovery that anthropologists claim is the ancestor of modern humans. Like all human endeavors, anthropology is fraught with errors and assumptions. Humans are unique as the only beings created in God's image, a fact that anthropology does not address.

—JNC

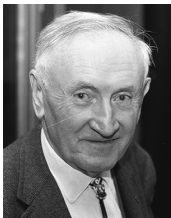




## Misunderstanding Dark Matter

We are seeing irresponsible comments about dark matter in both religious and secular articles. Dark matter is a designed feature of the cosmos that demonstrates the Creator's wisdom.

The story of dark matter begins nearly 100 years ago, when Swiss astronomer Fritz Zwicky observed that galaxies in the Coma Cluster were moving so fast they should have flown apart. About 40 years later, American astronomer Vera Rubin noticed that stars along the edges of spiral galaxies were moving so fast that centrifugal force should have sent them flying into intergalactic space. In recent years, astronomers have observed gravitational lensing—the bending of light by gravity—in regions of space without visible matter. These facts point to the presence of unseen or dark matter.



Fritz Zwicky

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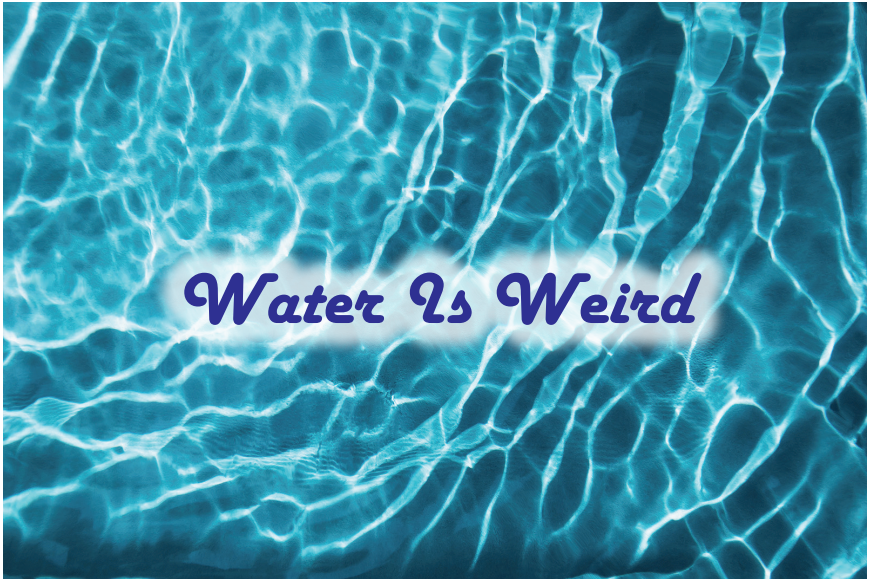
space without visible matter. These facts point to the presence of unseen or dark matter. Despite irresponsible comments from religious people about dark matter, it is not where hell is located. It is not a product of celestial evolution and will not destroy the Earth, at least not in the next 1000 years. It is simply a designed feature that allows us to live on this planet in the solar system within this galaxy. What would the universe look like if dark matter did not exist? Galaxies would need to be much larger to prevent them from collapsing into their centers due to gravity. Space is full of galaxies, and that would not be possible without dark matter.



Vera Rubin

Psalm 19:1 finds David looking at the sky, unobstructed by modern lights, and saying, “The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge.” That was true in the clear skies David could observe, and it remains true today as astronomers use modern telescopes to see God’s wisdom displayed in the heavens.

—JNC

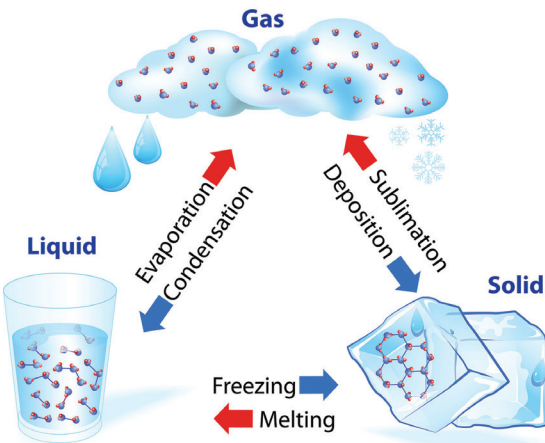


## Water Is Weird

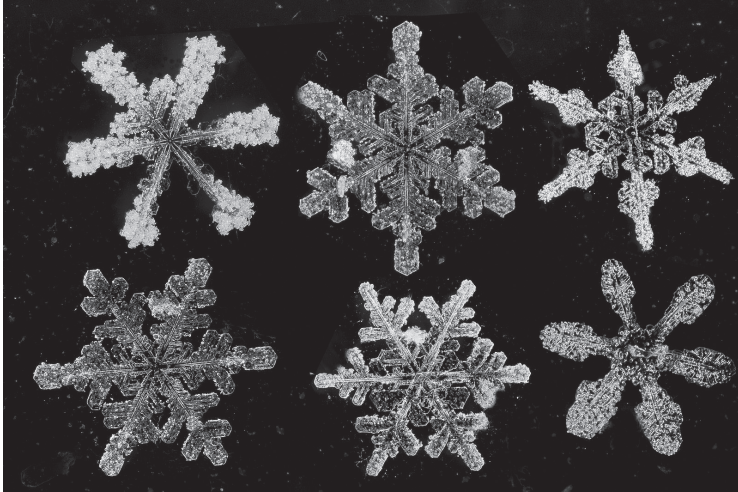
My astronomy students were always amazed to learn that water exists in 22 different forms throughout the solar system. Water is unlike any other substance on Earth. A simple example is why a lake freezes with ice on top and liquid water underneath. When most substances cool, they become denser, but at 4°C (Celsius), water starts to violate that rule and becomes less dense. Because water is unlike any other substance, this behavior allows a lake to freeze on the surface while life continues under the ice.

