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# The Origin of the Universe

*"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth " Genesis 1:1*

*"The Cosmos is all that is, or ever was, or ever will be "*

**Carl Sagan , Evolutionist**

In the 20th century staggering scientific discoveries have led scientists to the startling conclusion that the universe began at a finite point in time and space, that it is not eternal and that it appears to have been designed. To the dismay of many scientific materialists (atheists), these discoveries strongly support the ancient teachings of the Bible. Robert Jastrow, Ph.D., NASA scientist, stated in his book God and the Astronomers :

*"I am fascinated by some strange developments going on in astronomy-partly because of their religious implications and partly because of the peculiar reactions of my colleagues. The essence of the strange developments is that the universe had, in some sense, a beginning- that it began at a certain moment in time ! "1*

Let us look at the discoveries that have led scientists to this startling conclusion.

## The Eternal Universe

For thousands of years men of science and philosophy believed that the universe had no beginning and will have no end. From the time of the Babylonians and the Greeks this was the predominant view of the universe. This view has led many scientists and philosophers to speculate that since time, space and matter were eternal, there was no need for a creator. This attempt to explain away the need for a creator, or a first cause, for the universe has been an obsession for many scientists and philosophers, even to the present day. This notion of an eternal universe was a comfortable belief system for materialists because it made the necessity of a creator a moot point. Belief in God, they claimed, was not scientifically tenable. It was a matter of pure faith and unsupported by observable evidence.

The naturalistic view of modern day materialists was well put by Carl Sagan in his book *Cosmos* when he stated: *"The Cosmos is all that is, or ever was, or ever will be."*

This belief in an eternal universe was unquestioned by most cosmologists, even up to the revolutionary theories of Albert Einstein. For centuries atheists rested in the thought of an eternal universe. However, this view of an eternal universe has been severely disrupted by discoveries in this century. Belief in God does require a measure of faith, but such a belief is now founded on solid scientific evidence!

## Biblical Cosmology

In the face of this eternal universe view are the writings from a number of Hebrews and Christians who proclaimed a very different view of the universe. This varied group of mostly uneducated fishermen, shepherds, tent makers and Kings, presented a view of the universe that was radically different from the dominant world view of a static, eternal universe. These writings, compiled in the Bible, claim to be from the mind of God. As we shall see, the Bible has proclaimed for centuries a universe that began at a finite point in time, in a miraculous appearance of light, matter and energy. The Bible is the only "Holy Book" on earth that teaches this notion of time, space and matter having a beginning. All other religious "Holy Books" teach that the universe is eternal, having neither beginning nor end. The Bible also demonstrates, through predictive prophecy, that its text is from a being that exists outside our dimensions of time and space. No other "Holy Book" can demonstrate such an origin. The writings of the Bible aren't polluted with cosmological myths and legends such as the earth sitting on the back of elephants.

The Bible is the most maligned and attacked book of all time. liberal theologians, scientists and philosophers have attempted to chip away at the book because it dares to claim to be the only inspired "Word of God." Yet the scientific discoveries of the 20th century have pointed to the astounding conclusion. The Bible, written over a period of 1500 years, by Kings, uneducated fishermen, shepherds,

prophets and tent makers, is scientifically correct!! All space, time and matter began at a certain point in time and was designed by an intelligent being. Lets look at the evidence.

## The Expanding Universe

In 1887 two physicists, Michelson and Morley, made an observation about the speed of light that was the seed for a revolution in the way scientists viewed the universe. After making measurements of the speed of light, they determined that the measured speed of light was constant in all circumstances. The speed of light did not vary even if the observer was rapidly moving away from or toward the source of the light!

The speed of light is approximately 186,000 miles per second. Traveling at 5 miles per second in a space ship with headlights on, an observer in front of you would measure the speed of light from your headlights to be 186,000 miles per second and not 186,005 miles per second ! 2

In 1905 Albert Einstein drew on this information when he shocked the scientific world with his new theory of *Special Relativity*. Einstein's theory expanded upon the observations made by Michelson and Morley and showed that measurements of mass, length, and time were relative to the observer's own velocity. Einstein also demonstrated that the flow of time is not equal in all situations. Basically, the theory of *Special Relativity* declares that measurements of length, mass, velocity and time are relative to the velocity of two or more observers. Therefore, the theory is called the theory of relativity. 3

An example will help us to understand the theory. Twin brothers agree to test the theory of relativity. One twin stays on earth and the other twin agrees to fly in a space ship at close to the speed of light to a nearby star. The space traveling twin doesn't notice anything different as he travels at 99% of the speed of light. When he returns he checks his calendar and notes that he has experienced a few weeks of time passage. When he tries to find his twin, to his dismay, he finds his twin is long since dead, having experienced decades of time passage!! The space traveller's time has been "dilated " by his incredible velocity. What felt like a period of weeks of time travel was on earth several decades of time passage.

This incredible theory shocked the scientific community. It revealed that measurements of time, space and matter were relative to the observer! This notion was radically different from the safe, predictable Newtonian universe scientists had come to trust. \*

In 1913 astronomer Vesto Slipher discovered that about a dozen galaxies in our vicinity were racing away from us at enormous speeds of up to two million miles per hour. This discovery was a surprise to the scientific community because prior to this discovery, astronomers believed that galaxies were fixed and only rotating in place. He reported his findings at the American Astronomical Society Meetings in 1914 and forever changed the way astronomers viewed the cosmos. 4

In 1915 Albert Einstein published his second theory of relativity called *General Relativity*. In this theory Einstein extended his theory of relativity to include measurements of time, space, matter and length from an observer who is accelerating. Among the many outcomes of Einstein's new theory of general relativity was that it predicted that all the matter in the universe was moving away from a point! That is, the universe is expanding! Einstein, however, did not initially know his theory made this prediction. Astronomer Willem de Sitter found that Einstein had made a mathematical error, when corrected, revealed the mathematical prediction that the universe was apparently expanding away from it's point of origin! This mathematical observation explained what Slipher had discovered with his telescope in 1914 and led to revolution in the way astronomers viewed the universe. Einstein's theory provided the seed for numerous discoveries that proved that the universe was not eternal. It was finite! \*

The expansion of the universe was further verified by many years of observations by astronomer Edwin Hubble. Using the 200 inch telescope at Mt. Palomar, he discovered that the further away the galaxies are, the faster they are moving away from their point of origin.

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\* Isaac Newton formulated the basic laws of mechanics centuries before the Einstein revolution.

\* I recognize that a small minority of scientists, both evolutionists and creationists, reject the theories of Einstein. This is however a small minority opinion. There is observational evidence which demonstrates that Einstein's theories are accurate to five decimal points.

\* Hubble came to the conclusion that the galaxies in our vicinity are moving away from us based on his observation of what is called "red shift." I recognize that there are many hotly debated issues on the value and reliability of red shift measurements. However, the majority of the Astronomical community accept red shift evidence.

After this new evidence was discovered, astronomers developed the belief that the universe must have begun at a single point in space, at a definite moment in time, in a sudden burst of light, heat and energy. This was a radical new model in cosmology, i.e., the study of the universe as a whole. This sudden finite birth of the universe was dubbed the "Big Bang."

After the big bang model was conceived, scientists began to speculate about astronomical evidence that might support the big bang model. Astronomers predicted that if the universe began in a sudden burst of light and energy, there would be a faint background radiation that would bathe the cosmos in all directions. This radiation went undetected for decades until 1964 when two scientists at Bell Laboratories, Arno Penzias and Robert Wilson, found a faint background noise in all directions in the universe. At first they thought that their instruments were faulty, causing a background buzz. The astrophysics community declared that they had found the background radiation which was the predicted remnant of the origin of the universe. They won the Nobel Prize for their work.<sup>5</sup>

Another prediction of the big bang model was that the most abundant elements in the universe should be the very lightest elements of hydrogen and helium. This was initially felt to be verified, however, newer measurements have shown that the amounts of hydrogen and helium predicted by the big bang do not match what has been recently measured.<sup>6</sup>

Despite some of the problems discovered, in the minds of most cosmologists, the big bang seemed confirmed. "Have faith" we were told: The problems in the big bang theory would be resolved in time. There are, however, many more difficulties for the big bang, as we shall see.

## Before Time Began There Was no Time?

Nearly seven decades after Einstein published his equations on general relativity, three British astrophysicists, Steven Hawking, George Ellis, and Roger Penrose discovered an amazing prediction hidden within the theories of Einstein. In 1968 and 1970 they published papers in which they extended Einstein's theory of general relativity to include time and space. They discovered that space and time are not infinite. According to their calculations time and space, had a beginning that corresponds to the origin of matter and energy! <sup>7, 8.</sup>

## Scientists React to the Evidence

The evidence of the expanding universe was not greeted with universal acceptance by the world's astronomers and cosmologists. Einstein reacted angrily at first, but finally conceded to his mathematical error and the evidence for the expanding universe. NASA scientist Robert Jastrow records that Einstein stated:

*This circumstance of an expanding universe irritates me. ....To admit such possibilities seems senseless " 9*

Einstein realized that if the universe was expanding away from a central point then it had a beginning at that point. If the universe had a beginning point then it must have had a beginner, he surmised! This discovery disturbed Einstein so much that he included, for a time, an imaginary mathematical constant in his formulas, to make the effect of the expanding universe go away!! He called this constant "the cosmological constant." He later stated that this was the biggest error of his entire career.

Einstein was not the only scientist to react angrily to the evidence of a finite, expanding universe. Jastrow records that many astronomers and cosmologists were dismayed by the evidence:

*"Theologians generally are delighted with the proof that the universe had a beginning, but astronomers are curiously upset. It turns out that scientists behave the way the rest of us do when our beliefs are in conflict with the evidence!" 10*

Here Jastrow points out that materialists are "curiously upset." Why? Because the evidence for a universe that has a beginning point is in conflict with the beliefs of the materialists. That is, the belief that there is no necessity for a creator. So, scientific materialists, like the rest of us, respond emotionally when our world view is upset. And yet, these same materialists claim that they are the true scientists, dealing only in an objective manner with evidence they study. The evidence for an expanding, finite universe is the first of several evidences that cry out for the need of a creator.

## Time, Space, Matter and the Bible

After these disquieting discoveries were made, astronomers began to speculate about where the all matter came from that exploded in the big bang. The book of Genesis states that the matter arose from a transcendent creator at a finite point in time.\* That is, a creator who is outside the dimensions of time and space he created. However, for the materialist, the theory of evolution, which begins with the big bang, has no room for a creator. The theory of evolution was conceived by men who wanted to replace God with just the laws of nature, coupled with great time periods. Therefore, even though the evidence from astronomy indicates the universe had a finite beginning, materialists refuse to accept the need for a creator.

To get around the need for a creator, scientists have theorized that all the matter in the universe is either eternal, having neither beginning nor end, or arose from nothing! Without a creator, these are their only options. The ball of matter that exploded in the big bang is euphemistically called "The cosmic egg." This "cosmic egg" is supposedly the source of all the matter in the universe. The fact that matter exists now must somehow be explained. The matter we see around us either had a beginning at a finite point in the past-or it did not. If matter did not appear at a finite point in the past then it must be infinitely old. If it is infinitely old then we must explain how it has stayed so orderly for infinity. If it is not infinitely old then it must have appeared (been created) at a finite point in the past. Without a creator the scientific community is in the quandary of trying to explain how the cosmic egg arose from nothing! We will examine evidence from the fields of astrophysics and thermodynamics that specifically rejects the notion that matter is eternal. And we shall see that if you have a cosmic egg, there must be a cosmic chicken too! Finally we shall see that if matter could arise from nothing, it would be defined as a miracle, a supernatural event, something which materialists deny.

The notion that space and time had a beginning point, is an idea that our three dimensional, finite minds have a hard time grasping. We ask ourselves the obvious questions: "What happened before creation and what is just outside the space we call the universe?" Yet, Einstein's theory of relativity, and it's prediction of a finite universe, has been verified to be true to five decimal places. This makes it a virtual certainty. And yet, it is the theories of Einstein that predict that the universe (Time, space and matter) had a beginning. The fact is, that time and space did not exist before the moment of creation!

The Bible has had this fact clearly taught in it's text for 3500 years! Written over 1500 years, by over 40 authors, the Bible dared to claim that time, space and matter were created at a finite moment in the history of the universe.

During the time of the composition of the Bible the "most learned men" in the known world, stated that the universe was eternal, and other cultures taught that the earth rested on the backs of four elephants! For centuries the Biblical teaching of a finite universe was ridiculed by the establishment in science. Then came Slipher, de Sitter, Einstein and Hubble. They aren't laughing any more!

In the book of Genesis(Beginnings) we are told:

*"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth "*  
Genesis 1:1

The Hebrew word for create, *Bara*, literally means to create matter from nothing. The word *beginning* literally means "at the beginning of time." So the literal meaning of Genesis 1:1 reads: "At the beginning of time, God created from nothing the heavens (space) and the earth (matter)."

The notion of time having a beginning is seen also in the New Testament. In second Timothy 1:9 we read:

*"Having saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began "*

As we have seen, the radical Biblical notion that time and space had a beginning was not discovered by "the cream of the crop" of modern thinkers, in our "era of enlightenment", for nearly 2000 years!

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\* By transcendent I mean a creator who is outside of our dimensions of time and space. This creator, since he made our space domain, would also have the capability of "seeing" or existing in our 4 dimensions of space and time.

Again Robert Jastrow:

*"Now we see how the astronomical evidence leads to a Biblical view of the origin of the world. The details differ, but the essential elements in the astronomical and Biblical accounts of Genesis are the same: the chain of events leading to man commenced suddenly and sharply at a definite moment in time, in a flash of light and energy!"<sup>11</sup>*

## The Anthropic Cosmological Principle

In their recent book, *The Anthropic Cosmological Principle*, materialists John Barrow and Frank Tippler point out that there are many physical characteristics of the universe, the solar system, and the earth, that have the distinct appearance of having been designed to support the life on earth. Although their conclusion is rather bizarre, the evidence for design they present is impressive. They claim that the choices man makes now determined in the past the design of the universe in the beginning so that it would now be fit for man !!!??? There are dozens of these design characteristics, several of which we will review here. Each of these "design features" are found to exist within a very narrow range within which life in the universe can be supported. Barrow and Tippler conclude that if any one of these characteristics were to vary only a few percent, life anywhere in the universe would be impossible. This is evident in the following quote:

*"If the relative strengths of the nuclear and electromagnetic forces were to be slightly different, then carbon atoms could not exist in nature, and human physicists would not have evolved. Likewise many of the global properties of the Universe ...must be found to lie within a very narrow range if cosmic conditions are to allow carbon based life to arise."<sup>12</sup>*

We will examine several of these features that reveal a universe with the structure and balance of a finely tuned organized machine.

**1. THE FORCE OF GRAVITY:** The force of gravity is that unknown force that causes a mass to be attracted to one another mass. What causes this to happen is not known. But what is known, is that if the force of gravity was 1% higher than it's present value, our sun would be much bigger than it presently is and life on earth would cook! If the force were 1% less then the sun would be too small to support life and we would freeze!

**2. THE NUCLEAR FORCE:** This is the force that keeps the protons in the nucleus of each atom together. Protons are positively charged particles that are densely packed in the center (called the nucleus) of each atom. They are packed in the nucleus with neutral particles called neutrons. Anyone who has played with two magnets knows that the two positively charged ends repel each other when held together and that this repulsion gets stronger as the magnets get closer. Well, the same thing happens in the nucleus of the atom. Physicists propose that there is a force that holds these protons in place and this force is able to overcome the repulsive force. This is called the nuclear force.

If there were a very slight increase in the strength of this nuclear force then the number of protons that would be attracted to the nucleus would greatly increase and the universe would consist of mainly heavy metals. The chemicals of life, oxygen, hydrogen, carbon, would be almost non-existent. Consequently, life as we know it would exist nowhere in the universe. A very slight decrease in the nuclear force and the only element in the universe would be hydrogen, which contains only one proton. The result: No life!

**3. ELECTROMAGNETIC COUPLING CONSTANT:** This force is the same as the magnetic force that causes like charges to repel and opposite charges to attract. This force also causes negatively charged electrons to be attracted to the positively charged nucleus. If this constant were slightly stronger then it would prevent atoms from sharing electrons and the result would be that no molecules and consequently no life could exist. If this constant were slightly smaller, then electrons would too easily leave the nucleus and again no life!

4. **EXPANSION RATE OF THE UNIVERSE:** As mentioned before, the universe is expanding away from its place of origin. The speed of this expansion is approximately 2,000,000 miles per hour. Physicists have determined that if this rate were a few percent slower, then all the matter in the universe would re-collapse into a ball. If the rate of expansion were slightly faster, then galaxies and stars could not form. Either way: no life!

5. **MASS OF THE UNIVERSE:** The matter in the entire universe is also fixed within a very narrow range. According to astrophysicists, a few percent increase in the amount of matter in the universe would have resulted in stars which were too big and then too hot. A few percent decrease in the total mass of the universe would have resulted in no heavy elements and stars too small to support life. The main element in the universe would be hydrogen. The final result: No life in the universe.

6. **DISTANCE BETWEEN STARS:** Astrophysicists have discovered that the distance between stars is critical to life. If the distance between the stars was just a few percent closer then this would destabilize the planetary orbits around the sun and the earth would not be capable of supporting life. If the distance between stars was too far then planets would not have been able to form. Again, no life.

7. **GRAVITY ON EARTH:** The earth's gravity is critical to the balance of the atmosphere. A slight increase in the strength of the earth's gravitational strength and the atmosphere would retain too much ammonia and methane which are toxic to life. A slight decrease in the strength of the earth's gravity and the earth's atmosphere would lose too much water. In either case life could not exist.

8. **EARTH'S DISTANCE FROM THE SUN:** The water cycle on our earth is of course critical to the maintenance of life on earth. The distance of the earth from the sun plays a critical role in the balance of the water cycle. If the earth was a few percent farther from the sun then the earth would be too cool for a stable water cycle and the entire planet would freeze over. If the earth was a few percent closer to the sun the waters of the earth would boil. In either case: No life.

9. **THE EARTH'S ROTATION TIME:** The time the earth takes to rotate on its axis is critical to the weather balance. If the time the earth takes to rotate one time (now 24 hours) were increased by a few percent, then temperature differences would be too great to support life. If the rotation time were a little slower, then the atmospheric wind velocities would be too great and life would be wiped out.

10. **SIZE OF THE MOON:** The gravitational effect that the moon has on our earth's weather and tides is critical. If the moon were slightly bigger, then its gravitational effect on the earth would be greatly increased. This would result in massive tides and ferocious winds that would wipe out the life on earth. If the moon were slightly smaller, then the tides and winds would be too small and the earth would overheat. Again life could not exist.

