

# Think Believe

Discover Creation...Worship the Creator

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## Offer up a Sweet Savor of Sacrifice

By Dave & Mary Jo Nutting

**H**ave you ever noticed in the Bible how often the sacrifices of Israel and the incense associated with them were called a “sweet savor” to the Lord? Does God really enjoy the smell of burning fat and choice portions of meat? Is it more to Him than a good barbecue?

The practice of sacrifice goes back almost to the beginning of the world. In Genesis 4, we read about the sacrifices brought by Cain and Abel. Cain brought an offering to the LORD of the fruit of the ground; Abel from the firstlings of his flock and their fat portions. “And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering; But unto Cain and to his offering, he had not respect.” (Gen. 4:4-5)

Was there something wrong with bringing the fruit of the ground? After all, God later institutes grain offerings as a part of Israel’s sacrificial system. Was it because Cain’s heart was wrong? Although the text does not say why, it is clear that Cain knew what was right to do – or he should have known after God corrected him. However, he did not humble his heart or heed God’s warning. He tried to approach God on his own terms and let sin get the best of him.



This led to his committing the first act of murder recorded in Scripture.

After the Flood, Noah built an altar and offered up sacrifices to the LORD of every clean beast and clean fowl. (Gen 8:20-21). Noah’s sacrifice, a “sweet savor,” was pleasing to the LORD. God accepted it and instituted a

covenant to never again cut off all flesh by the waters of a flood.

Later, God gave Moses and the children of

Israel detailed instructions about sacrifices. In fact, this Levitical system of worship became one of the defining aspects of Jewish custom. In spite of that, God says in Jeremiah 6:20, “...your burnt offerings are not acceptable nor your sacrifices sweet unto me.” **Why not? What happened?**

The change came because the people had rejected God’s Word and had not obeyed Him. Herein lies a warning for us. We might strive to do everything “right,” but still have a wrong heart. Remember, God looks at the heart.

So, what sacrifice do we bring today? A heart full of praise and thankfulness. A life lived in obedience to God’s

word and empowered by His Spirit. A life that honors Him and lifts up His name. Hebrews 13:15 says: “By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his Name.”

During this time of year and throughout the year, let’s give him the praise He deserves. Let’s remember His goodness in giving us His amazing Creation for us to enjoy and His daily blessings. Even more, let’s praise and thank Him for the sacrifice of His Son, our Lord, and the love that He poured out for us on the cross. Let us receive all of this with humility and joy, and in response, offer up our lives to him as “a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.” (Rom 12:1) Loving Him, loving others, and gladly laying down our lives in His service – that is a “sweet savor” to the Lord! **AOI**



# The “Third Way” of Evolution by Dr. David Demmick

**E**volutionism continues to evolve. The “Third Way” is a new attempt to gain credibility by well-credentialed scientists who admit that Neo-Darwinism is dead but still insist that molecules-to-man evolution is true. Their website criticizes creationism as “clearly unscientific” (no surprise) but also criticizes Neo-Darwinism saying it “ignores much contemporary molecular evidence.”



Third Way proponents trust that the secrets of molecules-to-man evolution will be found in concepts such as: “symbiogenesis, horizontal DNA transfer, action of mobile DNA, and epigenetic modifications.” (see page 3) Here are four important things to keep in mind about these claims.

For the evolutionary “faithful,” the newly discovered plasticity of many genomes seems to offer a glimmer of hope for resolving big evolutionary problems. However, these proposed “mechanisms of evolution” all involve juggling, dicing, splicing, or copying of **existing** DNA information with no significant generation of **new** DNA information. Although they claim to have answers, Third Way hopefuls still have the same long-standing problem – they just can’t show where the incredible variety and vast amounts of

DNA came from in the first place.

Why is the word “significant” used above? Well, it’s significant. In my first autopsy report during pathology training, I described the changes causing a patient’s death. For the organs and tissues that were essentially normal, I used the phrase “no pathological changes.” However, my mentor advised me to insert the word “significant” to guard against any discrediting. After all, some “expert” might find some slight scarring or blood vessel narrowing. This would be a sort of “true-but-really-false” attack on my findings.

The same idea applies to Third Way evolutionists who claim that new DNA patterns are formed. They may be technically correct but it does not show how the vast DNA library was initially written. What we observe is an incredible variety of adaptations and variations as spin-offs from initial models. These new discoveries account for minor variations (micro-evolution), but not for macroevolution (new phyla and body plans, “molecules-to-man”). While this is a very old “dodge” of evolutionary propaganda, microevolution and macroevolution are not the same process.

The Third Way is really more like the 6th or 7th way. Successive “waves” of evolutionism such as Lamarckism,

Darwinism, Neo-Darwinism, punctuated equilibrium, and population genetic drift have all had their turns. Once the science is understood, however, the difficulties posed to macroevolution become clear.

“Third Way” adherents use big words and tout academic prowess that sound impressive and appear intimidating. For all their claims, however, they cannot show where a single, truly new protein, gene, cell, organ, or body plan came from.

