

Think & Believe

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Creationists Are Not Anti-Science

by *Mary Jo Nutting*

Have you noticed the furor in the news lately? To hear some speak, it seems we will be thrown back into the Dark Ages if we include the possibility of intelligent design or even mention the weaknesses of evolution in our public schools. In our opinion, nothing could be further from the truth.

In fact, most of the early “giants” of science were creationists. Their work was foundational to the development of empirical science and actually helped to bring Europe out of the Dark Ages. (See *Men of Science, Men of God and The Biblical Basis of Modern Science*, both by Dr. Henry Morris, for more information.) Like the early scientists, thousands of highly qualified modern-day scientists believe the Biblical account of creation and still do excellent scientific research.

This is not a debate between science and religion anyway; it’s a debate between two conflicting world views or philosophies. Creationists are not anti-science as we often hear. They just don’t buy into the new philosophy of science that requires only naturalistic interpretations of data and totally excludes God.

When correctly understood, science is a powerful tool that fits hand-in-hand with the Bible. The important thing is to understand what it can and cannot do. Science is a means of learning about the world

we live in. It helps us make useful discoveries that make our lives easier. (e.g., aren’t you glad someone invented wash machines?)

Science can also help us fulfill our God-given mandate for caring for God’s good Earth. Our discoveries can help us become better stewards, managing it for the glory of God and the good of man.

Science can also help us learn lessons for our own lives, as we study the characteristics God has placed in His creatures. For example, Proverbs 6 tells us to “Go to the ant and learn.”

Finally, the study of science can help us appreciate our wonderful Creator all the more, as we see evidence of His power, wisdom, and care displayed through all He has made.

Powerful and useful as science is, however, it is limited because scientists are only human and can never know all that there is to know. Science is always changing.

We humans make mistakes and continue to discover new things about this world we live in. In addition, there are some areas of life that are

outside the scope of science.

Many people think of the Bible as only a “spiritual book” but it is also a very practical book with vital information about life and the world we live in. While it is not meant to be a “textbook” of science or history, wherever it touches on these subjects, it is truthful and accurate. It has stood the test of time.

The Bible gives us information that we could never learn from science alone. It stands alone as the unchanging Word of God – the One Who was there in the beginning, that knows everything, and never makes a mistake.

God’s word also provides us with historical documentation and eyewitness reports that we would have no other way of knowing, and gives us a framework for interpreting the scientific data we observe. In addition, the Bible gives us clues for fruitful research as well as guidance for this life and critical information about the future.

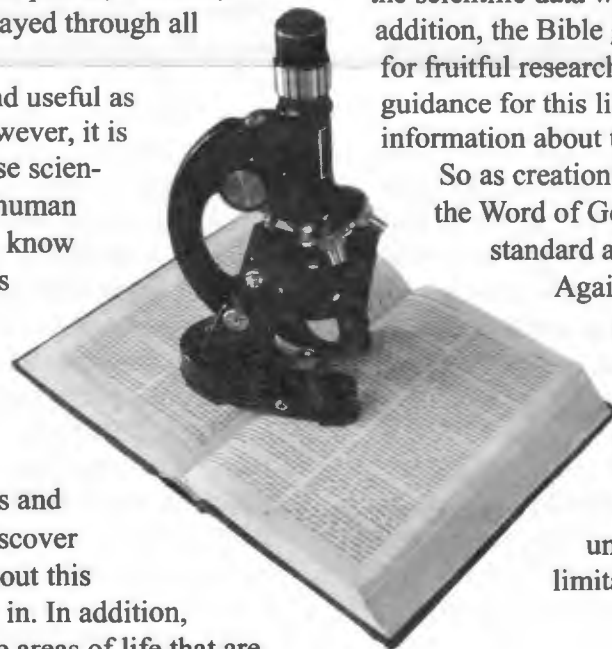
So as creationists, we honor the Word of God. It is our standard and authority.

Again, we are not anti-science.

We value and use science, but we

also

understand its limitations. **T&B**



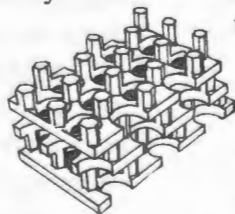
Hi-Tech Butterflies

by Mark Sonmor

Can studying the wing of a butterfly help scientists develop faster computers and better lights?