11. **EARTH'S MAGNETIC FIELD:** The magnetic field is important in protecting the earth's surface from harmful radiation from the sun. If the magnetic field was slightly less, then we would have inadequate protection from the sun's radiation and all life would die. If the magnetic field were slightly stronger then there would be constant severe magnetic storms and life could not exist as well.

12. **AXIAL TILT OF THE EARTH:** The axial tilt of the earth is important in the temperature balance of the earth's surface. The earth is tilted 23.5 degrees on its axis. If this tilt were slightly greater or lesser than present then the surface temperature differences would be too great to support life.

13. **OZONE IN THE EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE:** The amount of ozone in the upper atmosphere greatly affects the surface temperature as well as the amount of radiation that reaches the surface of the earth. If the amount of ozone in the atmosphere was slightly increased then the surface temperature would be too low. This is because less heat from the sun would get through the ozone layer. If the ozone layer is depleted by a few percent then the amount of heat and ultraviolet radiation reaching the surface greatly increases. This would cause the planet to overheat and the excess radiation would cause death due to cancer. The excess heat and radiation would have also prevented spontaneous generation, i.e. the origin of life from non-life by chance.



As we can see these characteristics of the universe are within tight ranges in order for the universe and even life to exist. These represent only a few of the many "design characteristics" discovered in the last 25 years. The probability of these characteristics just happening by chance is astronomical. These striking "coincidences" have led many scientists to believe that the universe was designed for the specific purpose of supporting life on earth! Together they show the incredible design and handiwork of the creator.

## The Laws of Thermodynamics

The laws of thermodynamics have been fully described in the last 125 years. They provide some of the strongest evidence for the universe having a definite beginning and being the product of a supernatural intelligent designer. For our purposes we will discuss only the first and second law.

### The First Law of Thermodynamics

The first law of thermodynamics simply states that matter cannot be created nor destroyed under natural circumstances. Matter can only be converted from one state of matter to another, i.e. liquid to gas, liquid to solid, solid to gas. This law is often referred to the law of conservation of mass and energy. This law claims that there is no new matter showing up anywhere in the universe, nor is there any matter being annihilated. All matter and energy in the universe is conserved. It can be transformed into different states, gas, solid or liquid, but never destroyed. This experimental fact has never been observed to fail.

### The Second Law of Thermodynamics

The second law of thermodynamics states that as time progresses, matter always changes from states of order into states of greater disorder. It also states that the available energy for work in the universe is gradually decreasing with time. This increase in disorder and decrease in usable energy is called the development of "Entropy." The second law has also been applied to the area of information theory. In this context the second law states that the amount of information in a system never increases by chance as time progresses. Therefore, the orderliness of the universe is steadily decreasing and it is cooling off. A couple of illustrations will help to fully understand this law.

If you take a new deck of cards, in the highly ordered arrangement we call bridge order, and you begin to shuffle them, you will notice that the arrangement of the cards will quickly become random and disordered. Common sense tells us that it would never go the other way. In fact, the second law of thermodynamics is so certain, that if you did ever observe a random deck of cards go into bridge order with shuffling, you could be certain that you were experiencing a time reversal!! As time goes forward randomness always increases. The only exception is when you apply energy and intelligent design to raw materials, you can make the materials become ordered. But intelligent design (telos or purposefulness) is never the result of chance.

Consider the example of a wound up alarm clock. If you wind up a clock to the point where the spring is fully wound, you have introduced outside energy into the clock to tighten the spring. As soon as you let go, the energy stored in the wound up spring begins to decrease as it moves the various parts of the clock. Eventually the clock stops when there is no more available energy stored in the spring. This winding down of the clock's spring can and will only go in one direction: Downhill. Everyone knows that a clock spring will never wind itself up, no matter how long you wait. This is another example of 2nd law's claim that the available energy in a system always decreases.

The universe is like a giant clock spring that was wound up at the beginning of creation. At the very point of creation the total available energy and orderliness in the universe was at it's highest point ever. As galaxies and stars burn out, the available energy for work in the universe is gradually decreasing. Likewise, the amount of order in the universe is constantly decreasing.

According to Einstein's equation,  $E=mc^2$ , matter and energy are the same. Matter can at times behave like a particle (matter) and at other times behave like a wave (energy). Consequently, as stars and galaxies burn out, their mass is converted into energy. With the advance of time, this radiant energy

cools to the point that all the matter and energy in the universe stops vibrating and dies a heat death. Again, Robert Jastrow, Ph.D.:

*"The second law of thermodynamics, applied, to the cosmos, indicates the universe is running down like a clock. If it is running down, there must have been a time when it was fully wound up...if our views are right, somewhere between the beginning of time and the present day we must place the winding up of the universe."* 13

Here Jastrow points out a critical piece of evidence for a finite universe. The universe, as a whole, is what physicists call a closed system. This means that no energy, order or information can be introduced into the universe from the outside. Consequently, a universe that is currently "running down" must have at one time, been fully wound up. The second law dictates that matter cannot wind itself up. Consequently, a source for the "winding up" must be found. It is simply not possible for matter to energize and order itself on its own accord, and all knowledgeable scientists know this.

Another illustration of the second law is seen in the decay of the human body. From the moment of birth the human body begins the process of decay and death. This is noticeable in the accumulation of wrinkles, graying of hair, failing of organs, the development of abnormally functioning cells, the hardening of arteries, the failing memory and finally death. The highly ordered "perfect" baby gradually becomes a decayed wrinkled corpse! This is an increase in disorder, just as the second law predicts will happen with time.

## Evolution and the First Law

The theory of cosmic evolution has as its very first step an event which defies the first law of thermodynamics. The first law declares that matter (or its energy equivalent) can neither be created nor destroyed. In order to explain the existence of matter in our universe, many evolutionary cosmologists state that all the matter in the universe just came into existence from nothing. They claim that it just happened: for no reason, without a creator, from nothing, from nowhere. All the matter in the universe just appeared. Well, if this could happen, it would be a definite breach of the 1st law.

The first law states that you and I cannot create nor destroy matter. It follows, therefore, that if something which exists (you and me) cannot create matter, then something which doesn't exist cannot create it either. Matter cannot create itself, and in the real world, cannot arise from nothing. In the natural universe in which we live, all effects must have a cause. If matter could arise by itself from nothing, then in that case, it would be defined as an event outside the usual experience or natural law. That is, a supernatural event. That is a miracle!

So at the beginning point of the evolutionary scenario, creationists and evolutionists are in agreement! Matter arose from nothing! However, creationists willingly admit that the initial appearance of matter from nothing was a miracle, performed by a "first cause" that was outside the created universe itself. The atheist is confronted with the impossibility of explaining the arrival of the cosmic egg from nothingness.

Now the evolutionist immediately protests "If God made the universe, who made God?" Well, they have a point. However, at the beginning of the materialists scenario there is an equally difficult question: "Who made that ball of matter that exploded?" So at the beginning of each model of origins we have unanswerable questions. Atheists may then would argue that they are equal starting points. But are they?

The creationist's model begins with an infinitely intelligent, transcendent Creator who is distinct and separate from the universe. Using intelligent design, information and experience, the Creator designed and created everything from the sub-atomic particles to giant redwood trees. Was it a miracle? Absolutely!

The atheist's model begins with an even more impressive miracle: The appearance of all the matter in the universe from nothing, by no one and for no reason. A supernatural event! A miracle! However, they do not believe in an outside "first cause" we call God. So they have no "natural explanation" and they have no "supernatural explanation" for the origin of matter. So the atheist leaves us hanging in a totally dissatisfying position. He begins his model for the universe with a supernatural event; However, this supernatural event is accomplished without a supernatural agent to perform the miracle.

Now since each model begins with a miracle, we must ask which of the two miracles seems most likely? The creationist's miracle is preceded by the presence of a "first cause." This first cause, can

up with the concept, the blueprints and the reason for making the universe. The evolutionary miracle states that matter just arose from nothingness. No "first cause" prior to the miraculous appearance of matter is allowed in the materialist's model.

Consequently, the evolutionist's miracle is even more amazing, requiring even more **faith** to believe: That  $10^{70}$  atoms (a one with 70 zeros after it) could arise without a cause, from nothing, for no reason, is very insulting to the intellect. If you sit back and think about these two options, both supernatural miracles (i.e. not explainable by the natural laws of nature), isn't it more logical to believe that the miracle of the appearance of the universe was the result of a first cause, i.e. GOD!

## Cosmic Evolution and The Second Law of Thermodynamics

Assuming by some miracle that matter could arise by itself from nothing, the next problem is to explain how randomly arranged matter became organized into highly organized non-random structures like galaxies, solar systems and living creatures.

Evolutionists contend that after the big bang, matter somehow collected into highly organized galaxies, stars and solar systems by random chance. This definitely represents a change from disorder to order. Everyone knows that explosions do not produce order. This fact has been recognized by many prominent scientists.

Imagine a cosmic explosion that sends matter racing out from a point in all directions. Here you have a pretty good picture of the early stage of the big bang. A problem arises, however, in explaining how matter flying straight out from this cosmic explosion came to form gigantic structures with curvilinear motion. No known force will cause matter to collect into giant curvilinear structures from matter that is flying out straight way from a point in space.

Our solar system is a giant structure in which the planets rotate around the sun. The rotation of the planets is an example of curvilinear motion. Astronomers speculate that our solar system was formed by a giant rotating gas cloud that condensed into the sun and the planets.

However, major problems in this model have been discovered. If our solar system condensed from a giant gas cloud, then such a model predicts a solar system in which the majority of the angular momentum should be in the Sun. Angular momentum is a force which is equal to the speed of rotation multiplied by the mass of the object.

$$\text{Angular Momentum} = (\text{mass of the object}) \times (\text{Speed of rotation})$$

In a swirling gas cloud, the matter at the center rotates faster than the matter at the outer edges. This is what we see in a tornado. The gas cloud model would also predict that the center of the cloud would be more dense, i.e. have more matter. Therefore, the gas cloud model for the origin of our solar system predicts that at the center of the system we should have the greatest mass and the fastest rotation. Therefore, the greatest angular momentum.

Astronomers believe that the Sun contains 99.9% of the mass of the solar system but only 2% of the angular momentum. 98% of the angular momentum is in the planets! This is because the Sun is rotating very slowly. To many astronomers this indicates that our solar system could not have arisen from a rotating gas cloud.

*"One of the detailed problems is then to explain how the Sun itself acquires nearly 99.9% of the mass of the solar system but only 2% of its angular momentum."* 14

In fact, no model for formation of the solar system has been able to fully account for the curvilinear rotation and the angular momentum. This may seem like a minor point, but it destroys the gas cloud model and points out a severe deficiency in the big bang model. This has been noted by a few prominent scientists.

This problem was recognized by Don Page, Ph.D., an evolutionist and physicist, from Pennsylvania State University. He wrote in the British journal Nature:

*"The time asymmetry of the universe is expressed by the second law of thermodynamics, that entropy (randomness) increases with time as order is transformed into disorder. The mystery is not that an ordered state should become disordered but that the early universe was in a highly ordered state .... There is no mechanism known as yet that would allow the Universe to begin in an arbitrary state and then evolve to its present highly ordered state."* 15

World famous British astronomer Sir Fred Hoyle, Cambridge University, wrote in Science Digest , May 1984:

*"I have little hesitation in saying that a sickly pall hangs over the Big Bang theory. When a pattern of facts becomes set against a theory, experience shows that it rarely recovers."* 16

Regarding the orderly state of the universe, Evolutionist and Physicist H.J.Lipson wrote in Physics Bulletin Vol. 31, pg. 138, 1980:

*"I think however that we must go further than this and admit that the only accepted explanation is Creation. I know that this is anathema to physicists, as indeed it is to me, but we must not reject a theory that we do not like if the experimental evidence supports it."* 17

Sir James Jeans, Cambridge University wrote in his book, *The Mysterious Universe* , the following :

*"A scientific study of the universe has suggested a conclusion that may be summed up... in the statement that the universe appears to have been designed by a pure mathematician.....The more orthodox scientific view is that the entropy (randomness or disorder) of the universe must forever increase to its final value. It has not yet reached this: we should not be thinking about it if it had. It (randomness) is still increasing rapidly...there must have been what we may describe as 'creation' at a time not infinitely remote."* 18

Consider this provocative quote by Gordon Van Wylen in his book , *Thermodynamics*:

*"A final point to be made is that the second law of thermodynamics and the principle of increase in entropy have great philosophical implications. The question that arises is how did the universe get into a state of reduced entropy (highly organized, non-random) in the first place, since all natural processes known to us tend to increase entropy? ... The author has found that the second law tends to increase his conviction that there is a Creator who has the answer for the future destiny of man and the universe."* 19

Regarding the orderliness of the cosmos, evolutionist W. Penfield, MD., F.R.S. stated in his book, *The Mystery of the Mind*:

*"The wonder is that there should be a universe at all, with it's laws and plan and apparent purpose"* 20

Some scientists have tried to find a loop hole in the 2nd law. Some have tried to claim that it does not apply to the question of the origin of the universe and origin and development of life. However, this has never been demonstrated experimentally.

Physicists G.N. Hatspoulous and E.P. Gyftopoulos wrote in their book, *Deductive Quantum Thermodynamics in a Critical Review of Thermodynamics*:

*"There is no recorded experiment in the history of science that contradicts the second law or it's corollaries..."* 21

Frank A. Greco, writing in *American Laboratory* said :

*"an answer can readily be given to the question, 'Has the second law of thermodynamics been circumvented?' NOT YET."* 22

World famous evolutionist, former atheist (dead now) and anti-creationist Isaac Asimov confirms that: *"Another way of stating the 2nd law is, the universe is constantly getting more disorderly!... In fact, all we have to do is nothing, and everything deteriorates, collapses, breaks down, wears out, all by itself- and that's what the second law is all about."* 23

As we can see, these men recognize the dilemma and the difficulty of a cosmos with incredible design and order. A cosmos that was much more orderly in the past, and is becoming more disorderly all the time. A cosmos arising by random processes in total defiance of the 2nd law of thermodynamics? Impossible, by natural law.

The second law of thermodynamics has been declared by many to be the most certain law in the universe. In a delightful book called A Brief History of Eternity by Roy Peacock (Professor of Aerospace sciences) chronicles the discoveries of science that have led many scientists to concur that there must be a creator. In this book he demonstrates the preeminence of the 2nd law as the supreme law in the universe. He quotes Sir Arthur Eddington, Professor of astronomy at Cambridge University in England :

*" The law that entropy always increases (the second law of thermodynamics) holds, I think, the supreme position among the laws of nature. If someone points out to you that your pet theory of the universe is in disagreement with Maxwell's equations,( on electricity) then so much the worse for Maxwell's equations.... But if your theory is found to be against the second law of thermodynamics , I can give you no hope: There is nothing for it but to collapse in deepest humiliation."* 24

Who wound up the universe in the first place? For the creationist there is an obvious answer to this dilemma. Therefore, the creation model has one more step answered than the evolutionary scenario: The hand that wound the clock and the "cosmic chicken", are one and the same! He is the God of the Bible. The God of the only "Holy Book" that states the universe is finite. The only God of any "Holy Book" that claims to be outside our dimensions of space and time. If he is outside time and space, he is therefore in a position to be that creator. Consequently, if he claims to be that creator, we had better heed his word!

As we can see, the laws of thermodynamics pose a difficult problem for the theory of evolution and it's corollaries. Yet, the scientific world continues to push the theory of evolution as a "fact." In order to get to the organized universe we see today, without a creator, we need to start with two miracles. First, the appearance of matter from nothing, in defiance of the first law. Next, we need to see the development or order from non order, on a massive scale, in defiance of the second law. Both of these events, if they could occur, are supernatural events, i.e. miracles. These are poor starting places for a materialistic universe in which supernatural events are not allowed to operate .

## The Bible and Thermodynamics

By now you probably won't be surprised to find that the concepts of the laws of thermodynamics have been in the Bible for thousands of years, waiting to be discovered by the "wisest people that have ever lived", i.e. modern scientists.

### The First Law and the Bible

As we have seen, the first law states that all the matter and energy in the universe remains constant. Mass and energy can be transformed to different states, but they cannot be created nor destroyed by natural methods. This is often referred to as the law of conservation of mass and energy. From a scientific point of view, no one knows why energy and matter are conserved. We just know that they are. However, from a Biblical point of view, we know that energy is conserved because in Genesis 2:2-3 we are told: "*and on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made.*"

Other references on the completed work of God, indicating that nothing else is being created, are found throughout the Bible:

*" the works were finished from the foundation of the world. For he spake in a certain place of the seventh day on this wise, and God did rest the seventh day from all his works."* Heb 4:3-4

*"You have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth, and all the things that are on it, the seas, and all that is in them, and You preserve them all."* Nehemiah 9:6 Also see Ps 148:6, Isa 40:26, II Pet 3:7, Heb 4:10

The interesting thing about all these references is that they speak in the past tense about the creation. No where in the Bible does it speak of creation still going on. A small point maybe, but still amazing when you consider it was written by over forty authors from such varied backgrounds. A subtle evidence of the divine inspiration of the text.

So according to the Bible, matter is not being made nor annihilated at this time any where in the universe.

## The Second Law and the Bible

The second law of thermodynamics, the law of increasing entropy (randomness), as we have seen, is absolutely true, in all known experiments to date! This law may seem obvious to us as we see examples of decay and wearing out all of our lives. As expected, the Bible gives examples of this in many places. But what is surprising is that the Bible describes the second law in situations that have only recently been discovered.

There are passages in the Bible that refer to the concept of the decay of the cosmos. This fact was not discovered until this century with the advent of super telescopes and the laws of thermodynamics. Lets look at a few examples.

*"Of old you laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands. They will perish, but you will endure. Yes, all of them will grow old like a garment : Like a cloak you will change Them, and they will be changed."* Ps 103:25-26

*"For the heavens shall vanish away like smoke, the earth will grow old like a garment, and those who dwell in it will die in like manner."* Isaiah 51:6

*"Heaven and earth are passing away, but my words shall not pass away."* Matt 24:35

Also see Rom 8:20-22, I John 2:17, Heb 12:27

The interesting thing to note is the knowledge that the whole universe and the earth are wearing out. Up until the last 150 years this idea was totally foreign to the minds of the scientists of the last 3000 years.

Aristotle believed that the universe was static, eternal and would never wear out. This belief was the predominant belief in the scientific community for nearly 3000 years. Even Isaac Newton , a Christian, believed in an eternal, static universe. I'm sure that the Biblical view, that the universe would wear out , was mocked over the centuries by the "educated establishment" Well, they aren't laughing anymore.

