

RESOURCE NEWS



BONE OF CONTENTION

Sylvia Baker

Sylvia Baker has a BSc in Biology, an MSc in Radiation Biology and a PhD in Education. This book was first published in 1976 as a series of articles, then in magazine format. It has now been completely revised and updated with new diagrams incorporating current information. Always intended to be understandable to the general reader, this book covers the reasons why a conservative (young earth), biblical view of the creation of our world fits the evidence found in fossils and the world as we see it. It would be easily read by late-teenage children but has enough information to satisfy an enquiring adult.

Fossil evidence is examined, along with genetics and a chapter on the age of the earth, and an overview of the consequences for human history. There is a useful bibliography including helpful websites. **Paperback, 96 pages. £4.95. (+ £2 P & P)**

ROGUES IN ROYAL ROBES

Dr A J Monty White

Many of us are unfamiliar with the Old Testament and with the history of the nation of Israel from the exodus to the Babylonian exile. Perhaps we don't like history, or we are confused by dates! Here, in an easy-to-read way, Dr Monty White explores the lives of some of the Old Testament kings and shows how archaeological discoveries prove them to have been real historical individuals and not the mythical monarchs they once were thought to be. This book will rouse your interest in the Old Testament, cause you to study it for yourself and, above all, encourage you that the Bible is totally reliable, dependable and trustworthy. **Paperback 127 pages £7. (+ £2 P & P)**



Why not give creation books and DVDs as Christmas presents? There are titles to suit all ages. You can order online at <https://www.crt.org.uk/shop.php>

Free webinar



Prof. James Tour



Dr Stephen Meyer

The Centre for Intelligent Design hosted a free webinar: *The Mystery of Life's Origin*. This 2½ hour presentation, featuring Prof. James Tour and Dr Stephen Meyer, which can be split into shorter segments, can be viewed at: <https://tinyurl.com/y6e7ce9q>

CREATION RESOURCES TRUST

Annual Public Meeting

Saturday 29th May 2021 (D.V.)

The Davis Hall, West Camel, Near Yeovil, Somerset, BA22 7QX.

Guest speaker: Prof. Stuart Burgess.

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MEDIA WATCH (from page two)

WORLDS WITHOUT END?

According to *The Independent* (8th October 2020) 89-year-old Nobel Prizewinner Sir Roger Penrose believes "There was an earlier universe before the Big Bang, and evidence for its existence can still be observed in black holes. Sir Roger argues that the existence of unexplained spots of electromagnetic radiation in the sky – known as 'Hawking Points' – are remnants of a previous universe. He said, "We have a universe that expands and expands, and all mass decays away, and in this crazy theory of mine, that remote future becomes the Big Bang of another aeon." However, many have criticised the idea, since "if an infinitely large universe in one existence has to become an infinitely small universe in the next, it would be required that all particles lose their mass as the universe ages."

COMMENT: We would agree with Sir Roger that it is a "crazy theory." Is this just another attempt to avoid having to accept that the universe must have had a beginning? Is it easier to believe in eternal matter, than an eternal God?



pikabay.com

CELLS HAVE 'FERRIS WHEELS'

ScienceDaily.com (7th October 2020) reports: "All cells with nuclei, from yeast to humans, are organized like cities, with a variety of small compartments -- organelles -- that serve as factories where various types of work are done. Some of those factories, like the ones that break down and recycle molecules, need to continually pump in protons -- hydrogen atoms with their electrons stripped off -- to maintain the acidic environment they need to do their job. For this they rely on molecular Ferris wheels. Embedded in the organelle's fatty outer membrane, these microscopic machines have rotors that spin 100 times per second, picking up protons from outside the organelle and dropping them off on the inside."

COMMENT: The wonders of the cell never cease to amaze! They are "organized like cities..." These molecular "Ferris wheels", rotating 100 times per second, like many other parts of the incredible cell factory, are powerful evidence of divine design.



pexels.com

RAFTING DINOSAURS?

Phys.org/news (5th November 2020) reported: "The first fossils of a duckbilled dinosaur have been discovered in Africa." Dr. Nicholas Longrich, of the University of Bath, said this was "about the last thing in the world you would expect." The reason? "Duckbills evolved in North America." Dr Longrich further commented: "It was completely out of place, like finding a kangaroo in Scotland. Africa was completely isolated by water — so how did they get there?" The only explanation they can give is that these dinosaurs "must have crossed hundreds of kilometres of open water to get there," maybe by rafting, or even swimming, across the ocean.

