

Communique'

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Yes! Summer is here and as usual it's hot in South Texas!

This month's **Communique'** will give you news of some current events in the creation field along with background on some of the controversies of our day.

We lead off with articles detailing a bill passed in West Virginia giving teachers the right to answer origin questions freely, and a Texas Balanced Treatment bill which seems to keep popping up.

Do you think a “humanzee”, a human-chimp hybrid is a good idea? We have an article exploring whether what is considered unethical today might soon come to pass.

Can atheism possibly explain morality and reason? We have an article looking into this seemingly impossible question for evolution and the atheistic worldview.

Man has been trying to prove or disprove God since he was put on this planet. We have an article detailing the thoughts of Thomas Aquinas on this subject from the 13th century AD. And finally, we have an article asking the question of whether or not we are bright enough to re-engineer this planet God has made for us? Is Geoengineering a good thing?

Our **Genesis Commentary** covers **Genesis 31:1-21 where Jacob flees from Laban**. As always, we have a rundown of the creation education events coming up in our area. We pray these articles edify you and help you to evaluate this culture from a biblical worldview.

West Virginia Passes Bill Protecting Teacher Rights to Answer Student Questions on

“Scientific Theories” by Casey

Luskin from Evolution News



In March, the West Virginia State Legislature passed into law SB280, a bill that protects the rights of teachers who are “responding to student inquiries or answering questions from students about scientific theories of how the universe and/or life came to exist.” Many, including

the media, have inaccurately called this an “intelligent design bill.” While the original version of the bill did state that teachers “may teach intelligent design,” that version of the bill was replaced, and the intelligent design language completely removed, very early in the legislative process by the West Virginia Senate Education Committee on January 16. Since then, the bill has said nothing about intelligent design and simply protects the rights of teachers to discuss “scientific theories of how the universe and/or life came to exist” — again, no mention of intelligent design.

The bill subsequently went through a few additional amendments and changes, and the final language reads as follows:

No public-school board, school superintendent, or school principal may prohibit a public-school classroom teacher from responding to student inquiries or answering questions from students about scientific theories of how the universe and/or life came to exist.

In our opinion here at Discovery Institute, the final language of the law is quite sensible — perhaps not ideal, but nonetheless very good. Our interpretation is that it protects the rights of teachers to answer student inquiries and questions on origins topics — but limits those answers to discussing “scientific theories.” Thus, if a teacher were to advocate creationism or any other religious viewpoint that is prohibited under Supreme Court rulings from endorsement in public schools, they would not be protected by the law because the law only protects teaching about science. As for teaching intelligent design, it simply is not addressed under the law, so if a teacher were to teach intelligent design, it’s not clear that the law would have anything to do with it. (As explained below, we do think ID is a scientific theory, but our opinion really isn’t relevant here because we’re not educators, policymakers, or jurists controlling the law in West Virginia.) Essentially, we view this as an academic freedom law which only protects the rights of teachers to answer student questions about scientific theories related to origins — a sensible law with good language overall.

Instead of teaching ID, what we recommend for public schools is that they discuss the scientific evidence for and against evolution without getting into alternative theories like intelligent design — what we often call a “scientific strengths and weaknesses” approach. (*Editor’s Note: This has been discussed and pushed in Texas for decades and this language is in our Texas state curricula.*) This approach has the benefit of being clearly legal under well-established law, and it also provides many important pedagogical benefits like helping students to learn more about the science of evolution and develop their critical thinking skills as they evaluate the evidence being debated by scientists.

The language of the newly passed West Virginia academic freedom law is not completely aligned with our approach but it’s also not inconsistent with our approach — nothing about intelligent design (or creationism) but simply protecting the rights of teachers to discuss scientific theories when answering student questions about origins. Overall, it’s good language and it means West Virginia joins Tennessee, Louisiana, Alabama, Indiana, and Mississippi to become the sixth state to adopt some form of an academic freedom policy.