Every elementary student knows that water can exist as vapor, liquid, or solid (ice). On Earth, water boils at 100°C when the air pressure is 100 kilopascals. (A Pascal is 1 Newton per square meter, and there are roughly 4.45 Newtons in a pound.) At the same air pressure, water freezes at 0°C. If you drop the air pressure to 100 Pascals, ice turns into water vapor, skipping the liquid phase altogether.

A point of interest to astronomers is that if the pressure is extreme — over 100 gigapascals — water will exist as ice regard-



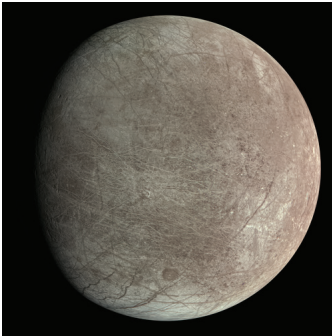
less of the temperature. As space probes visit other planets and their moons, they measure temperatures. Not only do the temperatures tell us about these bodies, but the shapes of ice crystals on them can also reveal the conditions there. Natural water ice crystals on Earth are hexagonal, but scientists in the lab have forced ice crystals to take six different shapes. Depending on the temperature and pressure, they can be cubic, tetragonal, orthorhombic, rhombohedral, and monoclinic.



Water can crystallize as snowflakes.

It has been said that the more we know about the creation, the closer we get to the Creator. The presence of water on other planets and their moons throughout the solar system enables the clockwork precision that allows Earth to endure for centuries with great stability. We learn about all of this through the facts of science discovered by human minds. Genesis 1:1 not only tells us that there was a beginning to time, space, and matter/energy, but we now know that the heavens includes God’s miracle glue that holds it all together — water.

— JNC



Jupiter's moon Europa is covered with water ice.

Visit the Clayton Museum  
of Ancient History at  
York University, York, Neb.





# Why Do We Need a Multiverse Hypothesis?

In science fiction stories, characters step through a portal and emerge in a parallel or inverted world. In the minds of some physicists, multiple universes exist. According to the multiverse hypothesis, an almost infinite number of universes exist, each with radically different physical laws and properties. There is no evidence for this, and it is impossible to prove or falsify. So, why the multiverse hypothesis?

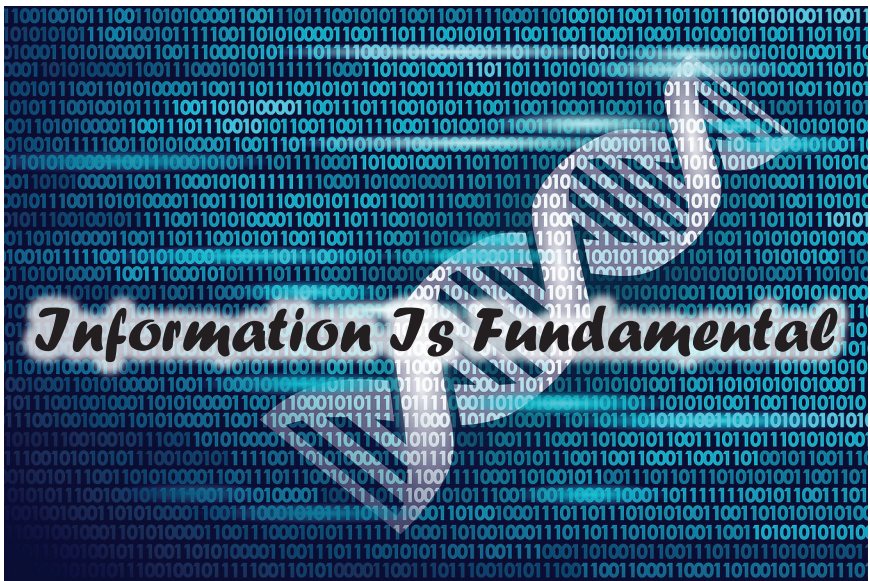
Agnostic scientists who theorize a multiverse do so because they cannot explain the apparent fine-tuning of the universe. Why are the particle masses and force strengths in our universe perfectly fine-tuned for us to be here? Slight changes in any of those factors would make it impossible for life to exist and would likely prevent a universe with stars and planets from forming.

Speculation about “bubble universes” in a frothing multiverse is pure science fiction at present, so what about another option? Some have proposed an idea based on quantum mechanics. But it is difficult to see how this could explain alternate universes, since quantum theory deals with the very small, not entire universes. So what is the reason for proposing multiple universes or quantum mechanics to explain how our universe could be fine-tuned?

There is a better explanation for the astonishingly fine-tuned parameters of our cosmos. However, it is one that many stubbornly refuse to accept, or even consider. What about the possibility that the universe was designed by an infinite Intelligence that exists outside of time and space? Is that not a more reasonable explanation for the precise design that makes our existence possible?

Quantum fluctuations cannot explain it. Even an infinite number of universes could not explain how we happen to be lucky enough to live in the one universe with the right combination of all the exact factors needed for life. Luck and chance are not scientific explanations. Even if there were an almost infinite number of universes, there would still need to be an explanation of how they originated. The design we observe in the cosmos can best be explained by a Designer. Skeptics choose the multiverse hypothesis to avoid the most obvious and logical explanation.

— Roland Earnst



# Information Is Fundamental

At the core of everything is information. DNA carries information in every cell of the human body, as well as in the cells of animals and plants. Without the information in our genes, we could not exist. DNA is a physical molecule, yet it contains information that is not physical. We write words with physical ink on physical paper, but the information in those words is not physical and is far more valuable than the paper itself because information is fundamental.