There are also many references that refer to the decay of living organisms. The cause of death of living creatures has been a mystery over the millennia. At the time the Bible was written, death was not thought of as a process of decay. Nor was the development of randomness in the structure of living things known to men of science.

With the advent of molecular biology in the last 25 years, we now know that "dying of old age" is due to the irreversible nature of the second law of thermodynamics and the decay of living tissue!

Molecular biologists now know that the process of death is due to the accumulation of errors in the genetic code of life. This chemical code, Deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA), consists of long strings of chemicals called nucleotides held together by chemical bonds. These strings of DNA hold the instructions necessary to make a human being. Over time, this code gets corrupted with copying errors and the cells begin to function improperly. This results in disorder in the cell's metabolism and eventually death due to decay.

The decay process, leading to death, has been taught in the Bible for 3500 years, waiting to be discovered by 20th century scientists. Lets look at a few examples.

*"In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken: for dust you are and to dust you shall return."* Genesis 3: 19

In this amazing passage we see two examples of scientific fore knowledge. We are told that man is made from dust! In modern times, it turns out, that scientists have determined that living creatures are

composed of the same chemicals you would find in the dirt out in your flower garden. Secondly, the Bible tells us that we return to dust, a state of greater disorder, when we die.

*"For what happens to the sons of men also happens to the beasts; one thing befalls them: as one dies, so dies the other. Surely they all have one breath: man has no advantage over beasts, for all is vanity. All go to one place: all are from the dust and all return to dust."* Ecclesiastes 3:19-20

In this passage we see again the claim that man decays to dust, consistent with the second law and our modern knowledge of the decay of the human body. Secondly, it was not known that man and beast were made of the same "stuff." To suggest that possibility in some circles would be frowned upon I'm sure.

Also see Job 14:1-2, Ps 103:15-16, Isaiah 40:6-8.

Despite hundreds of years of liberals theologians, atheists and agnostics hammering away at the Bible, we see another evidence of divine inspiration of the text in the scientific fore knowledge of the laws of thermodynamics and cosmology.

## Scientists Scramble for an Alternative

The scientific evidence so far demonstrates that the universe is expanding and that it's three components, time, space and matter, also appeared at a finite point in time. The evidence also reveals that many characteristics of the universe exist within very narrow margins which can support life. But as previously noted, the evidence does nothing to explain where the matter came from in the first place. This dilemma can only be solved by the introduction of a supernatural event.

### The Oscillating Universe Model

There have been several variations of the Big Bang theory proposed over the past few decades. Each one has been proposed in order to explain away the apparent fact that the universe had a beginning. The most popular alternative is the "Oscillation model."

The oscillation model proposes that the universe is in a state of endless expansion and contraction events. Each cycle of explosion, expansion, contraction taking 50-100 billion years. This model takes the old assumption that matter is eternal and combines it with the evidence that the universe is expanding. There are, however, fatal flaws to this model.

The first problem is that there is not enough matter in the universe to accomplish the re-collapse of the universe. The force of gravity is the force that would accomplish such an event, i.e. a re-collapse. However, for the gravitational attraction to be strong enough to pull the matter back to the beginning point, it would have to overcome the current speed of expansion. The force of gravity acts on matter to pull that matter together. However, there is not enough matter in the universe and it is expanding too fast for the force of gravity to ever pull the matter back and reverse the expansion.

Jastrow shows that in order for the universe to collapse back on itself, under the force of gravitation, the universe would need to have an average density of at least one hydrogen atom in a volume of 10 cubic feet. The known amount of matter is way too small by a factor of 1000 times. Because of this lack of matter, many cosmologists have speculated that there is a huge amount of "dark matter" that can't be seen but is acted on by gravity to help produce a re-collapse of the universe. Even if we assume that 99% of the matter in the universe is non-visible, cold, dark matter, there is still not enough by a factor of 10. Again Robert Jastrow:

*"Yet, although the estimated density of matter in the universe is greatly increased as a result of this determination (adding cold dark matter), it is still more than ten times too small to bring the expansion of the universe to a halt...Thus, the facts indicate that the universe will expand forever!"* 25

The most devastating problem for the "Oscillating Universe" model are the laws of thermodynamics. The second law of course states that in all systems, the available energy to do work diminishes as time progresses. We have seen a few examples of this previously; e.g. the wound up clock. Another example will help us to see why the second law forbids the oscillation model.

Take the example of a bouncing ball. When one drops a ball on the ground we notice that it never bounces back as high as it was when it was dropped. This is because when the ball hits the ground,



under the influence of the force of gravity, energy is lost in the form of heat. Therefore, less energy is available to push the ball back up into the air, just as the second law predicts. After each successive bounce the ball goes up less and less until all the energy used to raise the ball in the first place is dissipated as heat.

This bouncing ball example is an almost exact representation of what happens when we talk about an oscillation model for the big bang. Even if the universe could collapse and explode numerous times, there would still be a loss of energy as dictated by the second law. Therefore, there could be only a limited number of expansion and collapse events.

Astrophysicist, Hugh Ross, Ph.D., in his book *The Fingerprint of God*, devotes an entire chapter to the oscillation universe model and the reasons why it won't work. He states that the mass of the universe is only about 40% of that necessary to cause the universe to re-collapse. He also states that there is no known physical mechanism that could realistically be expected to reverse a cosmic contraction. Finally, he re-affirms that the second law of thermodynamics would prevent a "bounce", or re-expansion because of the energy lost from the previous expansion event. He compares it to dropping a ball of wet clay on the carpet. Instead of getting a bounce, you get a splat!

*"Thus, even if the universe contained sufficient mass to force an eventual collapse, that collapse would not produce a bounce. Far too much of the energy of the universe is dissipated in unreclaimable form to fuel a bounce. Like a lump of wet clay falling on a carpet, the universe if it did collapse would go splat."* 26

So a never ending succession of expansions and contractions would be forbidden by the second law. The second law will never allow you to break even. Eventually you must get around to explaining who or what wound up and ordered the universe for its first expansion event.

Using the old "cop out" of eternal matter cannot work either. There are a couple of reasons for this. First the second law forbids a ball of highly ordered matter (the cosmic egg) to sit unchanging in space forever, while waiting to mysteriously explode for no reason. The second law, which is universal and absolute, simply forbids any ball of matter to stay perfectly ordered and retain its original amount of energy as time proceeds forward. Eventually, as dictated by the second law, all the matter in the universe will become disordered and die a heat death.

There is another reason why matter cannot be eternal. This second reason is the fact of proton decay. Protons are positively charged particles which are in the nucleus of every atom. For decades it was assumed that protons were stable for eternity. However, it has been recently discovered that protons decay into quarks, gamma rays and irretrievable electromagnetic radiation. In  $10^{40}$  years, half of the protons in the universe will have been decayed into these products. This process is irreversible, therefore, eventually all the atoms will decay into irretrievable stuff!

Now the skeptic might reply: "OK so there is a God, a creator for this universe, but how do we know that he is the only God? How do we know that there aren't millions of other universes?" This is a cop out I hear a lot when cornering an atheist or agnostic. Well, they have a point. We can only know and get information about our own universe. However, that doesn't relieve us of our responsibility to know and serve the God of this universe. If it can be demonstrated that there is a powerful, supreme, being for this universe then it to him that we are subject. As a child my parents had rules I had to follow. When would protest that in another neighborhood, in another family my friend had different rules, this argument didn't carry a lot of weight. My parents would simply indicate that in their house, I had to follow their rules. The God of this universe has rules for our lives, found in the Bible, and he has a desire to know us and have intimate fellowship with us. As we shall see, the extent to which he has gone to save us and purchase us is incredible.

## The Big Bang: A Fact ?

The big bang is presented by virtually all scientific and lay sources as if it is accepted universally by all astronomers and astrophysicists as a scientific fact. However, there are prominent dissenters in the scientific community. In a recent article in Scientific American, February 1992, Geoffrey Burbidge, Ph.D. Physicist and former director of the Kitt Peak National Observatory makes some of the most fr comments ever regarding the big bang.



*"Big Bang cosmology is probably as widely believed as has been any theory of the universe in the history of Western Civilization. It rests, however on many untested, and in some cases un-testable assumptions. Indeed, big bang cosmology has become a bandwagon of thought that reflects faith as much as objective truth...."*

Regarding the media and scientific bias he states:

*Extensive coverage has appeared in the New York Times, the London Economist and the Wall Street Journal, all based on interviews only with believers in the big bang.... Astronomical textbooks no longer treat cosmology as an open subject. Instead, authors take the attitude that the correct theory has been found....It is extraordinarily difficult to get financial support or viewing time on a telescope unless one writes a proposal that follows the party line...."*

*"This situation is particularly worrisome because there are good reasons to think the big bang model is seriously flawed..."*

Regarding the ability of the big bang to explain the origin of great structures such as galaxies, Burbidge states:

*"Within the framework of the hot big bang, there is no satisfactory theory of how galaxies and larger structures formed..." 27*

We saw earlier that Fred Hoyle and Don Page were also disgruntled with the big bang because of its inability to explain the origin of the tremendous order in the universe.

## Scientists Find God?

In April 1992 newspapers, magazines and television networks around the world reported that scientists in the United States had found a key piece of evidence that "proved the big bang." Using data from the NASA satellite called the Cosmic Background Explorer (COBE), scientists reported that they had found the remnants of the big bang by measuring the background radiation in deep space.

It was predicted that if the universe began as a sudden burst of light and heat that there would be a faint background microwave radiation. As we saw earlier this was in fact found in 1964. A problem developed for the big bang, however, because the radiation was found to be too smooth to explain the giant "walls of galaxies" found by astronomers in 1990.

Astrophysicists predicted that if matter did condense into the great super-structures, such as walls of galaxies, then the "Echo" of the explosion and its subsequent condensation into superstructures, would leave slight variations or ripples in the background radiation. Big bang proponents believe that small clumps of gas in the early growing fireball grew by gravitational attraction into stars, galaxies and walls of galaxies. These primordial clumps of matter would have been "hot spots" in the developing universe and would have left evidence of their existence as a "warm spot" in the background radiation. The resultant picture would be a speckled map of relatively warm and cold spots in the background radiation.

In the recent April 1992 COBE announcement, team leader George Smoot declared that the team found the "hot and cool spots" in the background radiation. That is, they found that there are regions in the universe where the microwave background radiation varies by one millionth of a degree. This was felt to be enough of a variation to explain the origin of these giant structures. According to Smoot, the "Big Bang" was now proven. In fact, Smoot declared: "If you're religious its like looking at God!" 28

Shortly after this unconventional "media circus" announcement, the scientific community began to evaluate the COBE team's findings and the interpretation. In June 1992 a scientific assembly of some of the world's most noted cosmologists was held at Princeton University to discuss the findings. The highly respected journal *Science* reported the opinions of a number of these cosmologists: 29

*"Contrary to newspaper account last April, NASA's COBE satellite did not find traces of God, nor did it rescue a supposedly ailing Big Bang theory from imminent demise."*

*"The interpretations are all over the place...Now there is less agreement than before."*

Edwin Turner, Princeton University Astrophysicist.

According to Dr. Geoffrey Burbidge, Astrophysicist at the University of California, San Diego, even with the new evidence, the big bang is still incapable of explaining the origin of spiraling galaxies and larger structures. Burbidge points out that for the big bang theory to explain the origin of these structures, astrophysicists must invoke the existence of dark "non-baryonic matter." This is commonly referred to as "exotic matter." And, according to Burbidge and other Astrophysicists, there is absolutely no experimental or observational evidence for this exotic matter. 30

Another explanation entirely overlooked by the COBE team is a phenomenon first described by Soviet astrophysicists, R.A. Sunyaev and Ya. B. Zeldovich in 1970. 31 They pointed out that as the background radiation passes through large clouds of interstellar gas the radiation is scattered and would be measured as a different wavelength from the surrounding background radiation. The result would be the same speckled pattern that COBE scientists discovered.

There is also the concern that the sensitivity of the instruments is inadequate to detect a difference of one millionth of a degree. One team member declared that the alleged "bumps" in the data are "well below the level of instrumental noise" and you can't point to any one point in the data and say that's a signal and that's noise." 32 Even team leader George Smoot points out that he is "going out on a limb" until other experiments back him up. 33

Finally, no one knows whether the bumps in the background radiation are really intense enough to explain the origin of large scale structures. The big bang proponents had calculated that the "bumps" in the background radiation should be 1/1000th of a degree. The fluctuations measured by COBE were actually 1000 times weaker than the expected value.

Dr. Anthony Peratt of Los Alamos Laboratory, and others, have hypothesized that the background radiation is the glow from a radio fog produced in the present day universe. Peratt's theory predicts fluctuations about the same degree as were detected by the COBE satellite. In addition, he and his colleagues point out that the microwave radiation would be absorbed when traveling inter-galactic distances of billions of light years. The result, again, would be the type of irregular pattern detected by the COBE satellite. 34 To be sure, there is no agreement among scientists as to the cause of the radiation nor is there agreement that it proves the big bang.

## Choose This Day Whom You Shall Serve: Randomness or Intelligent Design

Our search for the cause of this marvelous universe has shown us that the evidence from science is totally compatible with the creation account of only one "Holy Book"-the Bible. The evidence reveals that the universe is not eternal, that it began at a certain point in time, and that the universe began in a sudden burst of light and energy, just as the book of Genesis told us. *"And God said 'let there be light' and there was light"* Genesis 1:3

No other "Holy Book" teaches this concept. They all assume that matter is eternal or that God made the universe from pre-existing material.

Science has shown us that the universe has many characteristics that give the appearance that it was designed to support life on earth. And in the Bible we are told that it was designed by an omniscient creator who is distinct and separate from his creation. The Bible is also the only book that you can prove had its origin from a being that exists outside our time-space domain. This is exactly where a creator would have to be in order to create this universe and prove it to us. Just as I exist outside and separate from the works of my hands, so must the creator of the universe be able to demonstrate that he exists separate and distinct from the universe which he created.

We have seen that the laws of thermodynamics tell us that the universe will wear out like a garment in time, a fact the Bible has taught for thousands of years.

Again NASA scientist Robert Jastrow:

*"Now three lines of evidence -the motions of the galaxies, the laws of thermodynamics, and the life story of the stars- pointed to one conclusion; all indicated that the universe had a beginning !!!" 35*

We have seen that the great rotating structures, like galaxies and solar systems, cannot be explained by an explosion and random chance.

So, although the facts show that the universe had a beginning, that it is winding down, that it was designed and that it cannot continually expand and contract, the true facts don't support the idea that it began with an un-aided explosion. If the universe did begin in an awesome appearance of light and heat, then it would have to then be carefully guided and crafted into it's current highly orderly state.

Again, Robert Jastrow:

*"For the scientist who has lived by his faith in the power of reason, the story ends like a bad dream. He has scaled the mountains of ignorance; he is about to conquer the highest peak; as he pulls himself over the final rock, he is greeted by a band of theologians who have been sitting there for centuries!"* 36

So the universe had a beginning and it will have an end, unless, as the Bible says, the one who wound up the universe intervenes first to re-make it .

*"And I saw a new heaven and a new earth... and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes: there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying: and there be no more pain, the former things have passed away."* Revelation 21:1 & 4

Despite this evidence, the evolutionary theory, beginning with a Godless origin for the universe, is taught as a fact in the majority of western schools today.

In the motion picture *STAR TREK: THE MOVIE* , we are introduced to a powerful creature named V-GER. In this movie we see that V-GER develops immense knowledge, power and wealth and builds an elaborate structure for protection around himself. V-GER sets out on a voyage to discover the answers of his existence. V-GER sends a being to search for his creator. During this search, V-GER'S envoy encounters the Star Trek team. When V-GER encounters the humans (The Carbon Units), he states that he is going to destroy the carbon units because they suppressed the knowledge of the creator. When Spock finds V-GER and does his Vulcan mind meld with V-GER, he discovers that despite V-GER'S incredible knowledge and power, V-GER is barren and empty. V-GER states that he has no hope, no answers to the quest which he has set out upon. Like an adolescent, V-GER lashes out in anger and frustration because of his failure to find the answers he was looking for. V-GER asks "Is this all that I am, is there nothing more." This emptiness we are told is due to the fact that V-GER has been unable to find and commune with it's creator!! V-GER, it turns out, is a several hundred year old Voyager satellite made by allegedly "intelligent human beings."

So in this story we see an incredible irony. A machine, much less complicated than man, has a need for a knowledge of his creator and sets out to find him. Yet we live in a society in which most of the greatest minds in our colleges and universities, the creators of V-GER, teach that we are the products of blind chance, time and matter.

Paul the Apostle had some sobering thoughts about "carbon units " that suppress the truth of the creator .

*" For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man; and birds and four-footed beasts and creeping things. Therefore ,God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshipped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. Romans 1:18-25*

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# The Origin Of Life

## The First Missing Link

*"It is often said that all the conditions for the first production of a living organism are now present, which could ever be present. But if we could conceive in some warm little pond, with all sorts of ammonia and phosphoric salts, light, heat, electricity, etc, present, that a protein compound was chemically formed ready to undergo still more complex changes "...*

Charles Darwin, 1859 Origin of Species

*"An honest man, armed with all the knowledge available to us now, could only state that in some sense, the origin of life appears at the moment to be almost a miracle, so many are the conditions which would have had to have been satisfied to get it going."*

Francis Crick Ph.D., Life Itself. 1981, Nobel Laureate

Life. What is it? Where did it come from? What makes it different from the dust, the air and the water on earth? From the time we humans achieve self awareness there develops a fascination with the things that crawl, slither, walk, swim and fly. This fascination with the "living protoplasm" on earth is basic to our constitution. This fascination with living things leads us all to the point when we ask "where did they come from?" The question of the origin of life has been debated by philosophers, theologians, scientists for thousands of years and is at the very core of the debate between the materialists and the creationists. Creationists see the creation of life as a powerful, visible, manifestation of an awesome designer, creator, God. To the creationist, life is the product of the greatest chemist, biologist, mathematician and engineer in or out of the universe! To the materialist (atheist), life is viewed as an incredibly lucky result of billions of years of the laws of nature acting on non-living matter. As some have put it, life is "The fortuitous occurrence of accidental circumstances."

In the evolutionary scenario, the chance origin of life represents the first step, i.e. the trunk, in the evolutionary tree of life on earth. However, it is at this point in the theory of evolution where the "rubber meets the road." For at this point, if the materialist cannot conceive of a naturalistic explanation for the origin of life, then his theory of evolution is dead before it enters the starting gate.

Materialists assume that 3-4 billion years ago, non-living, inanimate, inorganic matter developed into highly complex living organisms, by random chance. No one knows where it happened, but it is generally assumed to have occurred somewhere on earth, in a "primordial ooze", near deep hot oceanic vents or in some shallow tidal pool. No designer, no blue prints, no instructions, no concept or purpose are allowed in the evolutionary scenario of the origin of life. Only the laws of nature, random chance and long periods of time are allowed to act on the raw materials of life.

