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Without Excuse: The Evidence for God

By Dr. Don Bierle, FaithSearch President

Atheists, secular humanists, and some others maintain “there is no God.” It is somewhat “faddish” among youth today, even those who grew up in the church, to announce that they are now atheists. Many other people, including Christians, struggle to gain certainty on the matter of God’s existence. Why the doubts?

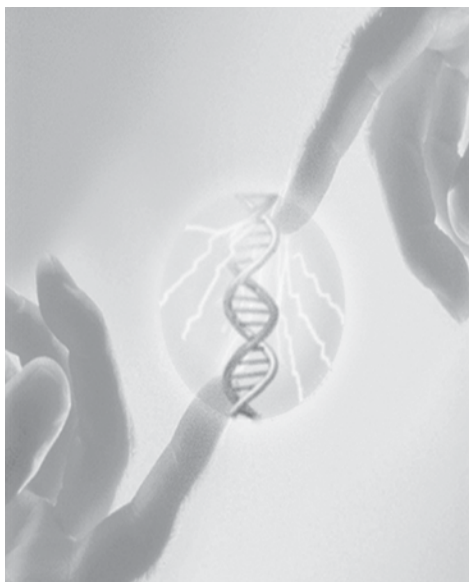
Atheists deny the truth of the Bible, while doubts arise in others because they are shaken from their confidence in the clear declarations about God in the Bible. Neither seems to have considered that in addition to Scripture, God has provided external evidence to support His existence.

[A discussion of one external argument for God is included below. Other arguments will follow in future issues of the *Paraclete*.]

Nature – God reveals His fingerprints in the natural world.

The observation of **complex and specified information** in living forms (e.g., the message of DNA); the fine-tuned **laws of the heavens**; and the **equations of physics**; all are direct evidence of design and an Intelligent Designer.

Albert Einstein, as a result of his lifetime of advanced studies of the universe, stated, “*The most incomprehensible thing about the world is that it is comprehensible*” (emphasis added). Indeed, why should it be comprehensible if it is the result of chance, as atheistic evolution contends? Instead of chaos and unpredictability—as predicted if it has its origin in chance—the universe is orderly, fine-tuned, and conforms to mathematical equations and universal laws—as predicted if it has an Intelligent origin.



An example of intelligent design in nature is the DNA molecule, the chemical blueprint in each cell for every organism on the planet.

What are the odds that the 3.6 million letters in the Bible (or any other publication, say the dictionary or encyclopedia) could come together by chance alone to form its 66 books, 1,189 chapters, 31,173 verses, and 807,361 words? Everyone would agree this is absurd!

The forty-six chromosomes in body cells of humans consists of 3.2 billion letters (equal to the number of letters in 900 Bibles) organized into words and sentences in precise order (genes)—the exact instructions to produce a human baby! How can intelligent professors in universities across America continue to teach their students that this is the result of chance? Wouldn’t this also be absurd?

Another example of intelligent design is the human brain. It is the most complex


IN THE NEWS

A New “Face” for Evangelism?

With the increased use of social media and mobile devices, it is inevitable that it impacts the way we communicate. What about **faith and evangelism**?

In a new report produced in partnership with Lutheran Hour Ministries, the Barna Group asked American adults how they discuss spirituality online. Through posts, comments, and profiles, many Christians believe that technology and digital interactions have made evangelism easier. The survey found that **three in ten (28%) share their faith via social media**, and almost **six in ten (58%) non-Christians say someone has shared their faith with them through Facebook®**.



Whatever we think of social media, perhaps we should take the position of the apostle Paul (Philippians 1:18): “*What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed; and in this I rejoice...*” Other studies have shown that younger generations are among the most cautious about engaging someone about their Christian faith. **Pray that social media will embolden them.** 

Source: “Evangelism in a Digital Age: An Infographic,” June 26, 2018, <https://www.barna.com/research/evangelism-in-a-digital-age-an-infographic/>

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IN THE NEWS

Two of You?!

You may remember the sensation created when it was announced that a scientific laboratory had actually used cloning techniques to produce **Dolly the sheep** in 1996.



©2009, Toni Barros, from Wikipedia

The preserved remains of Dolly the sheep on display in the National Museum of Scotland.

For research on brain diseases like Alzheimer's, more predictive treatment would result if research were conducted on primates because of the similarity of their brains to ours. Besides, cloned primates (which would each have an identical DNA makeup) would remove the uncontrolled variable of genetic differences and reduce the number of animals needed for any given study.

For more than twenty years since Dolly there have been successful clones of other animals, but no one had ever cloned a primate—until now. The Chinese Academy of Sciences Institute of Neuroscience has announced the **world's first primate clones**, macaques named Zhong Zhong and Hua Hua.

Of course, the question on everyone's mind is how long will it be before there will be human clones? Clearly that raises serious ethical issues. **Cloning often results in birth defects and most clones die before birth.** In the case of the cloned macaques only 2 out of 109 embryos made it!

Humans are not just another laboratory animal. The Bible says we are created "*in His own image*" (Genesis 1:26-27). This means that God views human life as distinct from all other animals, sacred and eternal. On the other hand, animal experimentation is

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and orderly arrangement of matter in the universe. The human brain contains at least **10 billion** brain cells, with over **100 trillion** neurological interconnections. If all these were laid end to end, they would circle the equator four times. The brain can hold the information content of **25 million books**, filling a bookshelf 500 miles long.


Chance can no more evolve all this design than it could be responsible for the faces on Mt. Rushmore; nor could it develop a software program, nor a musical score.




It is scientific observations like this which support God's revelation to the apostle Paul in Romans 1:19-20:

...what may be known about God is plain to them... For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.

Other biblical passages which affirm the evidence of God's fingerprints in nature include: Job 12:7-10; Psalm 8; 19:1-4; 136:4-9; Jeremiah 5:21-24; Acts 15:16-17.

It should be noted that the **external argument** from scientific observations of nature do not reveal *WHO God is*, only that *He must exist* as an intelligent Creator. The knowledge of God's identity (name) must come from another external evidence, namely, God's fingerprints in history. That evidence will be discussed in the next *Paraclete*. 

justified by many under the principle of "greater good"; that is, the knowledge gained thereby saves many human lives. It is clear that Christians have a responsibility to apply biblical wisdom to the inevitable future public policy debate over human cloning. 

Source: *Answers Magazine*, Vol. 13, No. 3; May-June, 2018. Pages 29-30.

IN THE NEWS

Abortion Stopper?

One factor reportedly contributing to choosing abortion is that the **prospective mother can't see the embryo** or fetus growing within. Further, the abortion industry has convinced many that it is just a "blob of tissue" and not a real person. That may be about to change.

An Israeli startup company has developed ultrasound technology to **record live video of the unborn on a smartphone!** Israel Meisner, head of the Obstetrics Ultrasound Unit at Rabin Medical Center in Israel, said the immediate purpose was the "calming effect" on the mother who feels no movement, calls the doctor, and ends up in the emergency room. With this technology, she can just put her phone on her stomach and see the baby is looking okay.



It may also have an unintended consequence. It is a known fact that when women who are considering an abortion see their unborn baby on an ultrasound screen, they often change their minds. This smartphone device has the capacity to remind women **their baby is a living person** wonderfully made by the Creator, not just a "blob of tissue." Who would have imagined that new technology could potentially save thousands of babies?

When approved the device will retail for about \$190. 

Source: *Answers in Genesis*, Vol. 13, No. 5 (Sept.-Oct., 2018), "Smartphone Sonogram," p.45.

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