Another area where some West Virginia legislators appear confused is on whether the law allows teachers to teach creationism. Again, this is simply not correct. The bill has never said anything about creationism, and even during the West Virginia Senate Education Committee hearing it was made very clear that intelligent design is different from creationism, and that SB280 did not address creationism. Creationism was found to be a religious viewpoint by the U.S. Supreme Court in the 1987 *Edwards v. Aguillard* ruling. In that case the Court held that “creation science” is a “religious viewpoint that a supernatural being created humankind,” and therefore unconstitutional to teach in public

schools. Since the West Virginia law only protects the teaching of “scientific theories,” and since the U.S. Supreme Court found that creationism is a religious viewpoint, if a teacher were to teach creationism then he or she would not be protected by the law.

Unfortunately, some West Virginia legislators were apparently unfamiliar with these facts or did not understand what the bill was about. A few even praised creationism during debate over this bill. The myth that this bill allows creationism to be taught was perpetuated by the West Virginia ACLU which claimed last month that the bill “allows teachers to push creationism in science class.” That claim is simply not true. But with critics and the media perpetuating false claims that SB280 allows the teaching of intelligent design or creationism, no wonder some people are so confused.

In closing, it is our interpretation that the West Virginia law as passed only protects the teaching of scientific theories and says nothing about protecting the teaching of intelligent design, and certainly does not protect endorsing non-scientific religious beliefs like creationism. If either ID or creationism were taught, it’s not clear that the teacher would be protected under this bill. Since the West Virginia law only protects teaching “scientific theories” — and since it’s completely legal to teach “scientific theories” — if something illegal (e.g., creationism) were promoted in a West Virginia classroom, this law would not protect it and the law would not be to blame.

Editor’s Note: This bill codifies what Judge Antonin Scalia wrote in his dissent on the 1987 *Balanced Treatment* case saying that teachers might well be able to answer questions freely.

Texas Is Considering A Bill That Could Let Science Instructors Teach Creationism

The legislation would expand "academic freedom" for teachers.

Adapted from an article by Antonia Blumberg, Huffington Post

Legislators in Texas since 2017 have been considering a bill that could make it easier for science teachers to present religious concepts alongside scientific theories like evolution.



The proposed legislation, introduced first in 2017 by Republican state Rep. Valoree Swanson, could allow public school teachers to present alternative theories to subjects that “may cause controversy,” including climate change, evolution, the origins of life and human cloning. It died in Committee in two previous sessions but now seems to have new backing.

“Some teachers may be unsure of expectations concerning how to present information when controversy arises concerning a scientific subject; and the protection of a teacher’s academic freedom is necessary to enable the teacher to provide effective instruction,” HB 1485 states.

The bill defines “academic freedom” as a teacher’s ability to present scientific information without discriminating in favor of or against any set of religious beliefs. It also notes that the legislation isn’t intended to promote religious doctrine.

But some Texas teachers say the bill could allow them to more easily blend science and religion in the classroom.

"I simply tell my students [that] as educated young adults they have a right ... to choose what they believe," high school science teacher Angela Garlington told AFP.

Similar bills have cropped up in South Dakota, Oklahoma, Iowa, Alabama, Indiana, Florida and Arkansas in recent years. Critics say these bills could make it easier for teachers to present creationism and other religion-inspired topics as scientific theories.

More than one-third of U.S. adults polled (34 percent) reject evolution and believe humans and other living things have existed in their current form since the beginning of time, according to Pew Research Center's 2015 Religious Landscape Study. Sixty-two percent of Americans say humans have evolved over time, but just half of those respondents believe it was due to natural processes alone. Twenty-five percent say evolution was guided by a supreme being.

Editor's Note: While this measure has resurfaced a couple of times over the past 7 years in the Texas legislature, it has little chance of becoming law. The precedent of the 1987 "Balanced Treatment Law" cases makes it almost certainly to be declared unconstitutional. An approach on academic freedom to codify the right of teachers to answer questions as West Virginia has shown in the previous article is probably the better way to go. We already have strengths and weaknesses analysis language in the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) to enable an open analysis and debate of evolution's weaknesses in science classrooms.