The chance appearance of life is called "spontaneous generation." According to evolutionary dogma, this first life form was probably a single celled organism similar to a bacterium. This new life form, according to evolutionists, then developed into all the increasingly complex life forms on earth, in a relentless struggle, commonly called, "the survival of the fittest." This concept of the evolutionary development of increasingly complex animals, over the last 3 billion years, is commonly depicted in biology textbooks as an "evolutionary tree."

If life did arise spontaneously and evolve into increasingly complex life forms, then spontaneous generation represents the trunk of the that evolutionary tree and the branches are the various species that developed from these earlier forms.

The supposed products of spontaneous generation are unimaginably complex chemical structures, i.e. living cells. Molecular biologist and evolutionist, Michael Denton, Ph.D., wrote in 1986 :

*"It is the sheer universality of perfection, the fact that everywhere we look, to whatever depth we look, we find an elegance and ingenuity of an absolutely transcending quality, which so mitigates against the idea of chance. Is it really credible that random processes could have constructed a reality, the smallest element of which, a functional protein or gene, is complex beyond our own creative capacities, a reality which is the very antithesis of chance, which excels in every sense beyond anything produced by the intelligence of man?" 1*

According to Denton, living cells are more complex than the most complex machines ever made by man, including the space shuttle or our largest super computers!

Therefore, if the materialistic theory of evolution has any validity, it must explain the origin of these complex living structures, without the supernatural introduction of design, concept, codes, programs or a designer. If the origin of life cannot be shown to be plausible by the interaction of matter, chance and time alone, then the existence of an evolutionary tree is a dubious proposition at best. Invoking any metaphysical (miraculous) events into the scenario violates evolution in its purest form. Let no one be deceived; in its purest form, the theory of evolution was conceived to explain our existence without the need for a creator.

In this report we will examine the major research in the 20th century that pertains to the question of the origin of life. We will examine whether purely natural laws can explain the origin of highly complex cellular structures as well as the codes and programs that instruct all life forms in reproduction, metabolism and self repair.

## Mud to Man?

The notion that life could arise from inanimate non-living matter is not a recent idea. This idea was believed at the time of the ancient Greeks. In the 6th century B.C., Greek philosopher Anaximander argued that life arose from mud that was exposed to sunlight. During the dark ages people had speculated that rats and flies spontaneously arose from garbage because rats and flies were consistently found in it when garbage was left out. Others had noticed that when meat and broths were left exposed, they became covered with maggots and microorganisms. These observations led scientists to believe that these life forms arose spontaneously from non-living, inanimate matter. However, in the late 1700's scientists began to question the idea of spontaneous generation.

Louis Pasteur entered the debate in 1862 when he published the results of his experiments on the question of the spontaneous generation of microorganisms in broths. Using swan-necked glass flasks, Pasteur showed that previously boiled broths remained uncontaminated with microorganisms unless the neck of the flasks were broken. Broken flasks quickly teemed with life as the broths became cloudy. The work of Louis Pasteur seemingly ended the debate on the question of the spontaneous origin of life.

It is ironic that Pasteur's experiments, which were nearly universally accepted as proof against spontaneous generation, were published at the time when Charles Darwin's On The Origin of Species was sweeping Europe and gaining wide acceptance among scientists. Darwin's theory required spontaneous generation as its very first step. With Pasteur's experiments widely accepted as proof against spontaneous generation, Darwin's work brought more confusion and controversy to the question of life's origin. By the end of the nineteenth century the majority of scientists believed that spontaneous generation was not possible. Loyal Darwinists, however, insisted on spontaneous generation, recognizing that it is the foundation upon which pure evolutionary theory rests. Ernst Haeckel, stated in 1876;

*"If we do not accept the hypothesis of spontaneous generation, then at this one point of the history of evolution we must have recourse to the miracle of a supernatural creation."*<sup>2</sup>

During Darwin's day the living cell was viewed as no more than an "amorphous blob of protoplasm." Many, including Darwin's grandfather, Erasmus Darwin, felt that the difference between the living and the non-living world was the presence of some "life force." In fact, many thought that it was the mere presence of electricity in living matter that separated it from non-living matter. Many experiments were done with electricity to try to create life from non-living broths. This fascination led to the Frankenstein story of the late 1800's.

Obviously this view that living cells were "simple blobs" was later found to be very naïve. The discoveries of 20th century molecular biologists have revealed that the "simplest" life forms are complex beyond compare. The gap between non-living matter and the simplest living cells is now known to be a gap so wide, that it is inconceivable that this gap could be bridged by chance. Again, molecular biologist, evolutionist Michael Denton, Ph.D. stated in 1986;

*"Although the tiniest bacterial cells are incredibly small, weighing less than 10<sup>-12</sup> grams, each is in effect a veritable microminiaturized factory containing thousands of exquisitely designed pieces of*

*intricate molecular machinery, made up altogether of one hundred thousand million atoms, far more complicated than any machine built by man and absolutely without parallel in the non-living world."*<sup>3</sup>

The spontaneous generation debate heated up again in 1924 when Russian biochemist I.A. Oparin proposed that life had arisen from simpler molecules on the lifeless earth under much different atmospheric conditions.<sup>4</sup> In 1928 English biologist J.B.S. Haldane published a paper in which he proposed that ultraviolet light, acting on the early primitive atmosphere, produced a concentrated primordial soup of sugars and amino acids in the oceans.<sup>5</sup> Ernst Haeckel had argued that, although spontaneous generation was not observable under the current conditions on earth, it did take place in the past under unknown conditions. In 1952 Harold Urey observed that all the planets in the solar system had a reducing atmosphere (i.e. contains little or no oxygen) and proposed that spontaneous generation had occurred in the primeval oceans with such a reducing atmosphere.<sup>6</sup>

During the previous decades, organic chemists were able to synthesize many organic chemicals found only in living systems from inorganic, non-living chemicals. Oparin, Haldane and Urey drew on this knowledge in order to devise conditions on the primitive earth which might be suitable for the formation of complex organic chemicals.

Urey proposed a radically different atmosphere which included methane, ammonia, acetylene and water vapor but no oxygen. The chemicals of life, such as proteins and nucleic acids, are destroyed instantly if they are out of their safe cellular environment and exposed to an oxygen containing environment. Oparin, Haldane and Urey knew this, and assumed that oxygen appeared later in the atmosphere as the result of plant metabolism. Methane and ammonia were thought to exist in Jupiter's atmosphere at that time, so the proposed primitive atmospheric conditions seemed reasonable.

Energy for the chemical reactions were believed to be the result of lightning, volcanic eruptions, sunlight or deep oceanic vents. Given enough time, energy and mere chance, it was proposed that the building blocks of life would eventually become abundant in the primeval oceans. These building blocks, amino acids, nucleotides, fatty acids, sugars would combine and develop into the proteins, DNA, RNA, fats and sugars necessary for a living cell. This chemical broth became known as the "primeval soup." Despite absolutely no experimental evidence for the soup or the process whereby the chemicals combined into more complex molecules, the Oparin-Haldane primeval soup theory became scientific dogma! These foundational assumptions have provided the framework for the modern theory of chemical evolution. Only minor modifications in the Oparin-Haldane-Urey model have been made in the last thirty years.

This modern theory of chemical evolution assumes an atmosphere containing gases such as hydrogen, carbon dioxide, methane, carbon monoxide, ammonia, nitrogen, but no free oxygen.

## Stanley Miller's Bombshell

In 1953 a graduate student named Stanley Miller, working under Harold Urey, Ph.D., set out to verify the Oparin-Haldane hypothesis with a simple but elegant experiment. The results of this experiment have been taught to every high school and college biology student for nearly three decades.

Using a system of glass flasks, Miller attempted to simulate the early atmospheric conditions by boiling water which was mixed with ammonia, methane and hydrogen. This chemical mixture was passed by an electrical spark discharge which represented lightning passing through the early atmosphere. At the bottom of the apparatus was a trap to capture any organic molecules made by the reaction. This trap prevented the newly formed chemicals from being destroyed by the next spark. Of course this luxury would not be available on the early earth. Eventually, Miller and Urey were able to produce a mixture containing very simple amino acids.

This experiment was seen by believers as virtual proof that organic chemicals, and ultimately life, could be produced by energy, chance and the early atmospheric assumptions. The gap between inanimate, lifeless matter and life was felt to be bridged by chemistry. Man and all life forms were then just a product of chance, simple chemistry and long time periods. Evolution, according to the purists, could now be taught as a virtual certainty. Stanley Miller's experiment brought scientific respectability to the question of the origin of life and evolutionary thought. A scientific dogma resulted: Time plus matter plus chance can produce people! We now have two generations of students who have been taught



this belief. It is presented as fact, and in some cases, it is taught with the impression that Stanley Miller nearly created life itself in a test tube.

Evolutionist and astronomer Carl Sagan stated:

*The Miller Urey experiment is now recognized as the single most significant step in convincing many scientists that life is likely to be abundant in the cosmos.* 7

Is this optimism justified based on the simple experiment done by Miller and Urey? Evolutionist Robert Shapiro comments on the significance of the Miller-Urey experiments:

*"The very best Miller -Urey chemistry, as we have seen, does not take us very far along the path to a living organism.. A mixture of simple chemicals, even one enriched in a few amino acids, no more resembles a bacterium than a small pile of real and nonsense words, each written on an individual scrap of paper, resembles the complete works of Shakespeare."* 8

We saw earlier the quote by Nobel Laureate Francis Crick:

*"An honest man, armed with all the knowledge available to us now, could only state that in some sense, the origin of life appears at the moment to be almost a miracle, so many are the conditions which would have had to have been satisfied to get it going."*

Quoted from A Skeptics Guide on the Creation of Life, Robert Shapiro, Ph.D.

Harvard biochemist George Wald, in an article in *Scientific American*, in 1954, stated :

*"One has to only contemplate the magnitude of this task to concede that the spontaneous generation of a living organism is impossible. Yet we are here as a result, I believe, of spontaneous generation."*

Quoted from A Skeptics Guide to the Creation of Life Robert Shapiro, Ph.D.

What scientific evidence has come to light that would force such prominent men to make these statements? As we shall see, it is a close examination of the evolutionary assumptions, illuminated by the light of the simple laws of chemistry, physics and mathematical probability, that have led these men to declare that spontaneous generation is impossible. The fact that these men still believe in spontaneous generation can only be explained by faith: The belief in things hoped for, but unseen.

## The Products of the Spark and the Soup

The impact of the Miller-Urey experiment was so dramatic that one often gets the impression that life was nearly produced in a laboratory. Let us examine the actual data and the interpretations to see if this view is justified.

Miller and Urey drew on decades of knowledge from organic chemistry in setting up their experiment. The proportions of the various gases used, the actual apparatus, the intensity of the spark and the chemical trap, were all carefully adjusted to get maximum yield from the experiment.

After a week of electrical discharges in the reaction chamber, the sides of the chamber turned black and the liquid mixture turned cloudy. After the contents were analyzed the predominant product was found to be a gummy black substance that stuck to the reaction chamber. This was made up of multiple carbon atoms strung together in what was essentially tar or resin, a common nuisance in organic reactions. This substance was 85% of the total products. The remaining 15% of the reaction products consisted of thirteen organic chemicals in yields ranging from .25% to 4%. All of the thirteen products were in a class of chemicals known as carboxylic acids. There are an unlimited number of carboxylic acids that could be made. The smallest carboxylic acid possible is formic acid, with only one carbon atom, and in fact, was the most prominent carboxylic acid made with a yield of 4%. This acid is unimportant in most life forms, although it is found in ant venom! Three other carboxylic acids, with three carbon atoms, but unimportant to life were made with a yield of 2.7%. Amino acids, the building blocks of proteins are one type of carboxylic acid. However, no amino acids important to living cells were made on the first attempt.

After rearranging the apparatus, Miller attempted again. Again the experiment yielded 85% tar and 13% carboxylic acids which are unimportant to life. Of the thirteen products produced by the Miller-



Urey experiment there were several amino acids. However, not all amino acids are relevant to life. Only a special set of twenty are found in biology for the construction of life. How many of these were made in significant concentrations? Two. Glycine and alanine, the simplest amino acids found in life. These were the only ones formed in significant quantities, in yields of 1.05% and .85% respectively. If we search the remaining products, we find a number of simple amino acids but in yields so low that their concentrations would be insignificant in a body of water.

#### The Products of the Miller-Urey Experiments

Tar	85%
Carboxylic acids not important to life	13.0%
Glycine	1.05%
Alanine	0.85%
Glutamic acid	trace
Aspartic acid	trace
Valine	trace
Leucine	trace
Proline	trace
Serine	trace
Treonine	trace

There are about fifty organic chemicals we might call building blocks, necessary for the formation of life as we know it. The Miller-Urey experiments yielded two of them in significant amounts! Evolutionist Robert Shapiro stated in 1986:

*"As we have seen, the reaction product bears no resemblance to the actual content of a bacterium, which is an intricate, organized structure built using large molecules."* 9

Many other experimenters have tried to repeat the work of Miller and Urey. Some have done similar "spark and soup" experiments, and others have used a variety of other energy sources. Heat, ultraviolet radiation, light, shock waves and high energy chemical catalysts have been used, with varying degrees of success, in the attempts to create organic chemicals from inorganic ones. This body of work is summarized in detail in the book *The Mystery of Life's Origin* 10. In general, when amino acids have been made, they occur in approximately the same proportion, with glycine and alanine predominating, as in the Miller-Urey experiments. It must be emphasized that the amino acids made in such experiments are structurally the most simple ones found in nature. These simple chemicals have in general only one to three carbon atoms in their structure. Most of the building blocks of life have many more carbon atoms in their structure. We will see later why this severely complicates the origin of life problem.

Many scientists claim that the building blocks of DNA and RNA, called nucleotides, have been formed in such experiments. Nucleotides are one of the building blocks that contain numerous carbon atoms and are therefore much more complex than the simple amino acids made by spark and soup experiments. Regarding the presence of nucleotides in such sources, evolutionist Robert Shapiro stated in his book, *A Skeptics Guide to the Creation of Life*, that the building blocks of DNA and RNA, (i.e. Nucleotides) :

*"have never been reported in any amount in such sources, yet a mythology has emerged that maintains the opposite....I have seen several statements in scientific sources which claim that proteins and nucleic acids themselves have been prepared ....These errors reflect the operation of an entire belief system ...The facts do not support this belief... Such thoughts may be comforting, but they run far ahead of any experimental validation"* 11

## **The Myth of the Prebiotic Soup**

In recent years a number of scientists have spoken out regarding the problems with the Haldane-Oparin prebiotic soup theory and the Miller-Urey experiments. Many of the assumptions of the primordial atmosphere and the products of random chemical processes have been found to be inadequate to explain the origin of life.

## The Oxygen Problem

The atmospheric conditions proposed by Oparin and Haldane were radically different from what we have now. They knew that oxygen would prevent the formation of the building blocks of life. Even if building blocks were formed they would be destroyed instantly by the oxygen. This led Oparin and Haldane to speculate that the early earth had an atmosphere which was "reducing." Such an early atmosphere might contain ammonia(NH<sub>4</sub>), Methane(CH<sub>4</sub>), Water(H<sub>2</sub>O), Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), but no free oxygen(O<sub>2</sub>). Many researchers have attempted to make cellular building blocks using these chemicals as a starting place. However, there are many problems with the assumption that there was no oxygen in the early atmosphere.

## Ozone: Earth's Safety Net

One of the most difficult problems with the assumption of an oxygen free atmosphere is that there would have been no ozone layer over the early earth. Ozone is made of three oxygen atoms bonded together and is currently abundant in our upper atmosphere. Ozone is made when oxygen in the atmosphere interacts with ultraviolet radiation from the sun. Ozone blocks deadly levels ultraviolet radiation from the sun and allows life to persist on earth.



If our current ozone layer were to be suddenly eliminated, all life on earth would perish in a matter of days or weeks.

This lack of ozone is also lethal for organic chemicals such as the building blocks of proteins, RNA and DNA. Without ozone over the earth, the newly formed building blocks of life, amino acids and nucleotides, would be destroyed soon after being produced. It doesn't matter if these newly formed building blocks are in the atmosphere on dry ground or in the waters. Ultraviolet radiation of this intensity would wipe out all of these newly formed building blocks even to a depth of 10 meters under the water.

Calculations have been done to estimate how much oxygen would be needed to form an effective ozone layer. It has been estimated that in order to form an effective ozone layer the oxygen content would need to be at least 10% of the amount in our current atmosphere.<sup>10</sup> However, this same concentration of oxygen is also enough to quickly and effectively wipe out amino acids and nucleotides. Ultraviolet light breaks the chemical bonds of complex molecules such as amino acids and nucleotides making them useless for spontaneous generation.

So we have here a major dilemma. The products of the Urey-Miller experiments would be destroyed if oxygen was present, and they would be destroyed if it wasn't! This catch 22 has been noted by very few evolutionists and is not discussed in biology texts.

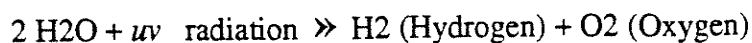
Even if organic chemicals could survive intense ultraviolet light bombardment and form life spontaneously, the survival of cells or any subsequent life forms, would be very doubtful in the presence of such heavy ultraviolet light.

In his book *A Skeptic's Guide to the Creation of Life* Evolutionist Robert Shapiro points out that contemporary living organisms would die from lethal damage to the DNA code if exposed to the same levels of UV radiation that would occur without an ozone layer.

The problem of intense ultraviolet radiation cannot be overstated. If life as we know it cannot live in the presence of this degree of UV radiation, then unprotected amino acids, or any other cellular building block, will be doomed almost immediately after their production.

## Photo Dissociation

The assumption of an oxygen free atmosphere on the early earth is even more unlikely considering the process called photo dissociation. Scientists have discovered that oxygen and hydrogen gas are made when water is bombarded with ultraviolet energy from the sun. This is an efficient process and would have resulted in the production of large quantities of oxygen in the atmosphere in a relatively short time. Studies by the Apollo 16 space team revealed that this process is possibly the major source for the oxygen in our atmosphere.



The existence of such an efficient source of oxygen destroys the assumption of an oxygen free atmosphere and effectively eliminates any possibility of organic building blocks surviving on land or anywhere in the atmosphere.