Imagine. Computers that run a thousand times faster at a thousandth of the size! Lights that last longer, require far less energy without producing the heat associated with traditional light bulbs. Is that possible? It may be with the research being done with photons.

A photon is a small unit of light that scientists believe can be used in the future the way electrons are used in computers today. The Pittsburgh Supercomputing Center reported this is being made possible by structures known as 2D photonic crystals. These crystals use an intricate lattice-type structure (a bit like microscopic swiss cheese) to route photons along a particular path and in a particular wavelength.

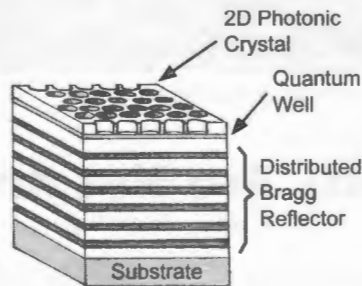


The BBC also reported that using a 2D photonic crystal in

conjunction with some tiny (Bragg) reflectors, scientists have developed a more efficient light emitting diode (LED). You've probably seen LEDs used in key chain flashlights and electronic appliances.

Until now, much of the light from LEDs was lost or misdirected and therefore wasted. With these new developments, more efficient, durable lights can be produced.

Ironically, what some of the world's brightest minds have developed with the help of the latest technology, African Swallowtails have been using all along. Their wings are designed in such a way that strategically placed pigment absorbs ultraviolet light which is then re-emitted fluorescently. This light



is not lost or wasted because the butterflies' scales "just happen" to be equipped with tiny holes to direct the light in virtually the same way 2D photonic crystals do. The scales are also designed with a type of reflector underneath them that works like those found in the new LEDs.

Peter Vukusic, University of Exeter, UK, indicated that studying natural designs such as these, could help improve scientists' man-made devices.

Hmmmm. If man looks at butterflies (which supposedly evolved) to come up with better designs, could it be that butterflies were designed too? Obviously, God thought of it first. We need to give Him the glory! **T&B**



Darwinism: In or Out?

by Mark Sonmor

On February 22, the National Post (of Canada) related how nine Canadian university professors and others with PhDs in science or engineering joined an American list of over 500 doctored scientists (maintained by the Discovery Institute of Seattle) that proclaims their doubt about the Darwinian theory of evolution. The article cited many of the scientists, not all of whom are Christian, as being skeptical that naturalistic theories can account for the complexity and origin of life.

In medical field, physicians and surgeons can also find a voice in the newly formed "PSSI" (Physicians and Surgeons for Scientific Integrity). This organization has been estab-

lished as a venue for those in the world of medicine to express their skepticism of current naturalistic ideology and promote the free exchange of ideas regarding the debate over Darwinism and alternative theories of origin.

As we hear of these scientists breaking from the Darwinian ranks, it is surprising to note that the Chicago Tribune reported on February 12 of this year, that 450 churches around the country planned to celebrate Charles Darwin's 197th birthday. Their desire was to show that Darwin's theory of evolution was "...compatible with faith and that Christians have no need to choose between religion and science." The article went on to say that since 2004, 10,000 Christian clergy

have signed a letter that affirms the theory of evolution as a "core component of human knowledge."

Is Darwinism "in" or "out?" It may depend on who you talk to. However, the answer you receive to this question may not be coming from whom you would expect. **T&B**



Spontaneous Generation: A thing of the Past?

by Dr. David Demick (Guest Writer)

In these days when we are told that the majority opinion of scientists determines truth, it's good to remember the times in the past when the opinion of the scientific majority has been abysmally wrong. This wrong science includes the die-hard myth of spontaneous generation, which has plagued biology throughout its history, and continues all the way to the present.

Just what is spontaneous generation? Basically, it's the idea that a living cell (or whole organisms) can start up spontaneously from non-living matter. When the term is used nowadays it usually means the ancient idea that creation of life is an ongoing and common process—that many different creatures, both plant and animal, arise from nonliving matter.