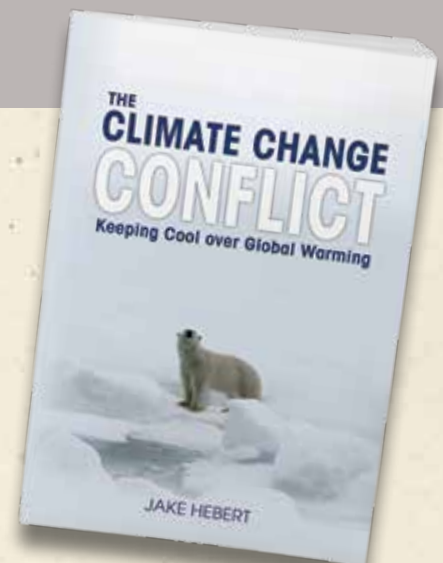
This conflict is not about evolutionary scientists searching for truth, but a matter of spiritual warfare. Daniel’s apocalyptic vision symbolizes a future anti-God world ruler who shall “... speak words against the Most High, and shall wear out the saints of the Most High.” (Dan. 7:25b) This can apply to evolutionists of all “ways” who falsely claim that new discoveries support their exaggerated conclusions. The shifting, but constant barrages of pro-evolution propaganda definitely “speak words against the Most High...and wear out the saints.” This is a spiritual battle, pure and simple. We need to be on our guard against this tactic. **AOI**

## The Climate Change Conflict

*New Book from ICR*

**C**limate change is a hot topic. From politics to theology, debate rages over whether we face an imminent climate catastrophe and whether drastic action is needed to stop it. But how much is real science and how much is just

political alarmism? In **The Climate Change Conflict: Keeping Cool over Global Warming**, Dr. Jake Hebert dives into the confusing world of climate change and, from a scientific and biblical perspective, brings much-needed clarity. Available from AOI. \$3 + S/H **AOI**



# New Toys in the Toy box

by Mark Sonmor

**R**ecent discoveries in the field of genetics have greatly expanded our understanding of DNA and the human genome. For hopeful evolutionists, these revelations are like new toys in a toy box - full of imaginary potential.

**Horizontal DNA transfer**, for example, is the transfer of DNA from species to species rather than “vertical” transfer – from parent to child. Some bacteria, it is reported, can attach themselves to another species of bacteria and share their DNA. Others can collect genes that have leaked out of other cells and use them as their own – even passing them on to the next generation. This is one way, it is believed, that bacteria acquire resistance to antibiotics.<sup>1</sup>

**Symbiogenesis** is the sharing of traits between organisms for greater survival. Based on this idea, some believe that chloroplasts, which are responsible for photosynthesis in plants, were originally independent, single-cell organisms. These were acquired and then employed by plants to turn sunlight into energy. Others point to the symbiotic relationship between humans and gut bacteria as another type of cooperation.<sup>2</sup>

**Transposons or Jumping Genes** are sequences of DNA that move from one location on the genome to another. This mobility, coupled with their capacity to generate diverse traits is the type of raw material some scientists are looking for to spin misleading evolutionary half-truths.<sup>3</sup>

A **Bacteriophage** is a virus that hijacks bacteria and forces them to grow new viral “offspring.” Eventually, these new viral “babies” burst from their host to go and infect new victims. In the process, however, DNA from the host can be stolen and transferred to the genome of new, host cells through a process called transduction.<sup>4</sup>

Because of their alien, invasive nature, evolutionists are crediting viruses with all kinds of supposed transfer and increase of genetic information. In fact, some boldly state that 8-10% of our genome

is made up of viruses. While we normally think of viruses as harmful, however, it appears that some of what we term viruses are actually transposable portions of our genome. Instead of hijacking our cells and making “alien babies,” these “ERVs” (endogenous retroviruses) play a vital role in expressing other genes. In her article addressing ERVs and brain development, Dr. Elizabeth Mitchell contends that these “nice viruses” appear to play a key role in brain and placental development. Because of this, it seems more likely that they were part of God’s original design rather than “stray cats” that just wandered into our genome and made themselves useful over time.<sup>5</sup>