Finally, the assumption that there was no oxygen in the early environment has been discredited by the fact that geologists have discovered evidence of abundant oxygen content in the oldest known rocks on earth. The existence of red, oxidized rock in the oldest geologic formations known on earth proves that when those rocks were formed that free oxygen was present in the atmosphere. Michael Denton again:

*"Ominously, for believers in the traditional organic soup scenario, there is no clear geochemical evidence to exclude the possibility that oxygen was present in the Earth's atmosphere soon after the formation of it's crust."*<sup>12</sup>

For believers in the "primordial soup", the evidence we have seen simply would not allow it to exist. Building blocks of proteins, DNA and RNA would be destroyed in an oxygen containing atmosphere by oxidation, a process which wipes out the molecules ability to function. However, in the absence of oxygen, intense UV radiation does the same. And as just noted, the assumption of an oxygen free atmosphere is incorrect, because in the presence of UV radiation, water breaks down into oxygen and hydrogen gas.

So we have the dilemma; the spontaneous generation of life cannot occur in the atmosphere or on land, because of the destruction of building blocks by oxygen or ultraviolet radiation, and it cannot happen in water up to a depth of 10 meters because of ultraviolet radiation as well. So scientists have proposed that it must have occurred near deep oceanic vents.

Again, Michael Denton

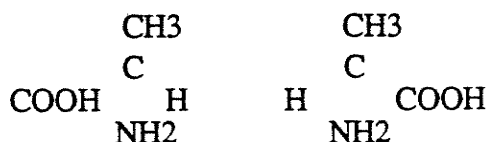
*"Considering the way the prebiotic soup is referred to in so many discussions of the origin of life as an already established reality, it comes as something of a shock to realize that there is absolutely no positive evidence for it's existence."*

*Evolution: A Theory in Crisis*, See chapter, The Myth of the Prebiotic soup

## The Problem of Chirality

Biology students are often taught about the amazing "proof of spontaneous generation" brought forth by the Miller-Urey experiment with no mention, in most cases, about the severe difficulty that molecular chirality poses to the origin of life.

The building blocks of DNA (nucleotides) and proteins (amino acids) are molecules which exists in both right handed and left handed forms. They can be pictured as mirror images of one another. Just as my two hands are mirror images of one another, so are the building blocks of life mirror images of one another. If you hold your left hand up to a mirror and look into it, you notice a right hand in the reflection. This demonstrates that your hands are mirror images of each other. In the same way, if you were to hold a left handed amino acid up to a mirror you would see a right handed reflection. Molecules that exist in both right and left hand forms are said to be *chiral*. This chirality is the result of carbon atoms being chemically bonded to four different substituents. A carbon atom that has four different chemical substituents is said to be an "asymmetric center."



These mirror image chemicals are referred to as dextrorotary (D-form) and levorotary (L-form). These are commonly referred to as the right and left handed forms respectively.

Simple amino acids, such as the one depicted above, have one such carbon atom. Every time you add an additional carbon atom with an asymmetric center you double the number of possible forms of that given molecule.

The nucleotides of the DNA and RNA molecules exists in all life forms in only the right handed form. Nucleotides contain several asymmetric carbon atoms and therefore could exist in dozens of different

forms. However, the nucleotides found in life have their carbon atoms all arranged in a very specific and exact arrangement. This highly specific arrangement is only one of the literally thousands of possible chemical arrangements, or isomers, that could be formed by the atoms in the building blocks of DNA and RNA.

The amino acids which make up virtually all of the proteins in living systems, with very rare exception, occur only in the left handed form.

During the Urey-Miller experiments it was readily acknowledged that the chemical makeup of the products of these experiments consisted of equal portions of left handed and right handed amino acids. No one has ever been able to do a spark and soup experiment which resulted in anything other than 50% left and 50% right handed products. In the case of DNA building blocks (nucleotides), as previously noted by Robert Shapiro, nucleotides have never been produced in any of the Urey-Miller "spark and soup" type experiments. In fact, no one has even come close!

The fact that both L-form and R-form building blocks are produced in equal proportions poses a great difficulty for evolutionists. There is no adequate explanation how a primordial soup composed of equal portions of right handed and left handed building blocks resulted in organisms which have 100% right handed nucleotides and 100% left handed amino acids! Mathematically, random chance would never select such an unlikely pure molecule. If one single left handed nucleotide finds its way into a DNA or RNA molecule, the molecule would lose its normal structure and would cease to function. The same is true for proteins.

Complex molecules such as DNA, RNA and proteins are built by adding one building block at a time onto an ever growing chain. In a "primordial soup" made up of equal proportions of right and left handed "building blocks", you would have an equal probability, at each step, of adding either a right or left handed "building block." It becomes a case of gargantuan special pleading to think that only right handed nucleotides would be added time after time without a single left handed one being added to DNA! Mathematically there is a 50% chance of binding either a right or left handed nucleotide to the growing chain of DNA. \* The smallest known free living life forms, bacteria, have around 12,000,000 nucleotides in their DNA. If we were to calculate the odds of adding 12 million successive right handed nucleotides to the growing chain, without a single left handed one being added, it would be .5 raised to the 12 millionth power!! (.5 <sup>12,000,000</sup>). This calculation doesn't even include the hundreds of proteins that must be built to make a bacterium.

This difficulty is rarely taught to high school and college students, perhaps because of the great difficulty that it poses to the theory of spontaneous generation.

Another interesting fact about complex biological systems is the functioning of enzymes in the growth and metabolism of cells. Enzymes are proteins which act to catalyze and speed up chemical reactions in biological systems. Enzymes are used in the production of DNA, RNA, proteins and most complex biological reactions. Enzymatic reactions occur like a lock and key mechanism. An enzyme (the lock) has a three dimensional highly specific shape which will only allow certain chemicals (the key) to interact and result in a chemical reaction. As noted before, DNA and RNA are made up of right handed nucleotides. These nucleotides fit into enzymes which have an "active site" that can only receive and react with right handed nucleotides. Left handed nucleotides will not fit properly into the active site and result in a chemical reaction. In fact, in some cases the presence of left handed nucleotides will irreversibly damage an enzyme.

This highly complex lock and key mechanism is very difficult to explain from an evolution point of view. A dilute primordial soup of 50% left handed and 50% right handed building blocks, seems to many chemists and physicists, to be an impossible starting point for the development of 100% left handed proteins, 100% right handed DNA or the complex lock and key mechanisms in enzymes.

## Toxic Waste Wipes Out Spontaneous Generation

Anyone who has a significant background in chemistry knows that the presence of impurities in a chemical mixture will ruin a chemical experiment and destroy the function of enzymes. The Miller-Urey experiments contained, as its major products, "chemical junk", such as the tar and thousands of other organic hydrocarbons and acids. This mixture contains what could be compared to 97.5% chemical

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\* In practice, laboratory experiments have shown that right handed building blocks have a slightly greater affinity, or attraction, for other right handed building blocks. Therefore, at each step in the addition of another building block there is a 3/7 chance that the next one added will be the same as the one previously added.

waste. This is the kind of chemical poison that the US. government is spending billions of dollars to clean up in neighborhoods all around the country. Why are they cleaning it up? Because it is toxic to humans. Why is it toxic? Because it damages DNA, causing cancer, and it poisons our enzymes by irreversibly binding to the active site. The result: Death! So how could life have started in a watery environment that contained largely lethal chemical pollution?

Assuming a body of water filled with DNA, RNA and protein building blocks could survive the presence of oxygen or destruction by intense UV radiation, any proteins would then have to survive the damaging effect of billions of enzyme inhibiting chemicals produced by the spark. Any "primordial soup" body of water would be filled with these "side reaction products" and would prevent the functioning of DNA, RNA and proteins. Not to mention the fact that no living cell on earth can survive in an environment filled with what amounts to the equivalent of a crude oil spill with toxic acids! Yet this is essentially what is made as the major product in the Miller-Urey type experiments.

## Saved By The Trap!

A problem seldom noted by textbooks and educators is that the chemical reactions that formed these building blocks in the Miller-Urey experiments are reversible. The same processes that cause the formation of organic "building blocks" will also destroy those same building blocks unless they are removed from the environment where they were formed. This was foreseen by Miller and Urey, so they included an amino acid trap that removed the newly formed chemicals before the next spark. Of course this luxury would not be available on the early earth. Those same lightning bolts, hot under sea vents, or waves of energy from the sun that formed the building blocks of life, would immediately destroy those same chemicals if they are not immediately removed from the environment.

## The Rocks Speak

For over twenty years geologists have searched the oldest rocks on earth for signs of organic chemicals formed in the Prebiotic soup. To date, they have done so in vain. Evolutionist Michael Denton points out in his book, *Evolution: A Theory in Crisis*:

*"Rocks of great antiquity have been examined over the last two decades and in none of them has any trace of abiotically produced organic compounds been found"*<sup>13</sup>

## Equilibrium; The Villain of the Plot

So far we have seen that the building blocks DNA are not produced at all by spark and soup experiments. Amino acids can be produced in very low yields, but would be destroyed with or without the presence of oxygen. We have seen that it is a mathematical miracle for one to think that a 100% left handed long chain molecule could result from a soup that contained 50% right and 50% left handed molecules. And if this were not enough, life could not exist in an environment that contained the chemical pollution which is the main product of the Miller-Urey type experiments. Despite all this evidence against the existence of a viable soup, I'll give it to you any way, for the purpose of our next argument.

Even if a thick soup of "building blocks" was able to accumulate from Miller-Urey like assumptions, these building blocks would need to combine into long chains of bonded molecules to form DNA, RNA and proteins. These molecules are made by the addition of one building block at a time and result in a gradual lengthening of the chain. Each amino acid or nucleotide that is added generates a molecule of water, H<sub>2</sub>O, a process called a dehydration reaction.

A major problem for believers in spontaneous generation is that the reactions that form these long chains are reversible reactions! Building blocks are broken off of the chain just as easily as they are added. So that the building blocks, if they survived, would constantly be combining and uncombining in the soup. This constant combining and un-combining of the chemicals proceeds until a state of equilibrium is reached. Lets look at an example to get a feel for the concept of equilibrium.

The concept of equilibrium is one in which we are all familiar, even if you've never taken a chemistry course. In any broth or solution, we notice that there is the tendency for the materials to become evenly

distributed with time. For example, a drop of red food dye dropped into a container of water gradually turns the entire solution a dilute red color. The larger the volume of the solvent (e.g. the water in our dye experiment) the more dilute will be the solution once the dye particles have become evenly distributed. This tendency for chemicals to become evenly distributed in solutions is referred to as the development of equilibrium.

As we saw in the Miller-Urey experiment, the two amino acids produced were in concentrations of less than 2%. As noted above, the processes that created the amino acids will break them down as well. Given the fact that solutions always go towards a state of maximum diluteness (equilibrium) as well as the fact that the chemicals formed are being broken down by excessive ultraviolet radiation, oxygen or electricity, it is very difficult to imagine how a primordial soup could ever become concentrated enough for building blocks of DNA and proteins to ever come in significant contact with each other.

Equilibrium results in the building blocks diffusing away from their site of origin in an attempt to equilibrate the solution. This equilibration process, along with the rapid breakdown of nucleotides and amino acids, makes it almost biochemically impossible to imagine how, in a watery environment, biochemical precursors could combine, stay combined and continue to build upon each other in the face of the concept of chemical equilibrium.

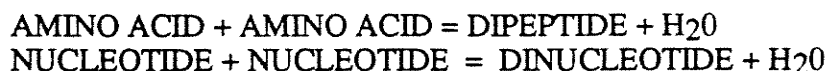
The reversibility of biochemical reactions is a concept to which is well known to all chemistry students but rarely discussed in the context of the spontaneous generation of life.

During the formation of complex biochemical structures such as proteins and DNA, the biochemical reactions are not only reversible but tend to go in the direction of the lower energy state. This lowest energy state, in the case of most biological reactions, is the state of greatest randomness. In the case of long chain molecules like DNA and proteins, the lowest energy state, is a chemical broth consisting of the individual un-bonded building blocks separate from one another and not in long chains. Just as concentrated red dye will disperse when dropped into water, building blocks of DNA and protein will also diffuse until equilibrium is reached. At this point you would have billions of water molecules for every one building block.

We noted that in the ideal conditions of the Miller-Urey experiments, the concentrations of the only two amino acids formed were less than 2%. The reaction conditions were hardly the result of random chance either. They were carefully designed by the experimenters as they adjusted the concentration of the reaction chemicals so that the best possible products could be obtained. The formula used by Miller and Urey was time, plus matter, plus energy, plus biochemical expertise! Chance was eliminated from the experiment. Biochemical expertise is not part of the evolutionists formula for the origin of life. Chance is the antithesis of biochemical expertise!

## H<sub>2</sub>O: Washes Up Spontaneous Generation

In the previous section we noted that when DNA and protein "building blocks" are combined, a molecule of water is generated. At the same time it is true that when two "building blocks" uncombine, a molecule of water is absorbed from the broth. This seldom discussed fact poses a great difficulty for the origin of life by spontaneous generation.



In previous sections we have seen that neither air nor land are safe havens for the newly formed building blocks of life. This is of course because of their certain destruction by oxygen or intense UV radiation. So, believers in spontaneous generation have concluded that perhaps some deep sea vent, safe from oxygen and UV radiation, was the site for spontaneous generation.

Although a water environment may at first seem like a safe place for the formation of life, it is the water that ultimately creates perhaps the most difficult problem for spontaneous generation on planet earth.

Every first-year chemistry student is taught that reversible chemical reactions will never proceed in a direction that produces a product that is already present in excess amounts in the reaction vessel. This is called the law of mass action.

As we can see by the reaction above, in order to make a long chain of nucleotides or amino acids, one will generate a large number of water molecules. The problem with the oceanic vent theory is that there is already an abundance of water. According to the law of mass action, a reaction occurring in an environment with excess amounts of water will never go in the direction which is going to produce more

water. In fact, the laws of chemistry and thermodynamics demand that the reaction go in the opposite direction!

So we have a dilemma. Oxygen and UV radiation eliminate the possibility of life forming on land and water eliminates the possibility of forming any long chains of nucleotides or amino acids in the ocean or any body of water. So, how and where on earth did the building blocks of DNA and protein combine into long chains without being exposed to oxygen or water? This dilemma is not often discussed in college chemistry or evolution classes, but is a well known dilemma to origins researchers.

This devastating dilemma has led some researchers to conclude that DNA, RNA and proteins must not have been the chemicals upon which the first life was built made. But there is not one shred of evidence for this. This is simply the rampant speculation of men trying to cling to a paradigm that has exploded in their face. We might as well invoke the tooth fairy or some other supernatural force as the cause for life. But this is not science. After all, wasn't evolution supposed to eliminate the need for a supernatural cause?

## The Chicken or the Egg

Any discussion of the origin of life would not be complete without a look at the greatest paradox of all: What came first; DNA or the proteins essential for the production of DNA?

The DNA molecule, Deoxyribonucleic Acid, was discovered in 1953 by Lyall Watson and Francis Crick. They later received the Nobel Prize in Biology for their efforts. During the last four decades since it's discovery, scientists have discovered many of the highly complex systems involved in the production and duplication of DNA. It has been conclusively proven that the DNA molecule is a spiral double helix (like a long ladder that has been twisted). We also know that it requires as many as twenty enzymes (specific proteins) to make a copy of itself. It has also been believed that DNA codes for the production of all proteins. So which came first: The DNA or the proteins necessary to make DNA. In order to make DNA you need highly specific proteins, each with their own assignment. But you cannot have these highly functional proteins unless you have a system in place to code for and build them in the first place. And that means DNA.

The process of copying a DNA molecule is very complex and will only be summarized here. First the DNA molecule must be unwound by a highly specific enzyme designed for this job. Once uncoiled, another set of enzymes "unzips" the DNA into its two halves. After this has begun, another enzyme comes along and brings the necessary nucleotide building blocks to duplicate the DNA. After the DNA has been copied, another enzyme moves along the two newly produced molecules and screens for copying errors. If an error is found, known as a mutation, then that nucleotide is removed and the proper one is put in its place. Then, still more enzymes recoil the DNA into it's tightly wound form. As stated above, there are at least twenty enzymes necessary for this process. The copying process for the six billion nucleotides in a human cell can take only an hour or less. Many modern computers can't copy a piece of code six billion letters long in that amount of time with the same accuracy! This entire system is a complex digital code. The DNA code stores information for the production of all the characteristics of living creatures including color of the hair, color of the eyes, color of the skin, the size, shape, structure and function of all the organs in the body. This is accomplished by translating DNA into another highly complex molecule called Ribonucleic Acid (RNA). RNA then translates the DNA's instructions into the production of proteins using an apparatus called a Ribosome. This protein production machinery is no simple apparatus. The ribosome is a complex three dimensional protein structure as well. The ribosome translates the instructions on the RNA molecule and bonds together the appropriate sequence of amino acids. The result is a highly specific three dimensional structure: a protein. This amazingly complex mechanism for the transcription and translation of DNA, as well as the production of proteins, is as complex in detail as any man-made manufacturing process in the world.

We are asked to believe that this highly complex machinery arose as the result of chance. The problem that has become obvious is this: How did DNA arise, with it's information, instructions, codes and programs, without the existence of the necessary proteins to make it? The problem is obvious. You can't make DNA without proteins; But you can't make proteins without DNA! No adequate solution to this problem has been proposed.

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\* In recent years it has been proposed that RNA was perhaps the first molecule that functioned as the code of life. DNA and proteins then supposedly evolved from RNA. However, all of the destructive processes(oxygen, ultraviolet radiation,



## The Odds

The above difficulties with the Urey-Miller primordial soup hypothesis have led some very prestigious scientists to calculate the probabilities of the origin of life by chance in such a primordial soup. Sir Frederick Hoyle, a world famous astronomer, knighted by the Queen of England, along with some graduate students, set out to calculate the probability of the origin of a single bacterium, by chance in a primordial soup. Using the laws of chemistry, probability, thermodynamics and a super computer, they calculated the odds of the spontaneous generation of the simplest known free-living life form on earth- a bacterium. Prior to this project, Hoyle was a firm believer in the spontaneous generation of life. This project however, changed his opinion 180 degrees.

Hoyle and his associates knew that the smallest conceivable free-living life form needed at least 2000 independent functional proteins in order to accomplish cellular metabolism and reproduction. Starting with the hypothetical primordial soup, which in Hoyle's experiment contained all the 20 necessary amino acids, he calculated the probability of the spontaneous generation of just the proteins of a single amoebae. He determined that the probability of such a feat is one chance in ten to the 40 thousandth power i.e. 1 in  $10^{40,000}$ ! The number one with 40,000 zeros after it.

