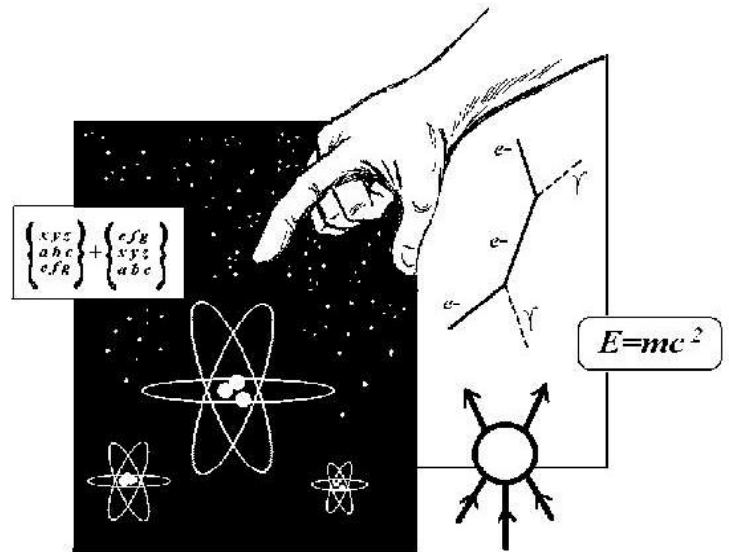


GOD IN A TEST TUBE



Tycoon Believer: "Prove God"

If we could only prove the existence of God! That is the thought of well-intended believer Sir John Templeton, the former business tycoon now investing his money to prove God¹. Mr. Templeton obviously feels a burden for the unsaved. His generosity is commendable, but he is squandering his money.

The "proof" is already in front of our noses. How do woodpeckers (and so many other animals) evolve an eye to see where to fly, an ear to hear its prey, a long sticky tongue to nab its quarry, a sheath wrapped around its head so it can put the tongue away, a hard bill, a shock-absorbing skull, the reflex to blink with every peck so its eyes don't pop out? How could arms become wings, skin, hair, or scales become feathers? Who wrote the code for DNA?

You see, the problem is that "proof" is only seen through the glasses with which one looks. Biblical glasses show that the preceding evidence points to intelligent design, and to the written historic claim that a supernatural God willed this creation into being in six literal days.

The polarization of humanistic glasses filters out the image of God. Humanists do not want to owe their existence to a God who established laws and moralities that offend the good times they enjoy brought on by sin.

For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry. 2 Timothy 4:3-5.

We can spin circles, with our imperfect human minds, and debate God, creation, and evolution. One might think he has the incontestable proof; that the other side has to concede; but remember, each side examines the facts through their "glasses," or bias. Ken Ham, executive director of Answers in Genesis, in his question and answer book with the intriguing title *Did Adam Have a Belly Button*,² relates the following:

“I’ve had lots of people over the years say that if we could only find Noah’s ark, then we could convince people the Bible’s true.” Mr. Ham continues, “I’m reminded of a professor who once said to me after I spoke at a (non-Christian) college- ‘I don’t care if they do find a big boat on the top of Mt. Ararat and drag it down Main Street, I still won’t believe it’s Noah’s ark.’ At another meeting, a man said to me, ‘Who’s to say some priests didn’t build a big boat on Mt. Ararat because they wanted people to believe the story in the Bible.’”

How can two intelligent people examine the same facts and result in diametric conclusions? It is a fact to look at a fossil and say, “This is a fossil.” It is non factual to look at a fossil and determine what year it lived and died, what color its skin was, etc. The examiners are filling in the intangibles with assumptions. A Christian might look at a fossil and estimate that it lived 5000 years ago based on belief that the period of creation was 6000 years ago. A scientist-evolutionist might examine the same fossil and conclude that the animal lived millions of years ago because of how that would fit within their evolutionary time frame (and perhaps because of the faulty dating methods used). Both views cannot be right.

For one thing, remember that we do have frail minds. Even the most qualified of scientists, Christian or non-Christian, has a fallible mind. Neither was there when “The Beginning” happened. This does give the Christian a leg up, or should. The Christian should believe that there was an eye witness, an infallible eye witness, who did what He did and had it all plainly recorded for us. Of course, a non-Christian will not believe this. What is our excuse?

Some of us Christians are duped into saying that the Bible is wrong because the mortal scientists who weren’t there at the start, who don’t know what happened, who don’t know how it happened, who don’t believe in God, have said they proved their theory using their corrupt human brains, their unsound methods, and their imperfect equipment.

I recently had a conversation with a medical doctor, a specialist. On his office wall was a diagram showing a complicated organ about which he is expert. I pointed to the chart and asked, “Evolution or design?” Not knowing my angle, the doctor tried to dodge the question. Upon my pressing for an off-the-record answer he said, “A lot of people have sat down and discussed this issue. The majority seems to think that evolution is the answer.” He then said, “I guess it’s whatever you believe in.”

In Jesus’ day, many saw Him, the Son of God, and believed not. How can scientific proof be more convincing?

²⁴And some believed the things which were spoken, and some believed not. ^{25a}And when they agreed not among themselves, they departed...²⁶Saying, Go unto this people, and say, Hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and not perceive: ²⁷For the heart of this people is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes have they closed; lest they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them. ²⁸Be it known therefore unto you, that the salvation of God is sent unto the Gentiles, and that they will hear it. Acts 28:24-28.

And the Pharisees came forth, and began to question with him, seeking of him a sign from Heaven, tempting him. And he sighed deeply in his spirit, and saith, Why doth this generation seek after a sign? verily I say unto you, There shall no sign be given unto this generation. Mark 8:11-12.

And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst. But I said unto you, That ye also have seen me, and believe not. John 6:35-36.

Big bang, progressive creation, theistic evolution, chaotic inflation, little green men from outer space- there are many thoughts and theories that have arisen to explain what might have happened for us to happen to be here. All of those “ideas” take a whole lot of faith. Is it so hard to believe that a supernatural God willed everything into existence in six ordinary days?

What Sir John Templeton wants us to discover in the end is not science but Salvation:

- *For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Romans 6:23.*
- *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. Ephesians 2:8-9.*
- *Salvation from our sins is for anyone who will accept God’s gift. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: John 1:12.*

To accept Jesus as your Savior, pray: “Dear Father in Heaven, I know I am a sinner. I am truly sorry for my sins. I repent and ask that you will forgive me. I accept Jesus as my Savior. From this day forward I will strive to live for Him. Dear LORD Jesus, please come into my heart. Amen.”

¹AP, Williamsport (PA) Sun Gazette, 4/7/2002, p. A-4.

²Ham, Ken, Did Adam Have a Belly Button?” Green Forest, Arkansas, Master Books, 1999.

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