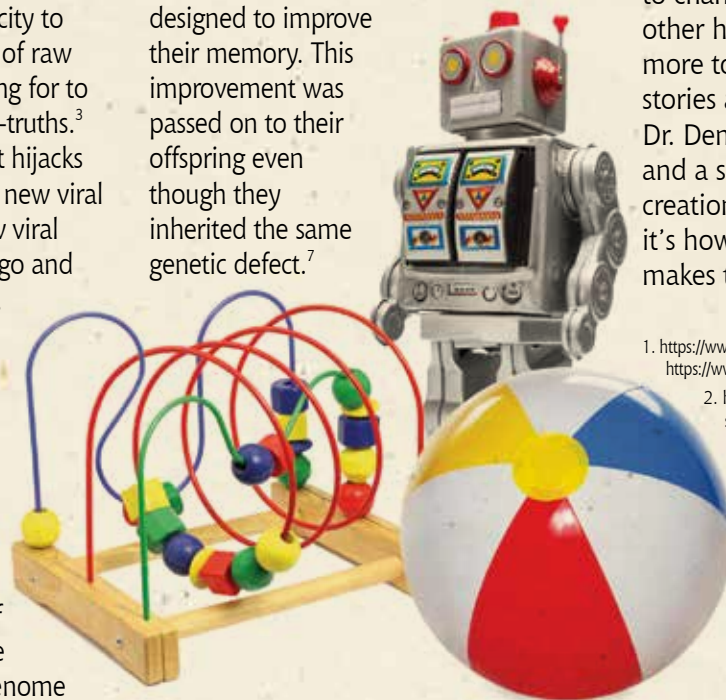
**Epigenetics** are external factors that affect the way genes express themselves. While each of our cells contains all the same genetic information, it’s the turning on or off of these genes that determines whether they’ll be a nerve, liver, or skin cell. Instead of altering the genetic code itself, epigenetic factors influence the turning on or off of genes – usually in response to the environment. Because these changes are encoded, scientists believe they can be passed on to future generations.<sup>6</sup> Lab rats, for example, genetically engineered to be memory-deficient, were placed in an environment designed to improve their memory. This improvement was passed on to their offspring even though they inherited the same genetic defect.<sup>7</sup>

While it is difficult to verify epigenetic change conclusively, it could give a scientific explanation for some aspects of inheritance and behavior. On the other hand, it can give rise to wild speculation.

For those looking for a naturalistic solution to the question of origins, the ability to acquire/affect traits and to swap DNA is tantalizing filled with imaginary potential. However, imagination is not observation. We need to ask, for instance, what keeps us from sprouting feathers after we’ve eaten fried chicken? Worse yet, what keeps us from incorporating random genetic material until we’re just a useless pile of mush? Fortunately, there are safeguards God has put in place keeping the original kinds what they are. In fact, if one of your cells is corrupted by foreign DNA, your body actively destroys it.

To acquire DNA in the first place, there has to be a viable, functioning organism that knows it needs it. Secondly, it needs to know how to integrate that DNA into its own system. The acquisition of DNA by bacteria, then, requires foreknowledge and design – similar to a sea slug pirating a sea anemone’s poison dart system. (See: [Discovercreation.org/kids/amazing-creatures/sea-anemone-sea-slug/](http://Discovercreation.org/kids/amazing-creatures/sea-anemone-sea-slug/))

Contrary to what’s implied on your bathroom soap dispenser, bacteria provide many essential functions to humans and their environment. If we choose, we can see their ability to share DNA as God’s design – enabling them to adapt to changes in their environment. On the other hand, it can also be seen as one more toy with which to create imaginary stories about our developmental past. As Dr. Demmick alluded, this is a heart matter and a spiritual concern. Evolutionists and creationists have the same evidence, but it’s how we interpret that evidence that makes the difference. **AOI**



1. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BiRc2FCh71o>, <https://www.britannica.com/science/horizontal-gene-transfer>
2. <http://www.scienceforthepeople.org/they-didnt-believe-it/symbiogenesis>
3. <https://www.nature.com/scitable/topicpage/transposons-the-jumping-genes-518/>
4. <https://www.nature.com/scitable/definition/bacteriophage-phage-293/>
5. <https://answersingenesis.org/biology/microbiology/endogenous-retroviruses-key-to-mammalian-brain-development/>
6. <https://www.livescience.com/37703-epigenetics.html>
7. <https://www.technologyreview.com/s/411880/a-comeback-for-lamarckian-evolution/>

## Director's Column by Dave Nutting




**A** lot of people have asked me, "When will the evolutionary paradigm finally be abandoned?"

My answer has been, "Only when something comes along that seems somewhat plausible yet does not involve God." There has been a long war against God! The Third Way article on the inside speaks of a shift away from traditional Neo-Darwinism but it is not an abandonment of evolution.

The shift has resulted from amazing recent genetic discoveries. To us at AOI, these fantastic genetic advances point to a God who is

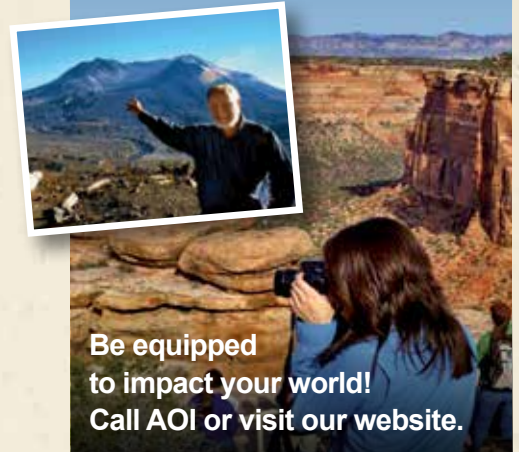
much more of a master, or super-engineer and Who is certainly more than light years above man's capabilities! Although I do not mention them here, these discoveries definitely point away from any form of slow-and-gradual evolution.

I find myself marveling at our amazing God when one scientific discovery after another comes along showing even more levels of complexity that we couldn't have imagined 50 years ago! I believe God enjoys slowly allowing people to "peel back the onion" only to reveal more of his infinite power and wisdom. Join us in praising God for his marvelous works! 

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