Ancient Greek Stoic philosophers used the word *logos* (translated as “word” in English) to refer to the rational principle behind the universe. The apostle John gave that term a deeper meaning when he used it to refer to the One who created all things. John’s gospel begins, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” He goes on to say that the Word created all things.

When you read the Genesis creation account, you find, “And God said, ‘Let there be light’” (verse 3). The phrase “And God said” recurs in verses 6, 9, 11, 14, 20, 24, 26, and 29. Hebrews 11:3 (KJV) tells us, “By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.” Words are not visible. Information is not visible. We can put information on paper by writing visible words, but the information behind those words is not visible—yet it is more important than the paper on which it is written.

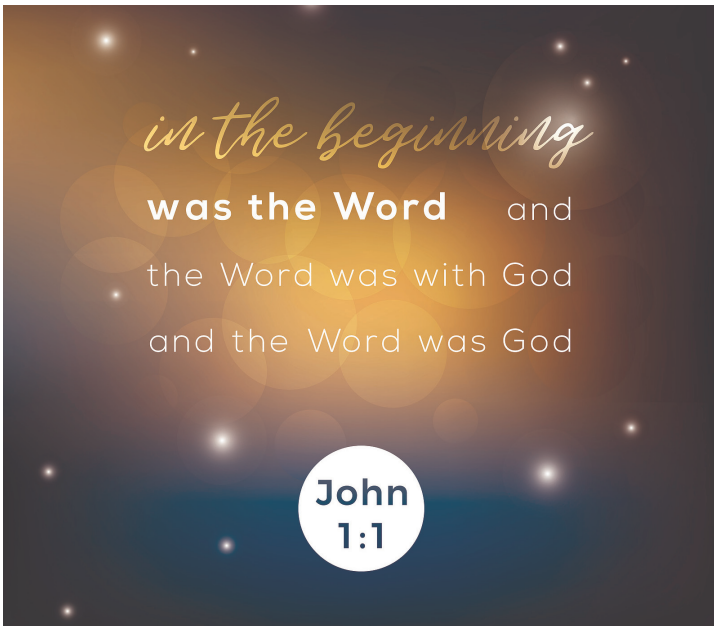
Information is fundamental, immaterial, and invisible. God is spirit (John 4:24), meaning that he is not material. The cosmic creation event, popularly known as the Big Bang, involved the creation

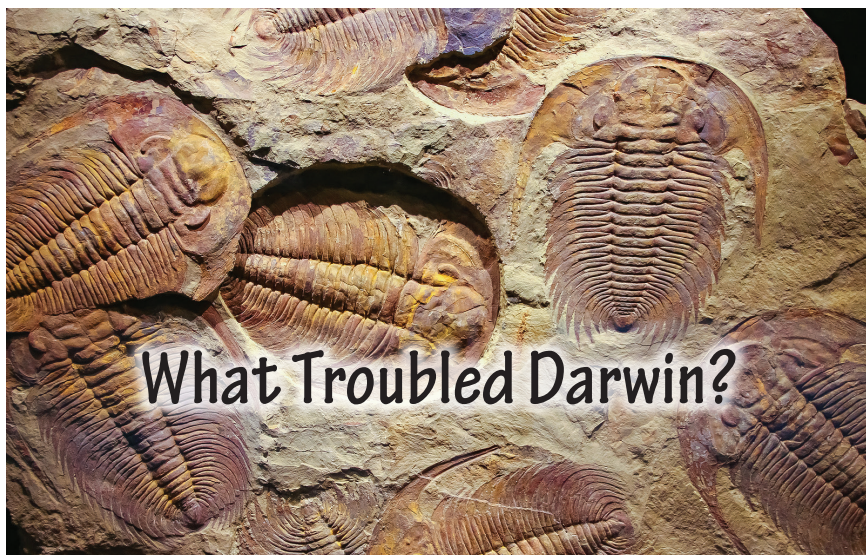
of matter/energy, space, and time. That means the Creator of matter/energy, space, and time must be immaterial and outside of space and time. Matter/energy cannot create itself. God’s Word created everything we see as God spoke the universe into existence. The Bible does not specify when God created the universe, what physical processes he used, or how long it took. Since God is not limited by our time dimension, time means nothing to him (2 Peter 3:8).

After the physical creation, God used information to create life, with a DNA code far more complex than any human-made computer code. There could be no life without information to guide the production of proteins necessary for forming living cells and to direct the metabolism that sustains life. Information comes only from intelligence.

The bottom line is that information is built into every living cell. If someone says, “I will not believe unless I can see it,” they are not being honest, because everyone believes in things they cannot see. The Word created all things (John 1:3). At the right time, the Word became visible, “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth” (John 1:14). Those who refuse to believe in God because they cannot see him should remember that “the things that are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal” (see 2 Corinthians 4:13–18).

—RE





## What Troubled Darwin?

In 1831, Charles Darwin, a recent Cambridge University graduate, helped experienced geologist Adam Sedgwick excavate rock layers in northern Wales. They discovered fossils in shale dating to the Cambrian period of Earth's history. At age 22, Darwin did not realize how significant their findings were. It was not until many years later, when he published his book *On the Origin of Species*, that he was troubled by the “explosion” of Cambrian fossils. What exactly troubled Darwin about these fossils?

Scientists call the sudden appearance of Cambrian fossils the “Cambrian explosion.” These fossils come from a time when Earth's first major animal groups appeared abruptly, with no clear predecessors. This challenges the idea of gradual evolution. That is what troubled Darwin. The Cambrian explosion was the rapid appearance of most of the major animal groups that ever lived on Earth.

Darwin published his famous book *On the Origin of Species* in 1859, twenty-eight years after helping find the first Cambrian fossils. He believed life's history would look like a branching tree, starting with single-celled organisms and each branch gradually becoming more complex. He thought that life evolved in small steps over long periods through natural selection. What troubled Darwin was the sudden appearance of Cambrian fossils without ancestors, but he expected future fossil discoveries to show gradual evolutionary changes.