Mathematicians tell us that if an event has a probability of greater than one chance in  $10^{50}$ , then that event is mathematically impossible, and if it were to occur it would be considered a miracle! Consider that to win a state lottery you have odds of about 1 in  $10^7$ . The odds of winning the state lottery every single week of your life from age 18 to age 99 is 1 in  $4.6 \times 10^{29,120}$ . If you won the state lottery every week consecutively for eighty years this would be more likely than the spontaneous generation of just the proteins of an amoebae!

In the calculations Hoyle assumed that the primordial soup consisted only of left handed amino acids. As we noted before, all of the Miller-Urey spark and soup experiments always yielded 50% left and 50% right handed building blocks. Hoyle knew that if the soup consisted of equal portions right and left handed molecules, called a racemic mixture, that the mathematical probability of the origin of pure left handed proteins and pure right handed DNA would be exactly zero!

After completing these calculations Hoyle stated that the probability of the spontaneous generation of a single bacteria:

*"is about the same as the probability that a tornado sweeping through a junk yard could assemble a 747 from the contents therein."*  
*Nature*, vol. 294, no 5837, November 1981.

This research also led Hoyle to say:

*"The likelihood of the formation of life from inanimate matter is one to a number with 40 thousand knots after it. It is enough to bury Darwin and the whole theory of evolution. There was no primeval soup neither on this planet nor on any other, and if the beginnings of life were not random they must therefore have been the product of purposeful intelligence."*  
*Nature*, vol. 294, no 5837, November 1981.

Hoyle's calculations may seem impressive, but they don't even begin to approximate the difficulty of the task. In his calculations, he only calculated the probability of the spontaneous generation of the proteins in the cell. He did not calculate the chance formation of the DNA, RNA or the cell wall that holds the contents of the cell together!

A more realistic estimate for spontaneous generation has been made by Harold Morowitz, a Yale University physicist. \* Morowitz imagined a broth of living bacteria that were super heated so that all the complex chemicals were broken down into their basic building blocks. Then after cooling the mixture, he calculated that chance that a single bacterium might re-assemble. The answer computed

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equilibrium and the water problem discussed above) pertain to the formation of RNA as well. So the RNA molecule fares better as an early "code" molecule.

\* *Energy Flow in Biology*, Harold Morowitz (New York: Academic Press, 1968).



1 one chance in  $10^{100,000,000,000}$ ! This number is so large that it would require several thousand blank books just to write out this number. According to this calculation, you and your entire extended family are more likely to win the lottery every week for a hundred years than to form a bacterium by chance.

In his book, A Skeptics Guide to the Creation of Life, Robert Shapiro gives a very realistic illustration of how one might estimate the odds of the spontaneous generation of life. Using the assumption that the earth is 4-5 Billion years old, and that life has been on the earth for 3.5 Billion years, he allows one billion years ( $5 \times 10^{14}$  minutes) for the amount of time available for life to arrive by chance. Next he notes that a simple bacterium can make a copy of itself in twenty minutes, but assumes that the first life was much simpler. So he allows each trial assembly of a bacterium to last one minute, so we would have  $5 \times 10^{14}$  trial assemblies in 1 billion years to make a bacterium. Next he allows the entire ocean to be used as the reaction chamber. If we divided the ocean into reaction flasks the size of a bacterium we would have  $10^{36}$  separate reaction flasks. If each reaction flask were to be filled with all the necessary building blocks of life, and be allowed to go through one minute trial assemblies for one billion years, we would have  $10^{51}$  tries. According to Morowitz we need  $10^{100,000,000,000}$  trial assemblies!

Regarding the probabilities calculated by Morowitz, Robert Shapiro wrote:

*"The improbability involved in generating even one bacterium is so large that it reduces all considerations of time and space to nothingness. Given such odds, the time until the black holes evaporate and the space to the ends of the universe would make no difference at all. If we were to wait, we would be truly be waiting for a miracle."* Skeptics guide pg 128

Despite these incredible odds, and the seemingly insurmountable problems we have discussed, spontaneous generation is taught as a fact from grammar school to university. In fact, NASA scientists reported to the press in 1991 that life spontaneously arose not once, but multiple times, because previous attempts were wiped out by cosmic catastrophes! \* The reason for this fanatical adherence to spontaneous generation is eloquently pointed out by Professor George Wald, Ph.D., from Harvard University, evolutionist and winner of the Nobel Prize for biology:

*"When it comes to the origin of life there are only two possibilities; Creation or spontaneous generation. There is no third way. Spontaneous generation was disproved one hundred years ago, but that leads us to only one other conclusion, that of supernatural creation. We cannot accept that on philosophical grounds; therefore, we choose to believe the impossible: That life arose spontaneously by chance!"*

Quoted in A Skeptics Guide to the Creation of Life, Robert Shapiro

So George Wald says that it's not a matter of the evidence; it's a matter of philosophy! Evolutionists do not like, and cannot accept the alternative: that all the life on earth was created by a transcendent superior being. Why? Because special creation implies we are not on top of an evolutionary tree and we are subject to that higher being.

## The Origin of Codes and Programs

So far we have seen that the primordial soup is mere wishful thinking because life's building blocks aren't safe on land, air and even if they could survive the destructive effects of oxygen and UV radiation, they would never form long chains, called polymers, in a water environment. As we read, the law of mass action prevents the formation, in a reversible reaction, of any substance that already exists in excess. Since water is produced when life's building blocks are combined, this reaction will never go in the net direction of forming long chains of life's building blocks. Secondly, equilibrium forces molecules in a solution to disperse and not form long chains.

Despite all of these barriers to the formation of DNA, RNA and proteins, for the sake of argument, I'll allow that somewhere on earth, long chains of DNA arose spontaneously by chance! Understand that here I'm essentially allowing a mathematical miracle.

The question is now this: Would the DNA molecule, that for the sake of argument arose by chance, have any codes, programs, instructions or information on it? Let us examine this question next.

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\* Readers Digest May 1991.

## Encyclopedia on a Pinhead: Chance or Design

Modern day information engineers have examined the genetic code and come to the conclusion that it is a digital coding system. The amount of information in the fertilized egg, at the moment of conception, has been estimated to contain the equivalent of six billion letters. This is enough to fill all the volumes of the Encyclopedia Britannica in print so small you would need a microscope to read it! If you were to print on paper all the letters in all the DNA in your entire body, in print this size, single spaced text and print on both sides of the paper, you could fill the entire Grand Canyon with the books you've written!!!

The DNA coding system can be compared to the coding system involved in the production of music on a compact disc. The music on a compact disc can only be appreciated if you have a language convention established for the translation of the information on the disc. Appropriate machinery, which functions to translate that code into music, is also required for the music to be played. In a compact disc player, this decoding process involves dozens of electronic and moving parts. In the living cell it isn't much different. The information on the DNA code, as we have seen, gives the instructions for the production of all the structures and functions of the human body.

When one looks at a compact disc, we see no evidence of the information content on the disc's surface. We simply see the pretty rainbow color effect on the surface of the disc. Without the knowledge of the language convention on the disc, and the machinery to translate it, we must simply be content with the pretty rainbow surface. This is exactly the same dilemma we face with the genetic code.

If you look simply at the sequence of nucleotides on the DNA molecule, they simply have the appearance of a long chain of chemicals and not the appearance of a message system or a code. Why? It is only when you know the language convention and have the machinery available to translate the coded information on the DNA molecule, that it becomes understandable. Therefore, the problem for evolutionists, is trying to explain how a language convention and the necessary cellular components to translate the information arose by chance. Information engineers know that language conventions will not, can not, and do not arise by chance. Every information engineer or computer programmer knows that chance must be eliminated if one is to successfully write a code or program.

By allowing you the spontaneous generation of long chains of DNA, what would you have? Are those chains of nucleotides a code or a program? Of course not. What you have is an admittedly complex chemical which has the potential of carrying a code or information!

When one goes to his local computer store and buys a blank computer floppy disc, what have you purchased? Have you purchased a code or program? No! You have purchased a chemical medium which has the potential of carrying a code or a program. The floppy disc must be formatted by a computer which was in turn programmed to do this procedure. The code or program is not inherent to the iron atoms present in the disc. The abstract concept called "the program" is placed on the disc from an intelligent source who is outside and separate from it.

By giving you spontaneously derived DNA, I have essentially given you blank floppy discs! In order for the DNA molecule to carry information, its molecules need to be arranged in a specific sequence which is predetermined by the code or language convention. But the language convention must exist first. A language convention is an abstract concept that does not exist inherently in the matter upon which it is written. A code, a program or language convention has no mass, no energy, no form or shape. It is an idea or concept which is an abstract entity which only comes from an intelligent source - a mind!

Another way to demonstrate this concept is with the Morse code. If I were to hold up a rope in which I tied knots in the sequence dot-dot-dot-dash-dash-dash-dot-dot-dot, and if you were knowledgeable in the Morse code, you would know that this means SOS, and that I am in trouble. If I take that rope to a tribe of Indians in South America and show it to them, they will see nothing but a rope with knots tied on it. There will be no information content transmitted to them without the knowledge of the language convention we call the Morse code.

Similarly, if I were to take a book written in English and hand it to them, it would make absolutely no sense without a knowledge of the English language convention. Just like the knots on the rope, the 26 letters of the English language have no inherent information in them. Their shapes are meaningless. It is when you "shepherd" the letters into specific sequences (determined by the previously existent language

convention), that their non-random arrangement begins to have meaning. Unless the language convention exists first, the arrangement of the letters can have no meaning.

## Codes by Chance?

The difficulty of the question of the origin of life really comes down to a question of the origin of the codes, programs, concepts, information, and the teleonomy (purposeful design) that has been placed on the DNA molecule. There will always be new theories on the origin of chemicals capable of storing information. But theories on the origin of codes, programs and intelligence are few and far between. Materialists protest when they hear creationists claim the codes and programs can only be the result of intelligence (although most information engineers have no problem with this statement).

Perhaps the most celebrated theories on the origin of codes by chance come from materialist Manfred Eigen. In his book *Das Spiel*, Eigen attempts to show how a code or program might develop by chance. Eigen argues that if the letters of the genetic code can arise by chance, then why not the words, sentences, paragraphs and the entire book.

Eigen's theory goes something like this: Imagine a machine that is filled with letters which arose by chance. This machine has the ability to randomly shuffle and combine letters for millions of years without breaking down. After examining the volumes of randomly generated letters we find some rather amazing combinations. The machine has generated "AND", "MAN", "DOG", "CAT", "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want...." We stand back and see that, indeed, this machine has generated meaningful sentences. Eigen argues that this is proof of the random chance formation of information. Well, is this true?

A.E. Wilder-Smith in his book, *The Natural Sciences Know Nothing of Evolution*, beautifully demonstrates the fallacy of this type of argument. Wilder-Smith invites a non-English speaking friend from Switzerland to examine the output of the machine. Again the machine puts out some of the highly unlikely sequences such as "HAT", "FISH", "BOY" etc.. His Swiss friend stares at the machine with a blank look, quite unlike the smile an Englishman might carry. The Englishman stands amazed at the randomly generated information and a meaningful code. Our Swiss friend points out that the sequences have no meaning to him because he has no knowledge of the English language convention. Eigen's argument that information has been generated is entirely dependent on the highly unlikely, but admittedly random sequences, being interpreted in the framework of a previously existing language convention we call the English Language.

Wilder-Smith points out that the letters have meaning only when we "hang" the rules and the conventions of a language system on the sequences themselves. Just as dots and dashes are meaningless without a knowledge of the Morse code, so too are the random arrangements of any letters, chemicals, beads, magnetic medium meaningless without rules and conventions by which we interpret the sequences. Language conventions are essentially rules which result when at least two intelligent beings make an agreement that certain sequences of letters, beads on a string or sequence of nucleotides have a particular meaning. Therefore, a language convention, with its rules and regulations must be devised first. These rules and regulations are the foundation or basis for the language or code. So the question of the origin of life really boils down to the question of the origin of codes and programs!

In thinking about the development of an information storage and retrieval system there is another decision that must be made. One must decide what medium will your message system will be tied too. Some message systems use letters in a book, knots on a rope or iron atoms on a floppy disc. So the creator of the genetic code must have consciously and systematically developed and planned not only the code and the programs but also the actual medium(DNA/RNA) upon which the program will be carried. Then the necessary hardware to translate the code into actual end products must be conceived and designed as well. In the case of living cells, the DNA is the software or instruction manual that carries the code and programs and the RNA protein synthesis system is the hardware or machinery that translates the instructions into the end products.

For evolutionists to imply that the language convention, we call the genetic code, can arise by chance, by the random combining and un-combining of nucleotides, in a primordial soup, is equivalent to saying that the ink on a page of a book wrote that book and not an intelligent source which is outside and separate from the book!

The nucleotides that combine to produce the DNA are equivalent to the black dots of ink that combine to make the letters of text and ultimately the words, the sentences, the paragraphs, and chapters

of the book. Everyone knows that the ink cannot, and will never, no matter how much time, write a book by itself. However, this is exactly what evolutionists have proposed in saying that random, senseless, unintelligent nucleotides can by chance produce a language convention called the genetic code. This problem is recognized by information engineers and is the greatest difficulty in explaining the origin of life.

## The Monkey and the Typewriter

The argument over the origin of the code of life goes back to the late 1800's, long before the actual chemical that codes for life was discovered. In 1860 Archbishop Wilberforce debated evolutionist Aldous Huxley on this very topic. Evolutionists had argued that given enough time anything was possible, even the origin of complex codes and information for the production of life. Creationists had argued where you see design and codes you must have a designer or an architect for that code.

During the debate Aldous Huxley asked for several assumptions to be allowed. He asked for six monkeys that would live forever. He asked for six typewriters that would never wear out. He asked for an unlimited supply of paper, and he asked for an unlimited supply of ink. He then proceeded to argue that these monkeys, given an infinite amount of time, would eventually type all of the books in the British Library, based on the laws of probability. Using the mathematical law of probability he showed that if time ("T") is infinite, then the probability ("P") of an event happening is equal to one (1). That is, the probability of any event occurring is one hundred percent if the time allowed is infinite. Bishop Wilberforce argued eloquently that structures such as machines and codes, which exhibit tremendous evidence of design, need to have a designer. However, he was unable, at the time, to see the flaws in Huxley's argument and in the eyes of the spectators, lost the debate and never debated this topic again.

Again, A. E. Wilder-Smith, Ph.D., in his book *The Natural Sciences Know Nothing of Evolution*, shows that the typewriter Huxley used was not an accurate representation of how the code of life would be written. According to Wilder-Smith, a more appropriate typewriter to demonstrate biological reactions would be one in which the ink is placed on the paper with the key stroke, and when the key stroke is released the ink jumps back onto the hammer of the typewriter and leaves the paper reversibly! This is, in fact, a more accurate demonstration of what happens in biological reactions.

Any first year chemistry student is taught that biological reactions, such as the combining of amino acids and nucleotides are reversible and always tends towards equilibrium. As discussed above, equilibrium is the state of lowest energy, highest disorder i.e. highest entropy state.

Therefore, for the typewriter argument to be valid, we must have a typewriter that places the letters on and off the paper with equal ease. In a chemical medium of amino acids or nucleotides, combining and un-combining, according to the laws of mass action and equilibrium, you will have "typed" as much in one minute as you would in 5 billion years!

Therefore, if the steps on a path are all equally reversible, the existence of long time periods does nothing to increase the probability of rare events happening! If every time you add a letter to a piece of paper, the letter comes off just as easily as it went on, no matter how much time passes, you won't have progressed. The problem is even worse for biological systems because our chemical reactions "un-type" far more efficiently than they "type in!"

## Time The Hero of The Plot ?

One of the primary foundations upon which the evolutionary scenario rests, is the belief that given a long enough time period, anything can happen. George Wald, Ph.D., Nobel Laureate, from Harvard University, said in a scientific American Article in 1954,

*"Time is in fact the hero of the plot. Given so much time the impossible becomes possible, the possible probable, and the probable virtually certain. One has only to wait: Time itself performs the miracles."* <sup>14</sup>

Whenever one questions the plausibility or probability of the origin of complex molecules, the magic ingredient of time is usually invoked. The second law of thermodynamics, mathematical probability and equilibrium are often left out of discussion of spontaneous generation, with the assumption that the magic ingredient, time, will overcome these negative forces. Is this time assumption reasonable?

As we have seen, the mathematical probabilities involved in the formation of the DNA and proteins are astronomical. Equilibrium always tends to push chemical reactions in the direction of the lowest energy state and the highest degree of disorder. In order for spontaneous generation to take place, the exact opposite must occur. Randomly ordered molecules must spontaneously overcome first the second law of thermodynamics, which says all things go towards disorder, and secondly the concept of equilibrium, in order to form complex highly structured biological molecules.

This problem has been recognized and honestly discussed by only a few evolutionists. Dr. Harold F. Blum in 1955 wrote a book called, Times Arrow and Evolution in which he states:

*"I think if I were rewriting this chapter on the origin of life completely I should want it to change the emphasis somewhat. I should want it to play down still more the importance of a great amount of time available for highly improbable events to occur. One may take the view that the greater the time elapsed the greater should be the approach to equilibrium, the most probable state, and it seems that this ought to take precedence in our thinking over the idea that time provides the possibility for the occurrence of the highly improbable."* <sup>15</sup>

Blum recognizes that allowing greatly increased time spans for an improbable biological equilibrium reaction will not increase the probability of the production of an improbable end product. Blum is here effectively saying that time is not the evolutionists magic bullet. In effect he is saying that time is actually the enemy of the spontaneous generation plot. The longer the time periods the more likely the chemical primordial soup is going to tend towards equilibrium. And this equilibrium state is not a state where you would find end products of highly complex chemicals such as DNA, RNA and proteins. The equilibrium state, in biological reactions, is in fact, the existence of largely un-bonded building blocks in solution. The bonded building blocks are the exception and not the rule.

The argument that Huxley, and many other evolutionists put forward, that long time periods is the magic ingredient for the spontaneous origin of life, is totally contradicted by Dr. Blum and other evolutionists. The books hypothetically typed out by the monkey's typewriters are stable end products and do not decompose into their individual letters. The building blocks in biological reactions, however, are constantly combining and uncombining. It is this fact of reversibility which invalidates the mathematical argument of Huxley.

## ET The Sower of Life ?

In the last couple decades a number of world renown scientists, including astronomer Sir Fredrick Hoyle and Nobel Laureate, Francis Crick, Ph.D., have recognized the severe difficulties we have discussed and have proposed a radical new idea for the origin of life on earth- Life on earth came from outer space!