At least as far back as the ancient Greeks, the world's wise men believed that life was constantly springing out of non-life.

Fish and frogs came from mud; insects came from dew, sweat, or decayed organic material; rodents came from

mud, straw, or old rags; and so on. The list of distinguished scientists who believed in spontaneous generation includes Aristotle (384-322 B.C., "Father of Biology"), Sir Francis Bacon (1561-1626, "Father of Modern Science"), and William Harvey (1576-1657, discoverer of blood circulation). One biologist of the early 1600s recorded that he actually saw rats arise new from a pile of bran and old rags. As late as 1662, a doubter was publicly re-

buked in these words: "To question this (spontaneous generation) is to question reason, sense, and experience. If he doubts of this, let him go to Egypt, and there he will find the fields swarming with mice, begot of the mud of Nylus (the Nile), to the great calamity of the inhabitants."¹

How have things changed? Belief in spontaneous generation was first weakened by Francesco Redi (1668). His experiments showed that maggots couldn't arise in meat unless flies had access to the meat. This helped squash the idea that visible life forms could arise spontaneously. Still, most biologists thought that the newly-discovered "animalcules" (microbes) spontaneously generated. It took the great work of Pasteur (1858) to rigorously disprove spontaneous generation at the cellular level.

Pasteur showed us that spontaneous generation of cellular life doesn't happen. Although at that time, he couldn't show why this was so. Cells just looked like little balls of moving slime under those early microscopes, and it seemed natural that they should come from non-living slime.

Now we can understand why cells don't spontaneously generate. With the discovery of DNA and other milestones of molecular biology, we see that even the simplest single-celled organism is complex beyond man's engineering skill. Small or-

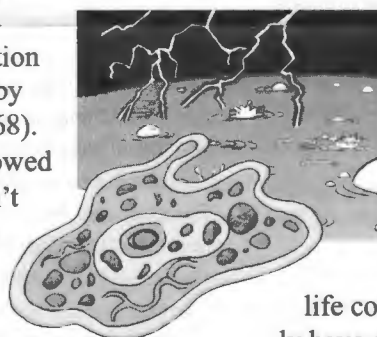
ganic molecules just don't assemble into the highly exact giant molecules of life under any natural circumstances. They don't even come close, any more than throwing rocks in a pile can build the Empire State Building.

No sooner was it disproved, however, when it came right back in a new disguise. This was modern evolutionism, which simply pushed spontaneous generation of "primitive" life back into the unobserved past. It made it a one-time event, and

changed its name to "abiogenesis" (Thomas Huxley, 1870). This modified evolutionary version of spontaneous generation persists to this day, despite the strong proofs against it.

Repeated efforts by evolutionists to show how

life could have arisen spontaneously have all failed badly. Thousands of experiments have only confirmed the principle of that life only comes from life, (biogenesis) and have elevated it to the status of a scientific law. It's ironic that evolutionists accuse creationists of ignoring a scientific law as obvious as the law of gravity. In reality, they are the ones who are ignoring an equally well-founded scientific law. Like gravity, no exception to the law of biogenesis has ever been found. Pretending that it happens in outer space, the depths of the sea, or the unobserved past is only trying to avoid facing the problem. The stark truth is that "abiogenesis," or spontaneous generation by any other name, doesn't happen in the real world. It only happens in the evolutionist's imaginary world. In this area, Genesis 1 stands firm and consistent with real biology, while Darwinism does not. **T&B**



1. Marsh, Frank. Evolution, Creation, and Science, Review and Herald Publishing Association, 1944, p. 127.

Director's Column

by Dave & Mary Jo Nutting



Creationists are not anti-science. They just don't accept the new philosophy that requires only naturalistic interpretations of data and totally excludes God. Note the following quotes from evolutionists. You be the judge if creation is religion and evolution is science. Feel free to use these quotes in an editorial to your local newspaper.

"Even if all the data point to an intelligent designer, such an hypothesis is excluded from science because it is not naturalistic."

— Dr. Scott Todd, correspondence to Nature 410(6752):423, September 30, 1999.

We don't need evidence. We know it [evolution] to be true.

— Richard Dawkins,
Quoted by World, Mar, 22, 1997.