Charles Walcott with son and wife working in the Burgess Shale, c. 1913

However, things did not go as Darwin expected. In 1886, during the construction of the Canadian Pacific railroad across Canada, new Cambrian fossils were found in the Rocky Mountains. In 1909, Charles Walcott discovered fossils of soft-bodied Cambrian animals without predecessors in the Burgess Shale of British Columbia. These new animal forms were more complex than the ones Darwin knew, yet they still appeared suddenly without showing gradual evolution.

In 2014, another site in British Columbia, called Marble Canyon, revealed more troublesome fossils. In 1988, paleontologists uncovered exceptionally well-preserved specimens in Chengjiang, China. Now, another site in Huayuan, China, has revealed even more soft-bodied fossils with remarkable soft tissue preservation. Researchers have collected over 50,000 fossils and identified 153 animal species, 59% of which were previously unknown. These fossils span 16 animal phyla.

Some evolutionists suggest that missing links are hard to find because soft animal tissues do not fossilize well. But this new discovery at Huayuan preserved delicate soft tissues in detail, from worms to jellyfish, showing gills, guts, and even nerves. They were preserved because they were buried quickly in a muddy slurry that turned into shale.

The key point is that many animals from the Cambrian period appear suddenly on opposite sides of the planet, with no signs of gradual change. They show no clear evolution over time. Darwinism cannot fully explain this puzzle, but those who believe in an intelligent divine Creator see these discoveries as making perfect sense. What troubled Darwin in 1859 would trouble him even more today.

—RE

# Evolution

## Microevolution Does Not Confirm Macroevolution

Evolution, simply stated, is “change over time.” When we apply this to living organisms, we see two levels: microevolution and macroevolution. The difference between these can be simply stated. Microevolution involves changes below the species level, while macroevolution involves changes above the species level. For instance, transforming a sea creature into a land animal would be an example of macroevolution. Conversely, a bacterium developing resistance to antibiotics illustrates microevolution. The organism remains a bacterium. Microevolution does not confirm macroevolution.

We observe microevolution. Besides bacteria, we see human-directed evolution in dogs, cows, and roses. In each case, they are still dogs, cows, and roses, but with different traits. When Darwin published *On The Origin of Species* in 1859, he speculated that if his theory was correct, the “number of intermediate varieties” of living things should show up in an “enormous” number of fossils. He acknowledged that, in his time, “Geology assuredly does not reveal any such graduated organic chain; and this, perhaps, is the most obvious and greatest objection which can be urged against my theory.” However, he predicted that over time, those missing-link fossils would be discovered.

Paleontologists, scientists who study fossils, were some of Darwin’s strongest critics at the time. Today, the missing links are still missing. The Field Museum of Natural History (Chicago) has one of the largest fossil collections in the world. In 1979, paleontologist David Raup, in the museum’s bulletin, stated, “We now have a quarter of a million fossil species, but the situation hasn’t changed much” since Darwin’s time. Famed paleontologist Niles Eldridge of the American Museum of Natural History (New York) wrote in 1985, “We paleontologists have said that the history of life supports [the Darwinian theory of gradual change], knowing all the while it does not.”

Now, more than 165 years after Darwin, the missing links are still missing, while the average person believes the fossil record proves Darwinian evolution because that is what we have been told. Microevolution does not confirm macroevolution, nor does the fossil record.

— RE



## My Chinny Chin Chin

“Little pig, little pig, let me come in. Not by the hair of my chinny chin chin.” That familiar line comes from “The Three Little Pigs,” published in *The Nursery Rhymes of England* in 1886. It captures the pig’s response to the wolf’s request to enter the pig’s home for nefarious purposes. The pig’s clever retort could be stated less poetically as “Absolutely not!”

To analyze this quote scientifically, we might ask whether pigs actually have chins. According to the scientific definition of chins, the answer is “absolutely not.” A recent scientific study stated that no other mammals, not even chimpanzees, have chins. Only humans possess chins. The respected science journal *PLOS One* published a study exploring why humans have chins. The researchers aimed to determine whether our chins resulted from direct natural selection or are merely a by-product of other factors.

The issue is that my chinny chin chin serves no clear survival purpose and thus cannot be directly explained by the evolutionary process of natural selection or survival of the fittest. Because the human chin is unique, anthropologists use it as a distinguishing feature for identifying our species, *Homo sapiens*, in the fossil record.

Evolutionists have proposed several explanations for why we humans have chins. One suggestion is that they help facilitate chewing, but many mammals without chins can chew foods that humans cannot. Another idea is that the chin provides more space for our thick tongues, which are crucial for speech. Even sexual selection of mates has been proposed as an evolutionary explanation for chins. However, according to the article in *PLOS One*, “none of these hypotheses have received strong support” for various reasons.

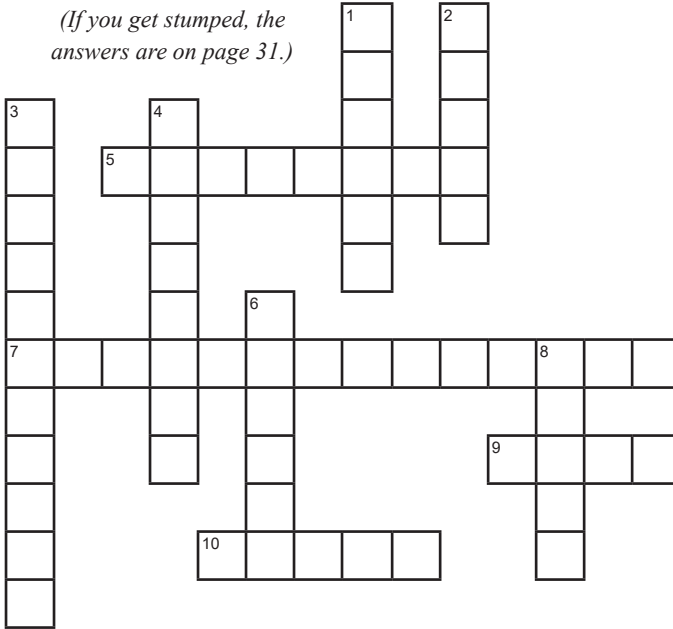
The study’s author, Noreen von Cramon-Taubadel, a professor of anthropology at the University at Buffalo, suggests that the uniqueness of the human chin “does not mean that it was shaped by natural selection to enhance an animal’s survivability.” As for this animal—or human—I believe my chinny chin chin is part of God’s unique design for his creatures, created in his spiritual image. — RE