Incidentally, it will be interesting to see if the new Louisiana Law requiring the "Ten Commandments" be posted in every classroom passes constitutional muster. This was struck down by the courts decades ago and Louisiana and other states like Texas considering such legislation are banking on the current conservative court ignoring precedent and upholding a different view of the constitution.

Return (Yet Again) of the Humanzee by

Denyse O'Leary

A few days ago, the Templeton Foundation's mailer for its online magazine Nautilus pointed to a five-year-old article by University of Washington psychology prof (emeritus) David P. Barash, advocating the creation of a humanzee: "Doing so would be a terrific idea."



But Why Now?

It's not clear why Nautilus is publicizing the article now. The Soviet Union failed to produce a humanzee. Nothing much has happened since 2018 that suggests that it is imminent. We do learn something of why Barash wants one, though:

Haven't we learned that Promethean hubris leads only to disaster, as did the efforts of the fictional Dr. Frankenstein? But there are also other disasters, currently ongoing, such as the grotesque abuse of nonhuman animals, facilitated by what might well be the most hurtful theologically-driven myth of all times: that human beings are discontinuous from the rest of the natural world, since we were specially created and endowed with souls, whereas "they" — all other creatures — were not.

DAVID P. BARASH, "IT'S TIME TO MAKE HUMAN-CHIMP HYBRIDS," NAUTILUS, MARCH 5, 2018

So, it comes down to a war on the human soul. Now, here's the interesting part: Humans are self-evidently unique; otherwise, Barash's interaction with his readers could not occur. The human minds that enable that interaction are clearly not material things. And no one has any idea how they came to exist. Evolutionary theory provides no significant information here. In the end, however much many thinkers don't like that fact, everyone eventually admits it.

Yet, on cue, readers — including many with PhDs — will agree with Barash that human exceptionalism is wrong think. They will not ask why either he or they can maintain such an absurd view — when the very act of maintaining it refutes it. Perhaps all those years of education enable them to be oblivious to contradictions that should be apparent to an alert high schooler.

Barash, although he professes concern for animal rights, is not deterred by concern for the humanzees that a successful experiment would produce:

Neither fish nor fowl, wouldn't they find themselves intolerably unspecified and inchoate, doomed to a living hell of biological and social indeterminacy? This is possible, but it is at least arguable that the ultimate benefit of teaching human beings their true nature would be worth the sacrifice paid by a few unfortunates. It is also arguable, moreover, that such individuals might not be so unfortunate at all. For every chimp-human or humanzee frustrated by her inability to write a poem or program a computer, there could equally be one delighted by her ability to do so while swinging from a tree branch.

BARASH, "HUMAN-CHIMP HYBRIDS"

The risk of "a living hell of biological and social indeterminacy" ... And this is the same David Barash who worries about whether worms feel pain?

What Makes the Suffering Worthwhile?

Some say, "When claims are made about the "right to life," invariably the referent is human life, a rigid distinction only possible because of the presumption that human life is somehow uniquely distinct from other forms of life, even though everything we know of biology demonstrates that this is simply untrue. What better, clearer, and more unambiguous way to demonstrate this than by creating viable organisms that are neither human nor animal but certifiably intermediate?"

BARASH, "HUMAN-CHIMP HYBRIDS"

So, the humanzee's suffering is rendered worthwhile precisely because it enables the *denigration* of other human beings. Good to know.

At the time, bioethics commentator Wesley J. Smith, clearly shocked by the moral nullity on display, responded,

We are the only truly moral species in the known universe. Only we can be held morally accountable for our actions. Only we have the capacity to rationally determine issues of right and wrong, ought and ought not, etc. Indeed, if being human — in and of itself — isn't what gives us the moral obligation to treat animals humanely, what in the world does?

And if that duty arises solely and directly from our humanity — which it indisputably does — that means, by definition, that we are exceptional. All other species are amoral and, as such, they don't owe a duty to each other, us, or anything. Duties, and moral accountability, are simply beyond their ken.