COMMENT: As usual, the Bible gives a better explanation. Dinosaurs were created when the earth had one land mass (*Genesis 1: 9*). Many dinosaurs were fossilised during the flood, before the continents broke apart. So we would expect that their fossils might be found anywhere in the world.



A duckbilled dinosaur

By Nobu Tamura CC BY 2.5

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CREATION UPDATE

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BIOLOGY JOURNAL BREAKTHROUGH



www.uit.no



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The *Journal of Theoretical Biology* (September 21st 2020) a top, peer-reviewed scientific journal, published an article on fine-tuning in biology that favourably discussed intelligent design and irreducible complexity. In a major breakthrough for science, and freedom of speech, the article by Steinar Thorvaldsen (top left) from Norway and Ola Hössjer (lower left) from Sweden considered and proposed intelligent design by name. They wrote: "Many biological systems do not appear to have a functional viable predecessor from which they could have evolved stepwise, and the occurrence in one leap by chance is extremely small."

This was a "first" for a main-stream scientific journal, but the fact that the editors allowed an article which cast doubt on Darwinism to be printed resulted in a strong reaction and howls of protest. Correspondents criticised the editors for allowing the article to "slip past", and they were forced to issue the following "disclaimer": "The Journal of Theoretical Biology and its co-Chief Editors do not endorse in any way the ideology of nor reasoning behind the concept of intelligent design. Since the publication of the paper it has now become evident that the authors are connected to a creationist group... We were unaware of this fact while the paper was being reviewed. Moreover, the keywords "intelligent design" were added by the authors after the review process during the proofing stage and we were unaware of this action by the authors. We have removed these from the online version of this paper. We believe that intelligent design is not in any way a suitable topic for the *Journal of Theoretical Biology*."

NEW MOVIE DISTORTS HISTORY

A new movie about the life of famous Dorset fossil-hunter Mary Anning (right) has just been released. *Ammonite*, in which Kate Winslet plays the part of Mary, was filmed in Lyme Regis where, in 1811, Mary made a major discovery – a 7 metre (22 feet) long complete fossil of an *Icthyosaurus* – a giant fish-like lizard. In 1823, Mary scored another "first" at Lyme Regis – the complete skeleton of a marine reptile named *Plesiosaurus*.



Whilst we expect film-makers to use a certain degree of artistic licence, in the words of the *New Scientist* review¹ "the film departs radically from fact" by portraying Mary's close friendship with a geologist-friend's wife as an intense lesbian love affair. There isn't a shred of historical evidence for this. Such a portrayal is a serious and scurrilous attack on the character of a humble lady, who cared for her ailing mother, and never sought fame, but simply sold her fossils to make a living. The evidence we have of her life suggests she was a Christian believer, although she may have been influenced by the views of secular geologists. Sadly, many people's image of Mary will be tainted by the film's fictitious story-line. (see page 3)

1. newscientist.com 30th October 2020

MPs and schools receive DVDs

Truth in Science has produced a DVD on the issue of transgenderism, which has been sent to all UK schools and Westminster MPs. *The Transgender Agenda*, which features scientists and medical professionals, is a scientific and compassionate response to an ideology that cannot be supported by science, recognising that gender dysphoria is based in the mind and should be treated as any other mental illness, with patience and compassion for the individual. Their particular focus is to safeguard children from this ideology that is promoted through social media, which denies that gender is fixed from the moment of conception, but suggests children can be any gender they choose to be. Please do pray that this DVD will be well received, and used in schools as a counter-balance to all the pro-transgender propaganda currently circulating.





MEDIA WATCH

News from various media sources

ARE WE AN ALIENS' COMPUTER GAME?

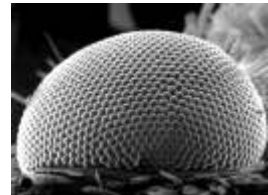


The far-out idea that we may not actually exist, but are part of a computer simulation controlled by super-intelligent aliens, is not new, but *LiveScience* (15th October 2020) reported that some scientists actually believe that there is a 50-50 chance that we do live in a simulation. According to this theory we are just "virtual beings" providing entertainment for these hypothetical aliens, and all of our life is an illusion.