# Does God Exist?

## 2nd Quarter 2026 Crossword

Solve this puzzle based on the articles on pages 3–17.

*(If you get stumped, the answers are on page 31.)*



### Across

- [5] Darwin was troubled by the \_\_\_\_\_ explosion.  
 [7] Microevolution does not explain \_\_\_\_\_.  
 [9] \_\_\_\_\_ matter is invisible.  
 [10] Water is \_\_\_\_\_.

### Down

- [1] The multiverse hypothesis does not explain fine- \_\_\_\_\_.  
 [2] Pigs do not have \_\_\_\_\_.  
 [3] \_\_\_\_\_ is fundamental to life.  
 [4] Many life forms use tile \_\_\_\_\_.  
 [6] We can find God through his natural world or through his \_\_\_\_\_.  
 [8] Humans are created in God's \_\_\_\_\_.

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 of Ancient History at  
 York University, York, Neb.



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# SCIENTISTS AND GOD

**Editor's note:** Atheists attempt to suggest that scientists are intelligent people who have rejected faith and do not believe in God. The fact is that some of the most productive scientists who have ever lived were believers in God. We share some of their thoughts with you in this column.

Robert Boyle  
(1627-1691)

Anglo-Irish chemist, physicist, and inventor

One of the first modern chemists

A pioneer of the modern scientific method

He is best known for Boyle's Law  
describing the relationship between  
gas pressure and volume.



“The Wise Author of Nature has so excellently Contriv'd the Universe, that the more Clearly and Particularly we Discern, how Congruous the Means are to the Ends to be obtain'd by them, the more Plainly we Discern the Admirable Wisdom of the Omniscient Author of Things; of whom it is Truly said by a Prophet (Isaiah), that *He is Wonderful in Counsel, and Excellent in Working.*”

Quoted in *The Return of the God Hypothesis*, © 2021 by Stephen C. Meyer, HarperCollins Publishers, page 34.

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## Cynthia's Corner

### Finding God Through His Creation



Romans 1:19–20 says, “What may be known about God is plain to [us], because God has made it plain to [us]. For since the creation of the world, God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that [men] are without excuse.”

God has always given us evidence of his existence. He never requires or expects “blind faith.” The more scientists learn about the origins of the universe and how life arose on this planet, the more we see that all creation was made by intelligent design, by the wisdom and craftsmanship of God (part of his divine nature). Proverbs 8:22–30 is wisdom speaking (“I, me”), telling us how God crafted/designed everything from the beginning. (God created time, space, matter/energy in Genesis 1:1.) He “set the heavens in place,” “established the clouds above,” “gave the sea its boundary,” etc. Please read these verses and also Proverbs 3:19–20. Indeed, we can see God’s eternal power and his wisdom in all he has made and designed.

The Holy Bible, God’s inspired Word, gives us many examples of God’s wisdom and knowledge, things unknown to humans at the time they were written. For instance, science has recently proven that there was a singular beginning to everything; that the heavens have been “stretched out” (Job 26:7); that the Earth was designed exactly as it needed to be for animals and humans to live here. My husband’s ministry, **Does God Exist?** gives specific examples of that in the first two videos on [doesgodexist.tv](http://doesgodexist.tv). He also has several *Dandy Designs* books that detail God’s many extraordinary designs, all of which have a purpose. We can see the awesome beauty and diversity of the natural world in the endless colors, sizes, shapes, and designs.

This is why God says that he can be seen and known in the things he has made. God also says that we are without excuse if we ignore what is plainly before us.

—Cynthia Clayton

Visit the Clayton Museum  
of Ancient History at  
York University, York, Neb.





# BOOK REVIEWS

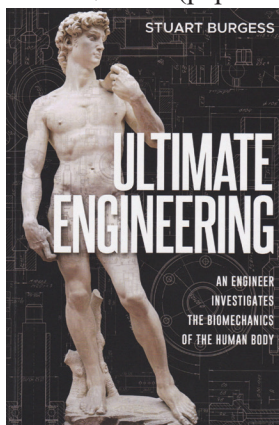
The books that are reviewed in the Book Reviews section are not available through us, but can be obtained from a local bookstore or through many online bookstores.

## Ultimate Engineering

by Stuart Burgess

Discovery Institute Press, © 2026

\$24.95 (paperback), 373 pages, ISBN-13: 978-1637120842



We rarely recommend a book to the point of encouraging our readers to buy it, but in this case, we want to do that. Stuart Burgess has held academic posts at the University of Cambridge, Liberty University, and the University of Bristol, where he served as chair of the Department of Mechanical Engineering. At the Rio, Tokyo, and Paris Olympics, he was the lead transmission designer for the British Olympic Cycling Team, helping them win gold medals in track cycling each time. His patented gearboxes are used on the European Space Agency's four largest Earth-observation

satellites. He has also received many design awards, including the top mechanical engineering award in the U.K.