WESLEY J. SMITH, "DARWINIST WANTS US TO CREATE 'HUMANZEE,'" NATIONAL REVIEW, MARCH 8, 2018

Of course, that's both true and obvious, and one needs a lot of education to be rendered unable to see it. So then why does this obviously ridiculous and clearly inhumane idea keep coming back?

An Underlying Cultural Trend

Experimental physicist Rob Sheldon writes to suggest that there may be an underlying cultural trend here: When ridiculous inhumane ideas are routinely aired without pushback, we become more willing to accept inhumane ideas that are in fact quite viable:

It's like an artillery barrage before the infantry go over the wire. The intent isn't to be taken seriously; the intent is to make the next move seem innocuous. The basic idea is the constant exposure to "shocking" material until it stops being shocking. And this response is entirely normal. We couldn't function as humans without a brain circuit that filters out repetitive stimuli. Anything that happens repetitively gets ignored eventually.

He offers some examples: The hybridization of animal-human embryos allowed to develop past the 14 day "ethical threshold". The introduction of animal genes to "improve" the human genetic stock. And of course, the Holy Grail — extending the life of humans.

Once we remove the ethical barriers between humans and animals, we can then experiment on humans with all the tools we've perfected for animals. One can agree or disagree with his thesis. But we will probably find out in the next decade or so whether he is right. If he is, what to do about the relentless march of dehumanization is a huge challenge.

Editor's Note: We should see Satan's hand behind this discussion. When men deny human exceptionalism they are denying we are made by God in His Image. This is and always has been a rebellion argument!

Can atheism possibly explain morality and reason?

By CMI's Keaton Halley

I do not think it is possible to account for true (objective) morality or reliable minds apart from God, but that doesn't stop atheists from trying. In other words, atheists do sometimes offer explanations; it's just that those 'explanations' aren't any good.



Regarding morality, some atheists have argued that natural selection has hard wired us to act in certain ways that are conducive to human flourishing. Okay, but even if we grant that claim, it would only explain what is, not what ought to be. Indeed, evolutionists admit that some of the predispositions natural selection has supposedly ingrained in us would be immoral to act upon, and we are free to resist those impulses. (*One example would be the necessity of rape in evolution. Italics mine.*) This shows that evolution would not provide a transcendent standard by which to judge our behavior; at best it would only give us subjective morality—which is really no morality at all. What real morality requires, by contrast, is a proper eternal and immutable authority.

Now, sometimes atheists beg the question by taking human flourishing to be the highest good and then working out a moral system based on that premise. But then the question remains—on atheism, what makes human flourishing good? There's no reason to single out

humans as special, and no reason to treat flourishing as an objective good, unless you've already smuggled in a moral standard. But that is the very thing we asked the atheist to explain.

Atheists can know what is moral, but only because atheism is wrong.

Often, atheists misunderstand the challenge, so they respond by saying that they clearly can recognize what is moral without belief in God. This is irrelevant. Yes, atheists can correctly identify many things that are right and wrong. But our argument is not that you need belief in God to acknowledge morality, or even to act morally. It is that God must exist in order for morality to exist. This is a question of ontology (being), not epistemology (knowing). Atheists can know what is moral, but only because atheism is wrong.

Other atheists claim that objective morality is a brute fact, or something that exists necessarily but does not need to be grounded in God—a Platonic ideal. But this seems incoherent, since such things as love and mercy are properties of persons, not things that can exist independently as abstract objects. Also, even if goodness were a Platonic ideal, it's still hard to see why human beings would have any obligation toward it. On this view, evil would also exist as a Platonic ideal, so why would we have a duty to be good, but no corresponding duty to be evil? It seems arbitrary without the personal authority of the biblical Creator, whose nature is the standard for goodness, and who deserves our allegiance in virtue of who He is.

Furthermore, since atheists deny that there is genuine teleology (goals or purposes) in the world, this should logically lead them to deny free will. But without free will, how could humans even make the choice to be moral or immoral? If we are just 'moist robots', as some evolutionists claim, and free will is an illusion, then real morality is impossible.