Crick, the co-discoverer of DNA in the 1950's is one of the most knowledgeable and respected molecular biologist in the world. In 1973 Francis Crick and Leslie Orgil published a book in which they discussed the difficulty of the spontaneous origin of life. <sup>16</sup>The conclusion in Crick's book was that with the known laws of chemistry, biology, physics, thermodynamics and mathematical probability it is virtually impossible that life could have arisen by chance in a primordial soup on planet earth at any time in history! Similar conclusions were drawn by Hoyle in his book *Evolution From Space*.<sup>17</sup>

Since natural forces on earth couldn't do it, one might suspect that these men would therefore invoke a supernatural intelligence for the origin of life. However, this was not the case. Both men concluded that, since life could not have arisen by chance, then it must have been delivered to planet earth billions of years ago by aliens from another planet or by meteorites!

The frightening thing here is that these men, and their collaborators, are some of the most respected scientists of the last thirty years in the fields of modern molecular biology and astronomy.

That these great minds have admitted that the primordial soup theory is totally inadequate to explain our origin and that none of the earth based ideas proposed for the origin of life are probable is very embarrassing to some evolutionists. It is also disheartening, to evolutionists, that these two men say we need to look outside of planet earth for the origin of life. The problem with this idea, as I see it, is that they have only placed the question of the origin of DNA, RNA, proteins, codes and programs back one more planet.

If we were in fact seeded by intelligent beings from another planet, this theory doesn't explain the origin of those beings and the code of life that they possess. In order to make such a theory credible,

they must assume that the laws of chemistry, biology, thermodynamics, and mathematical probability are different elsewhere in the universe. This thought is totally inconsistent with our current knowledge of the universe at this time.

## Science as Religion

For science, it is a sad state of affairs when some of the world's most prominent scientists are forced to conclude that life on earth had an extraterrestrial origin. By invoking such a cause they are admitting that natural laws, acting on matter with long time periods will not result in highly organized machines. If natural laws on earth cannot produce life then you have only two other possible explanations for how life arose. One must assume that either the laws of nature are different somewhere else in the universe or that life is the product of a supernatural first cause. Regarding the first option, there is not a shred of evidence that the laws of nature are different anywhere else in the universe. To invoke such an explanation is certainly not an appeal to a "natural" cause, it is an appeal to an un-natural cause, i.e. an appeal to the supernatural. We might as well invoke the Tooth Fairy or Santa Claus. To propose that the laws of physics, chemistry and mathematics are different somewhere else in the universe is really an appeal to an unprovable, untestable, unobservable, supernatural first cause.

By default we have arrived at the third option-a miraculous, supernatural, i.e. metaphysical cause for life on earth. But wait a minute. The theory of spontaneous generation is an attempt to explain away a supernatural cause for the origin of life. Yet we have arrived at the place where scientists are appealing to just such a cause. Just as the evidence for the origin of the universe pointed to a supernatural cause, so does the evidence for the origin of life point to an intelligent designer. This designer must demonstrate he exists outside our time-space domain and he must be able to infuse intelligent design onto matter to create codes, programs, and therefore life. The God of the Bible fulfills both of these requirements. He demonstrates that he exists outside time and declares that he used his intelligent design through his Son, Jesus Christ, to make the universe and all life in it.

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.* John 1:1-3

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# The Bible

## Proofs of It's Supernatural Origin

### History=His Story

As a student in college I was taught that the Bible was no more than an impressive collection of legends and myths intermingled with a little true history. I was told that there was no archaeological or historical evidence to support the Bible. I was told that the prophecies that had come true were actually written after the fact. For well over a hundred years university professors in Europe, the United States and the communist world have hammered at the reliability and accuracy of the Bible. They laugh when you suggest that the Bible is the word of God. In the past 150 years, during this "age of enlightenment", the belief that the Bible is an uninspired, unreliable book of myths and fairy tales is passed from generation to generation like a family heirloom. Generations of people have swallowed this "party line" seemingly unquestioned. Yet, when you ask people why they believe that the Bible is not believable you usually find that they simply believe this because they were told so and most admit that they have never read it. This was my attitude for nearly two decades.

Years after graduating from college I began my own search to see if there is any evidence that the Bible is indeed the word of God. The evidence I discovered was astonishing and changed my entire view of the history of the universe. What is presented here is only a small part of that evidence. My hope is that, rather than taking the word of your professor, this introduction will stir you to search further.\*

Assuming that this universe, and it's contents, are the products of a transcendent, designer, creator, we must next ask ourselves how the Creator could demonstrate conclusively, to the inhabitants of this universe, that he does exist. I have often wondered why God doesn't pull back the veil and stick his face thru the sky and introduce himself to each generation. However practical as this may seem, most of us have not seen such an event in our life time.\*

We live in a universe with three dimensions of space and one dimension of time. These attributes of the universe are created dimensions and are inseparable. That is, according to Einstein's theory of relativity, you cannot have time without space because they are coupled. Physicists no longer speak of space and time as separate entities. Because of the coupling of time and space, physicists speak of "Spacetime." Additionally, matter as we know it is coupled to time and space. Therefore, the physical universe consists of basically three things: Space, time and matter. Anyone claiming to be the Creator of these physical properties must be able demonstrate that He exists outside and separate from them. The God of the Bible demonstrates that He is the Creator by doing just that: demonstrating that He exists outside of our dimensions of time and space.

We humans are irreversibly trapped in this time domain and can only know the present and the past. It is impossible, under natural circumstances, to know anything that is in the future of our time line, except death and taxes of course!

If we received information about an event in our future it could only come from a source that existed outside our time domain. Under natural conditions no such message could be received. Since this could not be from a natural source, it must be, by default, a supernatural source. Such a source would have to have the ability to exist in our dimensions of time and space, as well as outside those dimensions. This is exactly where the God of the Bible claims He dwells. The Bible is the only book on planet earth that can demonstrate that it's text comes from a being who exists outside our time domain. It does this by telling us things before they happen with incredible accuracy. This evidence, as well as the scientific foreknowledge we saw in chapter one, are powerful evidences for the supernatural origin of the Bible. Skeptical? Read on.

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\* See acts 17:11 where the Bible tells you to check out things with all diligence before you believe the opinion of any man

\* I have had a few patients that have claimed to have seen such an event, however, most of these people have thick medical charts in the psychiatry dept.



# The Destruction of Tyre

In the year 595 B.C. a man named Ezekiel was given a prophecy regarding the ancient city of Tyre, a city in the modern day country of Lebanon. At that time Tyre was a large thriving city and a great enemy of Israel. He was told :

*" Thus says the Lord God: 'behold I am against you O Tyre, and will cause many nations to come up against you, as the sea causes it's waves to come up. And they shall destroy the walls of Tyre and break down her towers; I will also scrape her dust from her and make her like the top of a rock. It shall be a place for the spreading of nets...it shall become plunder for the nations... behold I will bring against Tyre from the north King Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon... he will slay your people by the sword and your strong pillars will fall to the ground. They will plunder your riches and pillage your merchandise; they will break down your walls and destroy your pleasant houses; they will lay your stones, your timbers, and your soil in the midst of the water...I will make you like the top of a rock; you shall be a place for the spreading of nets, and you shall never be rebuilt, for I the Lord have spoken. Will the coastlands not shake at the sound of your fall... then all the princes of the sea will come down from their thrones, lay aside their robes, and take off their embroidered garments...and be astonished at you". (Ezekiel 26:3)*

These are the very specific prophecies for the city of Tyre made by a Hebrew prophet 2600 years ago.

1. Nebuchadnezzar will destroy the mainland city of Tyre (Ezekiel 26:8)
2. Many nations against Tyre (Ezekiel 26:3).
3. Make her bare rock ; flat like the top of a rock ( Ezekiel 26:4)
4. Fishermen will spread their nets over the site (Ezekiel 26:5)
5. Throw the stones and timbers into the water ( Ezekiel 26:12)
6. Never be rebuilt (Ezekiel 26:14)
7. Princes of nearby coastlands will be astonished by Tyre's fall and give up their thrones.

Now lets look at what secular history says happened to Tyre.

In the year 586 B.C. Nebuchadnezzar, the King of the Babylonian Empire began to attack the city of Tyre. The Babylonian army was the greatest fighting force up to that time and besieged the city of Tyre for 13 years. When they finally broke down the gates and walls of Tyre, they found that the people had moved out to an island 1/2 mile off the coast of Tyre. #1 fulfilled! City besieged.

In the year 332 B.C., Alexander the Great laid siege against the island city of Tyre because they would not submit to his authority. The Encyclopedia Britannica states that because Alexander the Great had no fleet of ships he demolished the mainland city of Tyre and he threw the debris (stones and timbers and dirt) into the ocean and made a causeway (jetty or wood/stone bridge) connecting the mainland to the newer island city of Tyre. Secular historian Phillip Myers stated in his textbook of history that:

*" Alexander the Great reduced Tyre to ruins in 332 B.C. Tyre recovered in a measure from this blow, but never regained the place she had previously held in the world. The larger part of the site of the once great city is now as bare as the top of a rock- a place where the fishermen that still frequent the spot spread their nets to dry"!!! 1*  
#2,3,4,5 fulfilled!!!

Secular historians have stated that the ruins of Tyre are highly unique. Tyre's ruins are the only ones in the world that have been completely thrown into the ocean!!

After Alexander the Great, the island city persisted in various degrees of strength during the next 16 centuries. Many kings besieged the city until its final destruction by the Moslems in 1291 A.D.

Currently, there is a flat rock area with not one stone upon another. The stones that were thrown into the sea are still there. Other than a few nearby small fishing villages, there is no evidence of the former great city. On the flat former foundation stones you find, to the present day, fishermen drying their nets!!

#6 fulfilled!! Never rebuilt.



Secular historians record that when Alexander the Great besieged the city of Tyre that many of the neighboring kings submitted to his authority without a battle.

#7 fulfilled ! Princes give up their thrones.

How could Ezekiel know these things? A good guess? Not a chance. Ezekiel served the creator of the universe. i.e. the God of the Bible who told Isaiah, Ezekiel and the other prophets that he would tell them things **before they happened** so that when they happened the people would know that he was truly God. This is only one of hundreds of Hebrew prophecies that have come true to the very word! God states that he can see the beginning from the end; that he is outside of time; that he can see all the history like we would look at the pages of a book. Sounds impossible doesn't it? Well, it is, if you happen to live in our four dimensional universe.

However, an interesting outcome of Einstein's theory of relativity was the discovery of dimensions of time and space that exist separately and distinct from the four dimensions we experience. In fact, these dimensions may even be in our midst but not visible to us !!! More recently mathematicians have shown that up to eleven dimensions may exist in the universe. Many physicists believe that there are places in the universe where time ceases to flow. One of these places is in a black hole. Now it is interesting that the Bible tells us that God dwells in a place where time does not flow. For centuries this concept was mocked by scientists. Such a place is now scientific fact! If one were to be sucked into a black hole, or any other realm where time ceases to flow, we could see the flow of time, in places where there is time, like we were reading the pages of a book. Since we would experience no flow of time, the beginning and the end of time filled dimensions would be present and observable all at once.

These strange facts of physics may be evidence for the truth of what we call the supernatural "spirit realm." However, if these supernatural dimensions can be shown mathematically possible, then they are not really supernatural! Rather, they are natural! People believe in a lot of things we can't see (wind, atoms, heat, electromagnetic radiation, luck). Just because you can't see it doesn't mean it's not real.

## The Skeptics Reply

Now the skeptic immediately says that the book of Ezekiel must have been written after these events took place. However, archaeological finds have provided Ezekiel texts that are dated possibly as far back as 400-600 B.C. In this century an almost complete Ezekiel text on stone tablets was found. The type of Hebrew on these tablets indicates that it was possibly from the time of Ezekiel ie 500-600B.C.!!<sup>\*</sup> There are scholars who believe that this stone work may be from the hands of Ezekiel himself! Alexander the Great didn't invade the city until 332 B.C., long after Ezekiel's death and after the oldest known texts were written. The final fulfillment of the prophecy did not happen until 1291 A.D. i.e., about 1700 years after Ezekiel's death. The story of Tyre is in the oldest text's known.

Another interesting fact is that these 2500 year old stone tablets contain exactly the same text as the Hebrew Bible you can buy today.<sup>2</sup> So much for text being lost or changed because of faulty translation!! Others might argue luck. Well, the mathematical probability that Ezekiel could have guessed so many unlikely events happening is staggering. But this is only one small prophecy. There are hundreds that have come true! For an extensive treatment of this prophecy see *Evidence that Demands a Verdict* by Josh McDowell.<sup>3</sup>

God told the prophets that he would tell them things that would happen in advance so they would recognize him as a supremely intelligent all knowing creator that exists outside time and space. This kind of evidence was very impressive to men in those days. However, in today most people live with very little awareness of God. We tend to rationalize prophecies like these saying that there must be a "natural explanation". Many people don't want to see this kind of evidence because they are comfortable with their agnostic view that a knowledge of God is not possible; or worse yet, that there is no God. Many people are like the man that says "don't confuse me with facts my mind is made up". However, whether we choose to believe a fact does not alter the truth of it.

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<sup>\*</sup> See *Prophecy 2000*, David Allen Lewis and *Heaven, The Last Frontier*, Grant Jeffrey

# Cyrus

In the year 703 B.C. a man named Isaiah, a man who claimed to be Hebrew prophet, wrote extensively about the judgement that God was going to bring upon the nation Israel. This judgement was to occur because they had not obeyed his law. He stated that they would be taken captive by the Babylonian empire, that their city and finally the temple Solomon built for God would be destroyed. Isaiah, and other prophets, stated that after the captivity the Jews would return to their land. The interesting thing about this prophecy is that in 703 B.C. the nation of Babylon was insignificant and it would not be raised up to power for another 100 years.

In the 44th and 45th chapters of Isaiah he names the man who would give the decree to allow the Jews to return to Jerusalem after the Babylonian captivity. At the time of Isaiah's ministry the Jews were still in Israel and they simply scoffed at Isaiah.

*"The Lord who says of Cyrus ' he is my shepherd, and he shall perform all my pleasure, even saying to Jerusalem, "you shall be built," and to the temple, " your foundation shall be laid." Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have held - to subdue nations before him and loose the armor of kings, to open before him the double doors, so that the gates will not be shut... That you may know that I, the Lord, who call you by your name, am the God of Israel. For Jacob my servants sake, and Israel my elect, I have even called you by your name; I have named you though you have not known me. I am the Lord, and there is no other ; there is no God beside me. I will gird you though you have not known me... I am the Lord and there is no other; I form the light and create darkness, I make peace and create calamity. I the Lord do all these things....*

Isaiah 4:27-45:7

This prophecy has several major predictions:

1. A man named Cyrus will perform the Lord's pleasure
2. He shall say to Jerusalem "you shall be built" (in 703 B.C. it was still standing)
3. He will say to the temple "your foundation will be laid" (it hadn't been destroyed yet)
4. He (God) will open the double doors before him (Cyrus).

Now let's look at what secular history says about Cyrus and the Jews:

This prophecy was written in 703 B.C. According to historians Isaiah and the kings he served under lived between 745-695 B.C. Cyrus, the Medo-Persian Emperor, was born about 100 years later. Starting in 606 B.C. there began a series of three sieges upon the nation of Israel by the Babylonian Empire led by Nebuchadnezzar. The siege of 606 B.C. began the seventy year captivity prophesied by Isaiah (39:5-7) and Jeremiah (chapt 25&27). At the end of this seventy year captivity in the year 537 B.C., the general of the Medo-Persian province, second in line to the throne, overtook the city of Babylon and the Babylonian empire without a battle! His name was Cyrus! The Greek historian Herodotus records that drunk Babylonian guards left the large gates open to the city of Babylon in the middle of the night. He records that Cyrus and his army simply walked through the gates and overtook the city. He records that many of the citizens did not even know the city had been taken until three days later. This same man, Cyrus, soon became emperor with the death of his father. That same year, 537 B.C. he gave the command that allowed the Jews to return to Jerusalem and to rebuild their temple. Josephus, a first century Jewish historian, records that the prophet Daniel showed a scroll of Isaiah to Cyrus and showed him that God had named him 100 years before he was born!! This must have blown his mind. It impressed him enough that he let the Jews go and stated that their God must be true. All four prophecies were literally fulfilled 163 years after they were written. Again, God showed his power by predicting events before they happened!!

## Ezekiel's Prophecy of Israel's Rebirth in 1948

In the year 592 B.C. in the Babylonian Empire a Hebrew slave named Ezekiel was instructed by an angel to:

*"Lie on your left side and put the sin of the house of Israel upon yourself. You are to bear their sin for the number of days you lie on your side. I have assigned you the same number of days as the years of their sin. So for 390 days you will bear the sin of the house of Israel. After you have finished this, lie down again, this time on your right side, and bear the sin of the house of Judah. I have assigned you 40 days, a day for each year."*  
(Ezekiel 4:4-6).

At the time of this visitation the Jews were in captivity after being overthrown by the Babylonian King Nebuchadnezzar in 606 B.C. This 70 year captivity of the Jews had been prophesied extensively by Isaiah almost 100 years earlier (Isaiah 39:5-7) and (Jeremiah chapt 25&27).

Now the prophecy in Ezekiel chapt 4 predicts a total of 430 years of punishment for the nation of Israel. 70 years of this period of punishment are accounted for in the 70 year Babylonian captivity. That leaves 360 more years of punishment unaccounted for. For centuries biblical scholars could find nowhere in history a period of punishment on Israel that could corresponds to the remaining 360 years of punishment.

In the book of Leviticus, chapt 26, we are told that if the nation of Israel did not hearken (obey) unto the Lord that she would be punished. Then after being punished, if the nation continued to be in rebellion toward God, then the punishment would be multiplied by seven:

*"If you will not listen to me and carry out all these commands, and if you reject my decrees and abhor my laws and fail to carry out all my commands and so violate my covenant...I will set my face against you so that you will be defeated by your enemies. If after all this you will not listen to me, I will punish you for your sins **seven times over**."* Lev 26:14-22.

Recently Biblical scholars have applied this Levitical principle of multiplying Israel's punishment by seven to the remaining 360 years of punishment and found a phenomenal discovery. <sup>4</sup>

The Biblical prophetic year in the Jewish calendar is 360 days long. This discovery was described by Sir Robert Anderson in his book The Coming Prince. <sup>5</sup> In fact, most ancient calendars of the world, at one time calculated the year as 360 days.\* So if you multiple the 360 years of remaining punishment x 360 days/year x 7 times punishment (Levitical principle) = 907,200 days. 907,200 days is 2483.8 years (modern Julian calendar years). So, 907,200 days of punishment remained for the nation of Israel after the 70 year Babylonian captivity. The question is where do you begin calculating the remaining 907,200 days?

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\* Presumably some astronomical event, such as a meteorite striking the earth, altered the number of revolutions the earth makes in one solar year.