This book examines fifteen aspects of human biometrics. Each part shows that its design is beyond chance and could only have been created by a great Intelligence. The parts are the foot and ankle, knee joint, wrist joint, fingers, spine, mouth/nose/throat, jaw, middle ear, eye, skin, birth biometrics, blood circulatory system, digestive system, muscles and tendons, and nervous system.

After more than 200 pages of academic discussion of the body's design, the remaining 118 pages are devoted to answering questions and challenges from leading atheists. The book is highly documented and includes debates that Burgess has had with Richard Dawkins (page 334). If you buy one book in 2026, we suggest this would be the best use of your book budget.

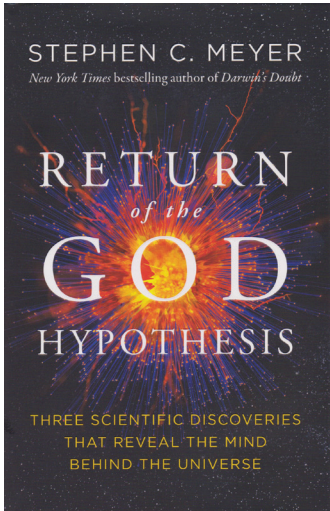
—Reviewed by JNC

## Return of the God Hypothesis

by Stephen C. Meyer

HarperOne Publishers, © 2021

\$24.99 (paperback), 576 pages, ISBN-13: 978-0062071514



An often-repeated story has it that in 1802, French physicist Pierre Laplace gave the new emperor, Napoleon Bonaparte, a copy of his treatise on the workings of the solar system. When Napoleon asked the scientist why, in his large book on the universe, he never mentioned the Creator, Laplace replied, “I have no need of that hypothesis.” The God hypothesis has largely been ignored in modern science, but historian and philosopher of science Stephen C. Meyer has written an excellent book *Return of the God Hypothesis*.

Meyer looks back at the origins of modern science, showing how it began with men who believed in God and viewed

science as a way to learn about God’s methods. He examines the evidence for a Creator. The evidence for design in the fine-tuning of the universe strongly supports the idea that it did not happen by chance. Meyer does not use a “god-of-the-gaps” approach. Instead, he examines the inference to the best explanation for the apparent design.

Meyer examines “The God Hypothesis and the Beginning of the Universe.” Then he addresses “The God Hypothesis and the Design of the Universe.” Thirdly, he covers “The God Hypothesis and the Design of Life.” In the section on “Conjectures and Refutations,” Meyer examines the information problem in DNA and the attempts to render God unnecessary by positing multiple universes or by quantum cosmology. What I enjoyed most in the book was the last section, in which Meyer considers why the God hypothesis is so important for science and society.

This 568-page book is challenging to read but well worth it. The last 118 pages are notes, a bibliography, and an index. Even if you cannot fully digest all of the information contained here, the book is a great reference source for questions about God and science.

—Reviewed by RE

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# DANDY DESIGNS

## Insects Use Static Electricity



Tick attracted to animal fur by static electricity

One interesting fact about the insect world is that there is no common thread connecting how each insect gets its food. You might think that if all bugs had a common origin, they would show strong similarities, with some bugs being superior because they are more highly evolved. Diversity maintains balance in the insect world, preventing any one insect from dominating. Recent

studies have shown that insects use static electricity in various ways.

Some parasitic nematodes, tiny worms about the size of a pinpoint, use static electricity to jump 25 times their body length to land on a flying insect. We have all seen insects being blown by the wind, but what most of us have not noticed is the role of static electricity. A little physics helps explain why static electricity can influence nematode aerial movements. Coulomb's Law includes a constant that describes the strength of static electricity. The gravitational constant ( $G$ ) is  $6.67 \times 10^{-11}$ , while the Coulomb constant ( $k_e$ ) is  $9 \times 10^9$ , making the static electrical force  $10^{20}$  times stronger than gravity.

When a flying insect flaps its wings, it generates a positive charge. The nematodes can use this charge to leap through the air and attach to the insect, where they lay their eggs. The faster the insect beats its wings, the stronger the positive charge, and the easier it is for the nematodes to attach.

Static electricity helps many insects in various ways. Bees can sense electric fields around flowers and use them to guide their foraging. Spider webs deform toward positively charged flying insects, trapping them. Ticks are attracted by the static electricity in the fur coats of animals. Researcher Sam England expects to find that electrostatic effects "play countless roles throughout the natural world."

The complexity of Earth's biosystem is immense and hard to explain as a product of blind chance. God's creative genius is evident in the very large, but is especially clear when we study the very small.

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# Manufacturing Spider Silk

While working to create strong materials, human engineers have not come close to matching what spiders can produce. Spider silk is five times as strong as steel by weight. Besides its strength, spider silk is elastic, and because it is organic, it can be disposed of easily without harming the environment. Years of research have brought scientists closer to their goal of manufacturing spider silk.



The secret to spider silk's strength lies in special proteins called spidroins and how they are spun into fibers. *National Geographic* magazine explored potential uses of spidroins, including medical applications. Since spider silk is organic, it can be used as wound dressings, and spidroin nanocapsules could carry immune-stimulating molecules into the body and release them gradually. Gels based on spidroins could coat catheters and surgical meshes to reduce infections and blood clots.

Because of its strength, spider silk could be used to produce bulletproof vests and durable fabrics. The challenge is producing spider silk on a commercial scale because spiders that are kept together tend to be cannibalistic. The solution is to genetically modify silkworms to produce spider silk. China has large mulberry plantations where silkworms feed on mulberry leaves and spin cocoons. Using the CRISPR-Cas9 gene editing tool, silkworm eggs can be altered to produce much stronger spider silk. Research by a Michigan-based company is nearing the point of manufacturing spider silk, or “supersilk.”