Reason is not just unexpected given naturalism, it is impossible.

As for reliable minds, in *Monkey minds* I explained why we would not expect reason to emerge in a naturalistic, evolutionary world. I offered two arguments. The first says that if we had to rely on blind, unreasoning forces to produce reason, the chances are too slim that our cognitive faculties would be put together in just the right way so as to allow us to reason properly. Natural selection wouldn't help, since it does not favor truth per se, but behavior. My second argument goes further and says that reason is not just unexpected given naturalism, it is impossible. This is because naturalism insists that human beings are just machines without immaterial souls. As explained, reason cannot be grounded in material objects alone, but requires an immaterial substance. Thus, reason is explicitly contrary to naturalism...

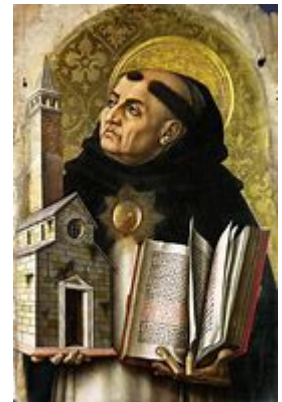
To summarize, while evolutionists might make attempts to overcome these problems, their attempts are inadequate. It's not possible to get morality or reason from their worldview, but since they attempt to offer explanations, we do still have to consider which explanation makes the most sense.

Editor's Note: I had this discussion in a debate more than 20 years ago with a biology professor at Northwest Vista College. The claim often used for altruism surfacing in humans (ability to sacrifice themselves for others) is that when some pacifists were attacked by brutes and sacrificed themselves to save their progeny that such accidentally surfaced altruism was passed on. The irrationality here is that by the definition of the situation it would not be passed on. The pacifist and his progeny would either be killed or enslaved, and it is the brutes with no morals, altruism or empathy whose lineage would be carried forward.

It is simple reasoning and observation that without God there is anarchy and no morality. Man is inherently evil via original sin. Thus, we need God to make us righteous. From an evolutionary point of view morality could never occur since it most often goes against the primary axiom of survival of the fittest and doing whatever you can to survive at any price. The ability of man to reason, have a conscience and understand morality is an enigma for evolutionists and one of the best pieces of evidence we were formed by an intelligent and moral being! Evolution says our existence has no purpose. Morality and a conscience testify to our having not only a purpose, but a divinely inspired one.

AQUINAS'S FIVE PROOFS FOR THE EXISTENCE OF GOD

The Summa Theologica is a famous work written by Saint Thomas Aquinas between AD 1265 and 1274. It is divided into three main parts and covers all of the core theological teachings of Aquinas's time. One of the questions the Summa Theologica is well known for addressing is the question of the existence of God. Aquinas responds to this question by offering the following five proofs:



1. The Argument from Motion: Our senses can perceive motion by seeing that things act on one another. Whatever moves is moved by something else. Consequently, there must be a First Mover that creates this chain reaction of motions. This is God. God sets all things in motion and gives them their potential. *(Editor's Note: This is Aristotle's "Unmoved First Mover" logic argument.)*
2. The Argument from Efficient Cause: Because nothing can cause itself, everything must have a cause or something that creates an effect on another thing. Without a first cause, there would be no others. Therefore, the First Cause is God. *(Again an "Unmoved First Mover".)*
3. The Argument from Necessary Being: Because objects in the world come into existence and pass out of it, it is possible for those objects to exist or not exist at any particular time. However, nothing can come from nothing. This means something must exist at all times. This is God. *(An imperfect statement possibly misapplied of the 1st Law of Thermodynamics.)*
4. The Argument from Gradation: There are different degrees of goodness in different things. Following the "Great Chain of Being," which states there is a gradual increase in complexity, created objects move from unformed inorganic matter to biologically complex organisms. Therefore, there must be a being of the highest form of good. This perfect being is God. *(This is an almost evolutionary worldview which would seemingly espouse that God arose via some evolutionary path which is contrary to scripture.)*
5. The Argument from Design: All things have an order or arrangement that leads them to a particular goal. Because the order of the universe cannot be the result of chance, design and purpose must be at work. This implies divine intelligence on the part of the designer. This is God. *(This is a clear statement of Intelligent Design and Irreducible Complexity made some 800 years before these concepts became fashionable.)*