COMMENT: We totally reject the notion that we are part of a computer simulation! Our universe is under the control of an almighty Creator-God who is working out His purposes, which will come to fulfilment in His time.

INSPIRED BY MOTHS' EYES

According to a report in *Science Daily* (4th November 2020), scientists are "mimicking moth eyes to produce transparent anti-reflective coatings... The eyes of moths (right) have a biological nanostructure that grants them anti-reflective properties... These films could be used to better the visibility of screens and enhance the performance of solar panels." The article points out: "There is a huge number of human problems that scientists and engineers have solved by drawing ideas directly from mechanisms found in other life-forms... Thus, it should not come as a surprise to know that many remarkable advances in anti-reflective coating were inspired by the peculiar biostructures found in moth eyes."



robaid.com

COMMENT: How amazing that scientists continue to draw ideas from nature, using their own intelligence in the process, yet they cannot (or will not) acknowledge the existence of the God of nature.

HOW SNAKES SEE IN THE DARK

Some snakes, including pit vipers, boa constrictors and pythons (left), can see in pitch darkness. *Science Daily* (21st October 2020) reported: "New insights explain how snakes convert infrared radiation into electrical signals... Not all snakes have the ability to produce a thermal image in the dark. But those with a pit organ are able to use it as an antenna of sorts to detect the infrared radiation emanating from organisms or objects that are warmer than the surrounding atmosphere. They then process the infrared radiation to form a thermal image." Researchers have discovered that "the cells inside the pit organ membrane have the ability to function as a pyroelectric material, drawing upon the electrical voltage that is found in most cells."



pixabay.com



COMMENT: Much like an infra-red night vision camera, which produces images like the one on the right. Intelligently designed, of course!

(Continued on back page)

Creation Moments

Our logic and God's are not the same

So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living thing with which the water teems. (Genesis 1: 21)

Ask any scientist and he'll tell you that blades designed to operate in fluids, like air or water, are best designed to have smooth edges. It only makes sense that a smooth leading edge is more efficient.

That's why, when a biologist noticed bumps on the front edge of a model of a humpback whale fin, he knew it had to be wrong. With some study, he discovered that the model was indeed accurate. The bumps are called *tubercles*. Testing has shown that the bumps result in an almost ten percent increase in the lift of a fin or blade. It decreases the drag of a blade or fin by one-third. In fact, one scientist concluded that the design is much better than 'what [our] systems can accomplish.' Inspired, scientists investigated whether similar tubercles could increase the efficiency of manmade blades such as those used on wind turbines. You may also find tubercles on helicopter blades and fan blades, as well.

While science can discover the excellency and superiority of God's design, it cannot learn of His spiritual wisdom by investigating the creation. That is revealed to us in Holy Scripture which tells us that He designed and created the whales as well as planning and carrying out His plan for our salvation through His Son, Jesus Christ.

Prayer: Father, I thank You for revealing the wisdom of Your salvation to me through Your Holy Word. Amen.

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"Truth in Science" Summer School

The second annual *Truth in Science* (TiS) Summer School was held online in early September. The conference attracted 67 registrants (including 55 students) – a marked increase from 30 delegates last year.

TiS aims to give university students a foundation enabling them to stand firm for biblical truth in the face of anti-Christian sentiments they may encounter. In the relatively protective bubble of a home church, students may not have encountered individuals who challenge their faith. During the conference, a pertinent session on coping with ethical and personal pressures as a believer was given by Dr Liz Jones.

Over the two days, sessions covered issues including the divine authorship of Scripture, human identity, and the age of the Earth. The delegates expressed appreciation of the event and their feedback was positive. The main talks are available on the TiS website: www.truthinscience.org.uk

(From a report in *Evangelical Times*)

- Many of the Summer School students said they wanted a second event, and so this January TiS will hold their first Winter School, a one day, online event. For details, go to: www.truthinscience.org.uk/winter-school

EDITORIAL NOT A LONELY SPECK!

By Geoff Chapman



When we see the sun shining, let's not just marvel that we are able to enjoy its benefits, but that our planet is special because Jesus "the Sun of Righteousness" came to save us 2,000 years ago.

IT'S a beautiful morning and the sun is shining brightly. Lots of people exclaim, "What a lovely day!" But how many of them stop to contemplate the fact that the sun is 93 million miles away from us, and that this is just the right distance for us to enjoy its warmth and light? The majority of people probably never give it a thought, taking it all for granted, and not realising that our existence is so unlikely, that it's really a miracle.