## Servitude of the Nation

There is a Biblical term applied to the nation of Israel called the period of the servitude of the nation. This refers to the period of time that the conquered people of Israel lived thru without their own rulership. The people and nation of Israel ceased being a sovereign nation in 606 B.C., and began the first 70 years of servitude at that time. After the 70 year Babylonian captivity they returned to the land but they were ruled over by a succession of empires (Medo-Persian, Greek, Roman) until 70 A.D., when Jerusalem was destroyed by the Romans. Then for the next 18 centuries the Israelites were dispersed among the nations of the world. To the Jewish mind they lost their sovereignty with the Babylonian takeover in 606B.C. and didn't regain it until the **servitude of the nation** ended on May 14, 1948 when Israel again became a nation.

The Babylonian captivity began July 25th 606 B.C. and ended July 23rd 537 B.C. This was the very day that the Medo-Persian emperor Cyrus gave the decree that allowed the Jews to return to Israel. If you begin counting the 907,200 days of remaining punishment from July 23rd, 537 B.C., the day of Cyrus' decree, and go forward you come to **May 14th 1948!!!** This was the very day that David Ben Gurion announced to the whole world the official rebirth of the nation of Israel!!!

Skeptical? Read on.

## Desolations of Jerusalem

Another term commonly discussed is the period of the desolations of Jerusalem. This was the period of time prophesied by the prophets in which the city of Jerusalem would be desolate and 'trodden down by the gentiles'. Many people have mistakenly believed that this term was synonymous with the Servitude of the nation discussed above. However, this period of the desolations of Jerusalem did not begin in 606 B.C. when Nebuchadnezzar took the first captives. The desolations of Jerusalem began with the destruction of the city and the temple on August 18th, 587 B.C. in the third siege of the Babylonian army. Exactly seventy Hebrew calendar years later (360 days/year) brings us to August 16th, 518 B.C. If we begin calculating the remaining 907,200 days of punishment from that day it brings us to **June 7th, 1967. This is the very day Israel recaptured the city of Jerusalem during the six day war with Egypt, Jordan and Syria!!!**

How could Ezekiel have predicted this? He couldn't unless he was instructed by one that lives outside of time. Truly God sees the beginning from the end and is outside of time as we know it!

## Daniel's Prophecy of the Seventy Weeks The Most Amazing Prophecy in the Bible

In a city called Babylon, around the year 537 B.C., a Hebrew slave named Daniel claimed that while deep in prayer he was interrupted by an angel named Gabriel! Daniel had been praying for the people and nation of Israel when the angel stated that he had come to give Daniel "skill and understanding" regarding the future of the nation of Israel.

In the book of Daniel 9:24-26 the angel stated:

*"Seventy sevens are determined for your people and for your holy city, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sins, to make reconciliation for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy place".*

*"Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the command to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah, the Prince, there shall be seven sevens and sixty two sevens; the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublesome times. And after the sixty two sevens the Messiah shall be cut off, but not for himself; and the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary". Daniel 9:24-26*

**This message pinpointed the time of the coming of the long awaited Messiah!**

At the time of this visitation Jerusalem was completely desolate. The nation of Israel had been destroyed by the Babylonians 70 years earlier. The Hebrew people were, however, about to be freed from seventy years of captivity by the Medo-Persian king Cyrus.

The prophecy states that "seventy sevens" are determined for the people of Israel. In Hebrew the word translated as "seven" is *shabua* which actually means a week of years, much like the English word decade means ten years.

The prophecy states that Daniel should understand that from the going forth of the command to restore and rebuild Jerusalem, until the Messiah comes, that there will be sixty two sevens and seven sevens. Thus if a seven (*shabua*) is seven years, then 69 sevens is 483 years ( $69 \times 7 = 483$ ). It is a well established fact that at that time in history virtually all of the known ancient calendars calculated a year as 360 days (Chinese, Mayan, Egyptian, Hebrew, Babylonian). Presumably an astronomical event (e.g. a meteor or comet striking the earth) lengthened the time the earth takes to rotate one time around the sun to the current 365.25 days per year. It is well known that for prophecy the Jews use a 360 day calendar. \* Therefore, 483 years times 360 days per year equals 173,880 days. Gabriel was telling Daniel that 173,880 days after the command is given to restore and rebuild Jerusalem the Messiah would come!! Remember, at the time of this prophecy the city was desolate.

Now, is there anywhere where a command of this sort is given? Yes! In the second chapter of the book of Nehemiah it states that :

*"In the month of Nisan, in the twentieth year of the reign of Artaxerxes, when wine was before him, that I took wine and gave it to the king. Now I had never been sad in his presence before. Therefore, the king said to me "why is your face sad, since you are not sick"*

Nehemiah went on to explain that he was sad because he had heard a report that the city of his people, Jerusalem, was desolate. Nehemiah requested that he be allowed to go back to Jerusalem and rebuild the city. The king granted his wish on the spot.

The Encyclopedia Britannica states that Artaxerxes Longimanus ascended to the throne of the Medo-Persian empire in July 465 B.C. By Hebrew tradition when the day of the month is not specifically stated, it is given to be the first day of that month. So, the day of the decree by Artaxerxes was the first day of the Hebrew month Nisan 445 B.C. The first day of Nisan in 445 B.C. corresponds to the 14th day of March in 445 B.C. This was verified by astronomical calculations in the British Royal observatory and reported by Sir Robert Anderson. 6

Now remember, the prophecy states that 69 weeks of years (173,880 days) after the command goes forth to restore the city of Jerusalem the Messiah will come. If we count 173,880 days-foreword from 14th of March, 445 B.C. We come to Sunday, April 6th 32 A.D.

Here are the calculations

March 14th, 445 B.C. to March 14th, 32 A.D. is 476 years.

(1 B.C. to 1 A.D. is one year. There is no year zero)

476 x 365 days per year = 173,740 days

Add for leap years = 116 days (three less leap years in four centuries)\*\*\*

March 14th to April 6th = 24 days

total = 173,880 days!

\*\*\* leap years do not occur in century years unless divisible by 400.

What happened on April 6th, 32 A.D.? A humble carpenter rode into the east gate of Jerusalem on a donkey while the crowds cried "hosanna, hosanna, blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord"! This man's name was Jesus of Nazareth. This was the first day that he allowed his followers to proclaim him as their Messiah. He had previously told them that his day had not yet come. This day (April 6th 32 A.D. is commonly known as Palm Sunday!!

Skeptical? Read on

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\* See *The Coming Prince*, Sir Robert Anderson

Is there any other way to check the accuracy of this date? Yes! In chapt 3 of the gospel of Luke, a Roman physician, Luke states that in the 15th year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar that Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist and began his ministry. The Encyclopedia Britannica states that the reign of Caesar Tiberius started on August 19th in the year 14 A.D. Most scholars believe Jesus was baptized in the Fall season. Therefore, the Fall of the 15th year of Tiberius' reign would have been 28 A.D. The first day that a Roman ruler ascends to the throne begins his first year. Consequently, according to Luke chapt 3, the ministry of Jesus started with his baptism in the Fall of the 15th year of the reign of Caesar Tiberius and lasted 3 1/2 years (4 Passovers). The fourth Passover of his ministry was the day of his crucifixion and would have fallen in the year 32 A.D. The Passover in the year 32 A.D. fell on April 10th. The Sunday before that Passover was April 6th!!! This day April 6th, 32 A.D. Was exactly 173,880 days after Artaxerxes gave the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem on March 14, 445 B.C.!!!! These dates are historically sound and have been verified by Royal British Observatory and many other scholars.

Daniel's prophecy stated that 483 years(173,880 days) after the command went forth to restore and rebuild Jerusalem the Messiah would be revealed!! That day was April 6th 32 A.D., Palm Sunday, the first day Jesus of Nazareth allowed his disciples to proclaim him as Messiah!!

I know what your thinking. This calculation and prophecy is contrived by over-zealous Christians. However, ancient Jewish Rabbinical writings in the Talmud, which are taken from written and oral traditions and dated from the time between Daniel and the time of Jesus of Nazareth, reveal without a doubt that the Hebrew scholars recognized this prophecy of Daniel as Messianic!

In the Targum of the prophets, in Tractate Megillah 3a, which was composed by Jonathan ben Uzziel, we read:

*"And the (voice from heaven) came forth and exclaimed, who is the that has revealed my secrets to mankind?..He further sought to reveal by a Targum the inner meaning of The Hagiographa (a portion of scripture which includes Daniel), but a voice from heaven went forth and said, Enough! What was the reason?--Because the date of the Messiah was for told in it!"*

In this amazing commentary from the Targum of the Prophets, the writer expressed the knowledge that Daniel's prophecy referred to the coming of the Messiah!!! \*

Daniel states that the Messiah would be "cut off". The word translated cut off "**karath**" td\_b}◊◊◊◊◊◊◊◊◊◊ in the ancient Hebrew language literally means to punish with death. Jesus was tried and convicted for blasphemy and insurrection against the Roman empire, both capital crimes, punishable by death.

The prophecy then states that after the Messiah is "cut off", the people of the prince who is to come would "destroy the city and the sanctuary". In the year 70 A.D. ten legions of Roman soldiers under the Roman general Titus destroyed the city of Jerusalem. Josephus dramatically records the events of that period of time in Jerusalem. He records that the city was burned to the ground and millions of Jews were killed.

A final note on this prophecy. This was written by Daniel at a time when the temple in Jerusalem was desolate. Destroyed in 587 B.C., there was no indication yet that it would be rebuilt. However, Daniel states that the temple would be rebuilt and that "the prince of the people who is to come" would then destroy it again. So the Messiah had to come to the second temple before it was destroyed! However, it was destroyed in 70 A.D. and the people wept in the streets crying that the temple had been destroyed yet Messiah had not come.

On April 6th 32 A.D. As Jesus rode near to the city of Jerusalem he stopped and wept, saying :

*"If you had known, even you, especially **in this your day**, the things that make for your peace! But now they are hid from your eyes! For the days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment around you, surround you and close you in on every side, and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not know the time of your visitation.*

Luke 19:42-44

**Hid from your eyes!! Whose eyes? The Jews!**

I believe Jesus held them accountable for recognizing that the 483 years were up! However, he was not what they expected or wanted in a Messiah.

Still skeptical? Read on.

The book of Isaiah, chapt 53 and Psalm 22 foretold of the rejection and crucifixion of the Messiah hundreds of years before the birth of Jesus. Isaiah 53 states that:

*"He is despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief... He was wounded for our transgressions... Bruised for our iniquities... By his stripes we are healed... He was oppressed and afflicted yet he opened not his mouth... He was cut off from the land of the living... He poured out his soul unto death, and he was numbered with the transgressors.. He bore the sin of many and made intercession for us!!!"*

This is exactly what happened to Jesus. He was rejected, beaten(stripes), opened not his mouth, crucified next to two transgressors( thieves), and poured out his soul (bled to death). Psalm 22 gives a graphic description of crucifixion 700 years before it was invented by the romans.

*"I am poured out like water, all my bones are out of joint, my heart is like wax, it has melted within me..My tongue clings to the roof of my mouth... They pierced my hands and my feet... They divide my garments among them and for my clothing they cast lots."* Finally, in the book of Zechariah chapter 12 verse 10 God states through Zechariah that when he comes to set up his kingdom in the last days **they( the Jews) will mourn when they see me whom they have pierced !**

Again, ancient Rabbinical writings from the Talmud and Mishna written prior to Jesus' life have shown that there was no doubt that **they knew these were all Messianic prophecies.**<sup>9</sup>

Why did they reject him? Again, writings from before the time of Jesus indicated that they expected the Messiah to be a mighty warrior who would wipe out the Roman empire and set up God's kingdom. Jesus of Nazareth taught them to love their enemies, do good to those who hate you, turn the other cheek. He ate with sinners and he was also highly critical of the Jewish religious leaders, calling them hypocritical, selfish, self-righteous, white washed sepulchres ( a real insult 2000 years ago). So they began to conspire to kill him.

Modern archaeologists and ancient document experts have dated all four new testament gospels and Paul's letters as being written prior to 70 A.D. \* In fact, the gospel of Luke indicates that he had consulted eyewitnesses and even older documents about the life of Jesus. He used these earlier eyewitness accounts to help him compose his gospel. History tells us that the men that wrote these accounts were all tortured for what they wrote! Peter the Apostle states **"For we did not follow cunningly devised tales when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eye witnesses of his majesty."**<sup>11</sup> Peter 1:16

In the new testament it states that when Jesus was hanging on the cross the sky became black from the 6th hour to the 9th hour. This was on Passover, which is always on a full moon. **At least three Roman historians recorded for all mankind to read an episode of total mid-day darkness that occurred during the full moon around the 15th- 18th year of the reign of Ceasar Tiberius!!!**<sup>10</sup> Two of them recognized the impossibility of this being a solar eclipse because it was at the time of a full moon! This correlates with the darkness that came over the land during the crucifixion of Jesus!!!!

Now, why would the disciples falsely "Messianize" a man who did not fit any of the preconceived expectations of the Messiah? If they wanted to fabricate a Messiah, they would certainly create a story which fit the mold better. This would make it more believable. And why would they be willing to be ripped apart by lions, crucified, burned at the stake, torn apart by chariots, beheaded, stabbed, stoned, imprisoned, humiliated for something they knew was a lie!! Surely if they fabricated the story one of them would have recanted when faced with death. I know that many people have died for lies in the past (e.g. Kamakazies); however, they died for something **they thought was true.** No sane man dies for something he knows is a lie, especially when offered life if he recants the story!

The foundation upon which the Christian church rests is the resurrection of Jesus Christ. This event in history is either true or not. There is no third option. When examining the evidence for the the

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\* See Evidence that Demands a Verdict, Josh Mc Dowell, vol.1, chapter 4 Here's Life Publishers

resurrection we must look for the answer which best fits all the facts of history. There are excellent books on the evidence for the resurrection written by men who were initially trying to refute Christianity by destroying the resurrection. Two of the best are Who moved the Stone by Frank Morrison and The Resurrection Factor by Josh McDowell. Both of these men were anti-Christian skeptics who thought Christians were crazy, but when confronted with the evidence, concluded that the body of Jesus was in fact resurrected.

Why am I going thru all this? Because Jesus of Nazareth is the most controversial person in history. Why? Because the claims he made about himself are impossible to remain neutral to. In fact he said that all men are either "for me or against me" (Matthew 12:30). Did you hear that. He states that you are either with him or against him. There is no neutral position!

What were his claims? He stated that he was "the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, yet he shall live" (John 11:41). He said "I and my father are one!" (John 10:30). To his disciple Phillip he stated that "he who has seen me has seen the Father." (John 14:9). One day when teaching in the temple he said to the Jews "Therefore, I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am, you will die in your sins." John 8:24. While under arrest he stated to the Jewish leaders and the local Roman procurator that he was the Messiah!

He was claiming to be God and claiming to be **the way** to eternal life. He also claimed that by rejecting him would result in damnation (John 3:18). No wonder he offends so many. Another interesting thing that he stated was that by being one of his followers we would not be liked by the world. He said we would be persecuted for his name sake. Now this is interesting I think. Usually when a religious crock comes around they say things like "follow me and you will have peace, love, joy, happiness, salvation and you can become like God through good works of course." Jesus didn't say that. He did claim that a life in him provide eternal life and the inner peace of knowing the true God, but he also promised that we would probably be hated, persecuted, despised and maybe even killed for his name sake. He claimed to be the human incarnation of God, the creator of the universe.

No religious leader ever made claims like these: not Buddha, Mohammed, Krishna. It is these claims that made the Jewish leaders want to kill him. And it is these claims that make men today reject him. However, if the historical evidence supports his claim, then an honest person will examine the evidence and act on it. Many people are like the man that said "**don't confuse me with facts, I've made up my mind**". But this is not intellectually honest. But it is also not surprising because the apostle Paul, a man who met Jesus face to face, stated that "*the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing.*" 1 Corinthians 1:18. By this he meant that the whole message of Jesus would offend many because the message was so convicting.

Jesus claimed to be God in human form. The Bible claims that man is sinful by nature that God will not accept man into heaven without a covering for sin that there is no remission of sin without the shedding of blood (previously done by blood animal sacrifice) and that Jesus was to be killed to provide the blood sacrifice for all mankind for redemption of sins. The Bible claims that by believing in Jesus we can receive remission of our sins and have eternal life and that this salvation is a free gift available to all who will just take it. It cannot be earned by good works. This is the message of the gospel (good news) of Jesus Christ.

The prophecy I've just gone thru above is stunning evidence of the truth of the life, death and Messianic claim of Jesus. Open your mind and heart and begin your own search to answer the question "who was Jesus of Nazareth?"

I believe there are only 4 options for who he was:

- 1) He never existed- disproven even by Encyclopedia Britannica
- 2) Liar
- 3) Lunatic
- 4) Lord

Some try to add a fifth: "he was a great, wise, righteous man".

However, a great man doesn't claim to be something he knows he's not (ie son of God) that makes him a liar. Secondly, if he thought he was God, but wasn't, no matter how sincere, he's a lunatic.

When Jesus was on the earth he said "come unto me all who labor and are heavy laden, for I will give you rest". The emptiness, anger, anxiety, frustration, fear, loneliness, guilt that can overwhelm us at times can be replaced with love, joy and the knowledge that the Creator of the universe is in charge of



all things. The Bible says that God proved to the people that he was God by telling them things that would happen before they did. God also states that to have eternal life in heaven we must be sin free.

One of Jesus' claims was that he had the authority to forgive sins and that simply by believing in him we could have that forgiveness. There is a lot of peace in knowing that all my sins are forgiven. To obtain this you need only to confess Jesus as your Lord and savior. You don't have to follow a whole lot of rules or do a lot of works. Salvation is by grace (a free gift) and by believing in the completed work of Jesus of Nazareth, the Messiah, who rode on a donkey into Jerusalem exactly on the day prophesied by Daniel.

The God of the Bible says that he made man for his pleasure and for communion with him. He gave man free will to choose to recognize and serve him or to choose to reject him. He also states that the penalty for rejection would be death. This is not my opinion but is stated in the ancient scrolls of the Hebrew prophets. The interesting thing is that it is our choice! God will not force himself on you. He will allow uncomfortable circumstances to occur so that you will reach out for him. The free will on our behalf ensures that those who choose God do so by choice. This is what makes a relationship meaningful. How meaningful would a relationship with a spouse be if she was pre-programmed to love you. She has no choice but to love you in this situation. This is why God gave free will to man. He knew that some would reject him; but he also knew that some would recognize him for who he is and serve him. If the prophecies of the Bible can be shown to be true; and if they can't be explained away by "natural explanations" then the God of the Bible must be that Creator.

I Challenge You....Search the evidence for the claims of Jesus of Nazareth, the Messiah, the Son of God  
Its Your move.... God Bless You.

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