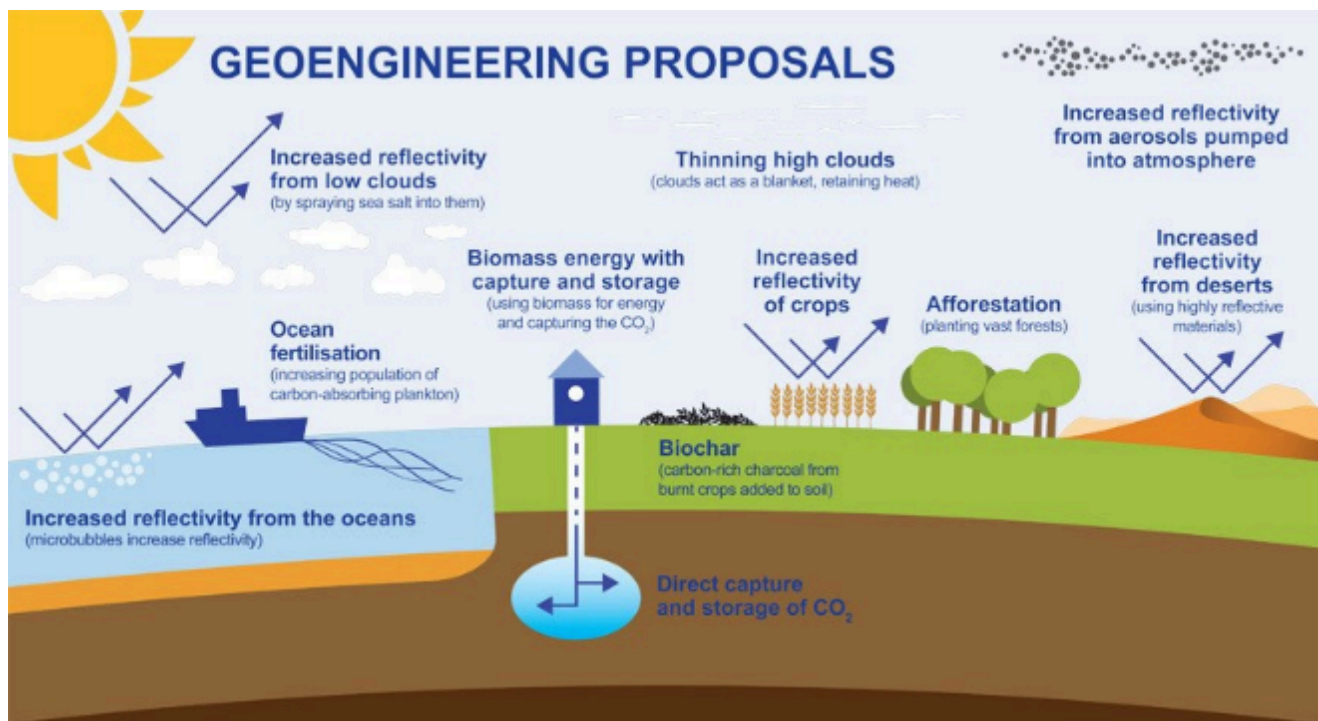
Geoengineering on an Intelligently Designed Planet — Let’s Be Careful with That by Tova Forman, Evolution News

Have you ever taken it into your head to rearrange your bedroom, only to change your mind and return the furniture to its original layout within twelve hours? Perhaps you found that you had to crawl nearly out of bed to turn off the reading lamp or wake up with the sun in your eyes. It could be that there was no space to open the closet door or bend down to put on your slippers. You wanted everything back in its previous spot, and you humbly asked a friend or family member to help huff-and-puff your dresser back into place. Well, no harm done with that failed experiment!