Producing spider silk biologically requires a complex molecular structure and a spider's intricate spinning process. This exemplifies how the natural world reflects wisdom and intelligence, not an accidental creation. Technicians at Kraig Biocraft Laboratories in Lansing, Michigan, have spent 20 years trying to engineer silkworms to spin spider silk. Human engineers aim to develop new products by copying some of what God has created.

The story of the “Tower of Babel” in Genesis 11:1–14 shows that human pride has a long history, yet many still fail to see evidence for God in his creation (Romans 1:20). Throughout the natural world, God's intelligence is displayed openly, and spider silk is just one example.

# News and Notes

**STAY UP-TO-DATE ON NEWS AND NOTES:** The stories in News and Notes are condensed from articles previously published on our website [www.DoesGodExist.today](http://www.DoesGodExist.today). You can use the QR codes with each article to see the original posts for more details and references. There are many other interesting and informative articles on that website each day. On that website, you can subscribe to follow us daily. Each week we publish “The Best of the Week from DOES GOD EXIST?” with links to our most popular posts on [DoesGodExist.Today](http://DoesGodExist.Today) and our Facebook page ([Facebook.com/evidence4god](https://Facebook.com/evidence4god)).

**SPACE TRAVEL BRAIN SHIFTING:** New research indicates that space travel and weightlessness can also affect your physical brain. You could call it space travel brain shifting.

Brain MRI scans of 26 astronauts and 24 non-astronauts, conducted by Rachel Seidler and others at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), revealed how microgravity affects human brain anatomy. Their research showed that the astronauts’ brains shifted backward and upward while also rotating upward. The effects could still be detected months after returning to Earth. They analyzed MRIs from 15 astronauts before and after spaceflight, and from 11 others after returning. Twenty-four other volunteers participated in a long-duration head-down tilt bed experiment.

There was a measurable change in how the astronauts’ brains fit inside their skulls depending on how long they spent in space. The maximum displacement was 2.52 millimeters. The bed rest control group did not show marked changes. The question is how space travel brain shifting affects performance after returning to Earth. The



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astronauts did experience balance issues, apparently due to effects on the inner ear and sensory regions of the brain.

The bottom line is that the study showed that physical shifts in the astronauts' brains lasted up to six months. Again, we are reminded of how much we depend for survival on the components that God has provided on this planet.



**NEW PLANT COMMUNICATION METHOD:** This is not a new method plants use to communicate with each other, because they have been using it for who knows how long, but for scientists, it is a newly discovered plant communication method. The natural world is filled with astonishing forms of communication, and plants are no exception. Plant communication does not involve images, spoken words, or written texts, but can still be considered communication.

The newly discovered plant communication method involves electrical signals passing from plant to plant when leaves touch. Ron Mittler and colleagues at the University of Missouri in Columbia experimented by growing thale cress (*Arabidopsis thaliana*). They grew some plants in isolation and some in dense patches where the leaves touched. Then



they stressed the plants by exposing them to excess light. The plants grouped together showed less stress damage than those in isolation. The researchers analyzed gene expression in isolated plants and in those that were touching. They also monitored signals passed between the grouped plants.

According to the report, the plants with leaves touching activated over 2,000 stress-response genes that could help to protect them from excess light, cold, salinity, and wounding. The isolated plants showed greater cell damage under stressful conditions.

Understanding plant communication opens new doors for agriculture, conservation, and our appreciation of design in the natural world. Mittler hopes his research may be used to design mixed plant communities that are more resilient, perhaps reducing the need for chemical pesticides or fertilizers. We believe that God has given us the tools and the talent to reveal new strategies for ecosystem management and food production.



**WHAT MODERN CHURCHGOERS BELIEVE:** Post-modern America is searching for answers in all the wrong places, and this is evident both in churches and in the secular world. The Family Research Council (FRC) and the Cultural Research Center (CRC) surveyed 1,000 churchgoers, adults who attend Christian church services at least once a month. The survey found that modern churchgoers' ignorance is significant.

Only 54% of churchgoers said they believe that the Bible is the true, inspired, and error-free Word of God. Only 61% can say that they believe in the God described in the Bible. Only 51% said the Bible speaks clearly on abortion, and only 47% said it is clear on homosexuality. When asked whether they prefer capitalism or socialism, 32% of churchgoers favored socialism.

Although 30% of those surveyed claimed to have a biblical worldview, the survey shows that only 11% actually do. CRC research director George Barna remarked, "This generation of churchgoers is increasingly unsure of what they believe—or why." The challenge for church leaders is how to modify their education programs to confront this ignorance. Currently, the tendency is either to deny the problem or to offer a simplified, outdated explanation that does not meet the needs of today's young people.



**GAMBLING ADDICTION IS INCREASING:** Eighty million adults worldwide have a gambling disorder, and online gamblers are estimated to lose \$205 billion by 2030. A large percentage of adults with gambling problems had difficult childhoods and started gambling as teenagers. Also, 17.9% of adolescents engage in some form of gambling each year.

Robert Custer was a psychiatrist who, in the 1970s and 1980s, advocated treating gambling disorder as an addiction. He started the first inpatient treatment program in 1972 and worked with thousands of people facing gambling issues. In 1985, he coauthored a book with Harry Milt titled *When Luck Runs Out*. He found that few people with gambling problems sought help until they experienced depression and suicidal thoughts. Custer died at age 63, but his efforts helped recognize gambling as an addiction.

During Custer's era, gambling casinos were mainly limited to Las Vegas and Atlantic City. Now, there are physical casinos across the country and casino apps on phones. Sports betting has been legalized in many states. Video slot machines and mobile gambling options enable people to lose money anytime, anywhere. Gambling addiction is increasing, and it will likely worsen until people



understand that, like alcohol and drugs, gambling is dangerous and destructive to families, as well as to physical and mental health. As with alcohol and drug addictions, the key is to avoid it altogether.