"We take the side of science in spite of the patent absurdity of some of its constructs, in spite of its failure to fulfill many of its extravagant promises of health and life, in spite of the tolerance of the scientific community for unsubstantiated just-so stories, because we have a prior commitment to materialism. It is not that the methods and institu-

tions of science compel us to accept a material explanation of the phenomenal world, but, on the contrary, that we are forced by our a priori adherence to material causes to create an apparatus of investigation and a set of concepts that produce material explanations, no matter how counter-intuitive, no matter how mystifying to the uninitiated. Moreover, that materialism is an absolute, for we cannot allow a Divine Foot in the door."

— Richard Lewontin (Prominent evolutionary biologist), "Billions and Billions of Demons," New York Review (January 9, 1997): p.31)

"There are only two possible explanations as to how life arose: Spontaneous generation arising to evolution or a supernatural creative act of God . . . there is no other possibility. Spontaneous generation was scientifically disproved 120 years ago by Louis Pasteur and others, but that leaves us with only one other possibility...that life came as a supernatural act of creation of God, but I can't accept that philosophy because I do not want to believe in God. Therefore I choose to believe in that which is scientifically impossible, spontaneous generation leading to evolution."

— George Wald, "The Origin of Life," Scientific American, Vol 190, pp. 46-50.

Upcoming Events

5/7-17, Fredericksburg, TX - Pending, Veina Jackson, (830) 644-2380, D&MJN
 5/18-20, San Antonio, TX, FEAST, (210) 342-4674, D&MJN
 5/21, Spring Branch, TX, Hillside Fellowship Church, Sandy Schroeder, (830) 228-4673, D&MJN
 5/21, Arnold, NE, Tallin Church, (308) 848-3329, RS
 5/21-22, Stratford, IA, 1st Baptist, James Mead, (515) 838-2152, RS
 5/24-25, Manitou Springs, CO, Summit Min., (719) 685-9103, D&MJN
 5/28 Balaton, MN, Skandia E-Free, Joe Tutt, (507) 658-3538, RS
 5/29-6/2, Brokenbow, NE, First Christian, Angie Flynn, (308) 872-5185, L&MJ
 6/4-6/8, Sac City, IA, Faith Bible, Brian Krause, (712) 662-6234, RS
 6/4-6/8, Red Cloud, NE, Lebanon Christian, Martha Meyers, (402) 746-2886, L&MJ
 6/11, Montrose, CO, San Juan Christian Home Educators, D&AK
 6/11-6/16, Lingle, WY, North Hills Baptists, Brad Eakins, (307) 837-2755, L&MJ
 6/13-6/14, Manitou Springs, CO, Summit Ministries, (719) 685-9103, D&MJN
 6/14-6/17, Parker, CO, CHEC - Denver, (720) 842-4852, RS
 6/19-6/20, Manitou Springs, CO, Summit Ministries, (719) 685-9103, D&MJN
 6/19-6/23, Grand Junction, CO, Elm Ave. Baptist, Paul Walker, (970) 243-8541, L&MJ
 6/26-6/30, Fruita, CO, Living Water Baptist, Bill Achilles, (970) 858-9703, L&MJ
 7/2-7/7, Collbran, CO, Twin Peaks Bible Camp, AOI, (970) 523-9943, STAFF
 7/14-7/16, Yampa, CO, Mt. Elim Bible Camp, AOI, (970) 523-9943, L&MJ, RS
 7/17, Salt Lake City, UT, Discovery Christian Community, D&AK
 7/24-7/28, Grand Junction, CO, Monument Baptist, L&MJ
 7/30-8/04, Lake City, CO, Camp Redcloud, (970) 523-9943, D&MJN, A&DG, RS
 8/6-8/11, Lake City, CO, Camp Redcloud, (970) 523-9943, D&MJN, A&DG, RS
 8/16-8/17, Manitou Springs, CO, Summit Ministries, (719) 685-9103, D&MJN
 8/22-8/24, Manitou Springs, CO, Summit Ministries, (719) 685-9103, D&MJN
 9/18-9/20, Burney, CA, Grace Community Bible Church, Henry Winkelman, (530) 335-2367, RS

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