A LUCKY ACCIDENT?

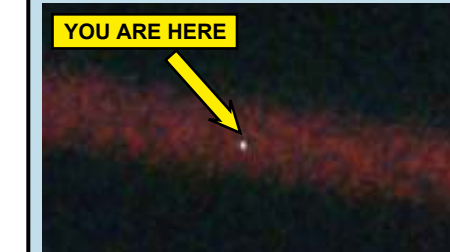
Life is only possible because of unique conditions which scientists sometimes call "fine tuning." Is this a lucky accident – or did a wise Creator design it for our benefit? Let's have a brief look at some of the features which make earth unique.

The earth's diameter is 8,000 miles. If it varied 10% either way, life would be impossible. At 7,200 miles, its magnetic field would be weaker, allowing the "solar wind" to strip away our atmosphere, which, apart from allowing us to breathe, protects us from meteorite bombardment. Conversely, a diameter of 8,800 miles would double the weight of the atmosphere, increasing the total amount of water and probably flooding the whole planet. The earth's orbit lasts 365¼ days, and its 23½° axial tilt gives us our four seasons. This allows crops time to be planted and harvested. Imagine if the earth took 84 years to orbit the sun like Uranus, or only 88 days, like Mercury!

The earth's 24-hour rotation period is very convenient. A longer period would mean excessive heating during the day, but life-destroying cold at night. Most of the other planets in our solar system have much longer or shorter periods, ranging from Saturn's 10 hours to Venus's 43 days. Earth also has an ozone layer that protects us from deadly solar radiation which could destroy all life in minutes. No wonder scientists Guillermo Gonzalez and Jay Richards described earth as *The Privileged Planet*.¹



VOYAGER 1



THE 'PALE BLUE DOT'

"THAT TINY PIXEL"

On 5th September 1977 NASA launched the *Voyager 1* space probe to study the planets of our solar system. In 1990, as *Voyager 1* was leaving the solar system, NASA scientists adjusted the cameras to point back towards earth, which was 3.7 billion miles away. The result was an amazing photograph of our planet suspended in a sunbeam, which became known as the "Pale Blue Dot." The late atheist astronomer Carl Sagan said, "Look again at that dot. That's here. That's home. That's us... All

of human history has happened on that tiny pixel." Seeing earth like this may give us a sense of insignificance, and make us feel like David, when he wrote: "When I consider the heavens... what is mankind, that you are mindful of them?" (*Psalms* 8: 3-4). Carl Sagan also commented, "The delusion that we have some privileged position in the Universe is challenged by this point of pale light. Our planet is a lonely speck in the great enveloping cosmic dark. In our obscurity – in all this vastness – there is no hint that help will come from elsewhere to save us from ourselves."²

HELP HAS COME!

However, Sagan was absolutely wrong! This "tiny pixel" is not only unique cosmologically, but because help has "come from elsewhere to save us from ourselves." God our Creator has not left us alone "in the great enveloping cosmic dark." He intervened in a unique and amazing way 2,000 years ago, when a tiny baby was born in Bethlehem. "The Word became flesh. (*John* 1: 14). Jesus Christ, God's only Son, came to save us from sin and death through His cross and resurrection. That's what Christmas is all about, and why the Gospel is so relevant in today's troubled world. Jesus was born as Saviour; it's a Saviour we need, and He is the only One!

When we next see the sun shining, let's not just marvel that we are here, but that our planet is special because 2,000 years ago, Jesus, "the Sun of Righteousness" rose "with healing in his wings." (*Malachi* 4: 2). Let us pray that many hearts will be open to Him, and will receive the unique salvation He freely offers.

1. *The Privileged Planet*, Regnery Publishing 2004.
2. *The Pale Blue Dot*, Random House, 1994.

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The TRUE story of Mary Anning

Joe Hubbard (right), the UK representative of *Creation Research*, has done a lot of fossil field work in Britain. His latest research has focused on the life and work of Mary Anning, the famous fossil-collector, and he has produced a 15-minute film, shot at Charmouth on the Dorset coast, near where Mary did her collecting.

You can watch the film at the link on the right, and find out more about his research at www.creationresearchuk.com



<https://tinyurl.com/y2qgf5m2>