**BIRDS' EYE DESIGN:** A group of biologists has finally solved one of the great mysteries of biology. For decades, scientists have wondered how birds can have keen eyesight without blood vessels to supply oxygen to the retina. Blood vessels provide vital oxygen to the retinas of other animals, but birds' eyes have a different design.



Without blood vessels that scatter the light reaching the retina, the birds' eye design enables sharper vision. How can the retinal cells function without dying from lack of oxygen? A comb-like network of blood vessels called the pecten oculi

protrudes from where the optic nerve enters the eye and moves freely within the vitreous humor, the fluid filling the eyeball. It transports glucose into the vitreous humor while removing carbon dioxide and lactic acid that could harm the retina.

This discovery explains how birds like bar-headed geese can fly at elevations over 6000 meters, where oxygen is scarce. The DNA of these birds is coded to overcome specific environmental challenges while maintaining sharp vision. Encoding requires an intelligent programmer who understands what birds need to survive.



**ASSISTED SUICIDED ORGAN HARVESTING:** Today, in the Netherlands and Belgium, medically assisted euthanasia is legal, and anyone opting for assisted suicide may be contacted by an organ procurement organization. The same is happening in Canada, and some groups want to bring it to the United States. When medically assisted suicide becomes legal, it seems inevitable that it will lead to organ harvesting of assisted suicide victims.

Assisted suicide advocates suggest that if someone wants to die, their organs could be used to help others. Since they are going to die anyway, why not use their parts? What will stop someone from exploiting the mentally ill or disturbed, especially if there are benefits involved? What prevents abuse of the poor or vulnerable? "We will pay for medical technicians to end your

life if you agree to sign your organs over to us. You won't need them, and you won't have any final expenses."

So far, the trend of linking assisted suicide to organ harvesting has not gained wide acceptance in the United States, but it is not certain that it will not. The thought is that people who are seeking medical assistance in dying and are not terminally ill might have better organs. Instead of letting people commit suicide on their own, do it in a hospital where the organs could be harvested immediately.

Christians believe that every life is sacred, and we do everything possible to save lives. When society begins to treat some human lives as worthless and human bodies as commodities to be traded, where does it end?



**USING MOSQUITOES FOR 3D PRINTING:** 3D printing has become an invaluable tool in many fields, including industrial manufacturing, medical device development, and even hobbyist projects. These applications often demand nanometer-scale precision, which requires very small nozzles. Printing nozzles can be made from metal, plastic, glass, or even mosquito proboscises. Wait a moment! Did I read that correctly? Can a 3D printing nozzle actually be made from the tube a mosquito uses to pierce your skin and suck your blood? Yes, there is a way of using mosquitoes for 3D printing.

Scientists are experimenting with using a female mosquito's proboscis as a 3D printing nozzle. As you may know, female mosquitoes are the ones that feed on blood, and this approach offers a more useful way to utilize their blood-sucking appendage. It could be highly useful in advanced manufacturing, micro-engineering, and medical applications.

Many times, people have discovered more efficient processes or created new products from observing plants or animals. We call it biomimicry. We also use natural materials from plants and animals, such as skin to make leather or wood for building homes. So, why not try using mosquitoes for 3D printing?

Traditional bioprinting tips are made of non-biodegradable materials and can cost over \$80 each. Lab-raised, infection-free mosquitoes cost around 2 cents each, and their proboscises are biodegradable after use. The precision tip of a mosquito proboscis can enable high-resolution drug delivery at a significantly lower cost than other options.

God has blessed us with abundant resources to advance manufacturing and medicine while safeguarding the environment. He also gave us curiosity—the



drive to explore and learn new things, like using mosquitoes for 3D printing.

**MARRIAGE AND CONTENTMENT:** The biblical institution of marriage dates back to God’s statement in Genesis 2:18: “It is not good for the man to be alone.” A study conducted by Dr. Brad Wilcox, professor of sociology and director of the National Marriage Project at the University of Virginia, has confirmed that statement. There is a strong link between marriage and contentment.

The number of people living alone is increasing quickly, and the study finds that this is a major reason for the decline in national happiness. One possible cause for this trend is that



some people see marriage as linked to religious belief, yet over 40% of Americans claim no religious affiliation. Additionally, there has been a rise in the number of divorced individuals.

The survey indicates that happiness is closely tied to marriage and family. Married men between 18 and 55 report being about twice as happy as their unmarried counterparts, whereas unmarried fathers are the least happy. Married women with children report the highest levels of happiness, while single mothers are the least happy. The research shows a 30-percentage-point gap in happiness levels between married and unmarried Americans. According to the study, marital status has a greater impact on happiness than income, education, race, or location. Marriage was defined as a legal contract between a man and a woman, and the study noted that those who cohabited before marriage have a significantly higher divorce rate.

In Matthew 19:4–6, Jesus said that God created humans male and female and that marriage involves the two becoming one flesh. Studies by Wilcox and others have confirmed the validity of God’s plan and demonstrate the connection between marriage and contentment.



### ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD PUZZLE ON PAGE 18

**ACROSS:** 5-Cambrian; 7-macroevoolution;  
9-dark; 10-weird; **DOWN:** 1-tuning; 2-chins;  
3-information; 4-patterns; 6-people; 8-image

This journal is a part of a program of service titled **Does God Exist?** The purpose of the program is to provide thinking, seeking people with scientific evidence that God does exist and that the Bible is his Word. It is our conviction that all men can logically and rationally believe in God. In addition to this quarterly journal, the **Does God Exist?** program offers DVDs, CDs, courses, books, and other materials. These materials are offered on a loan basis or at our cost. We also are more than willing to correspond with you and answer any specific question(s) you might have. If you would like further information on borrowing or purchasing these materials, we would be glad to send it to you. Check the boxes below to describe what you would like and mail it to us. We will get it right out to you.

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