The regret of reconfiguring an already well-arranged room is nothing compared with the cost of manipulating the Earth’s atmosphere under the impression that “a little rearranging, and we’ll enjoy the view more.” The Conversation, a journal intended to relay expert academic views, recently published an article discouraging geoengineers from “improving” cloud formations using a stratospheric aerosol injection, an as-yet theoretical method for solar radiation management.

Shooting Ourselves in the Foot

The complexities of cooling the planet via solar radiation management include sky-high budgets, legal accountability conundrums, and potential new “patterns of global atmospheric circulation that can lead to more extreme weather events.” In other words, the writer, geologist David Kitchen, thinks that we could shoot ourselves in the foot if we’re not careful. I would agree. But Dr. Kitchen is so convinced that the Earth’s climate is unstable that he declares stalwartly, “None of this is to say that the world should dismiss geoengineering.”



These warnings are well-founded yet incomplete. Our most specialized scientists are still discovering how many systems, controls, and other aspects of planetary fine-tuning are in place to ensure that we have life — abundant life!

Geoengineering experiments would be one thing on a planet with a hodgepodge of ill-matched gases, radiation levels, atmospheric features, and the like. But understanding how masterfully these factors are tuned and balanced exposes the risk and hubris of the project.

“Many More Details”

As one illustration, physicist Eric Hedin wrote ... about “Intelligent Design in Weather — The ‘Perfect Day’ Conspiracy.” He explains how our Earth is intelligently designed for a favorable climate. While The Conversation issues warning after warning about manipulating Earth’s climate, Hedin celebrates the many factors that work together for an optimized experience: “From nuclear fusion in the Sun to Earth’s orbital radius, to atmospheric conditions and the interaction of light with molecules, to the properties of water, and many more details that I had to leave out, it seems like a line-up of more than ‘the usual suspects’ conspired together to bring us a perfect day.”

In the same vein, science writer David Coppedge recently described the “Ghostly Organisms that Rescue the Planet.” He was referring to sea salps: “Their outsized role gives the Earth a biological feedback mechanism, somewhat like a thermostat, to regulate carbon emissions in the atmosphere.”

As Dr. Hedin observes, such intricate and interactive mechanisms could be detailed at great length, not to mention others that we don’t even know about yet. The command to “save the planet no matter the cost” looks a little different when you consider that our world is a carefully designed system of systems. In his article, Kitchen quotes NASA engineer Riley Duren, who describes geoengineering as “a self-inflicted wound.” Fiddling with the climate is not like rearranging the furniture in your room. Let’s hope the geoengineering experts come to see that before they spend billions on potentially catastrophic atmosphere experimentation.

Editor's Note: My dad used to say of any fine piece of machinery such as a car or TV that "It took a genius to invent and make such an apparatus, but any idiot can screw it up!"

The Bible says and scientific observation confirms that this planet was made to be a cradle for life with amazingly balanced and interconnected systems giving us a sustainable and perfect environment for us to live. It is the hubris of mortal man to think that we understand everything about the atmosphere, biological systems and habitats to say that we can re-engineer all of this without unintentionally harming it in some way.

"Answers for Life" series at Calvary Chapel this coming year.

We thank all of those who joined us for the "Rocks Cry Out" Series at Calvary Chapel Jesus is the Way this past year.

We will take this summer off and come back on the fourth Tuesday in September with our **"Answers for Life"** series.

Below is the schedule of live multimedia programs for 2024-2025



September 24, 2024 - **"Is there a God and Do I have a purpose?"**

October 22, 2024 - **"Why is there Pain and Suffering and Why Do bad Things happen to Good People?"**

January 2025 - **"Races, Racism, Babel & Did we Evolve from Apes?"**

February 2025 - **"Doesn't Distant Starlight prove the Bible Wrong?"**

March 2025 - **"What about Contradictions in the Bible?"**

April 2025 - **"The De-Faithing of America: Creation in the Courts"**

Calvary Chapel Jesus is the Way is located at 6615 S. Flores St. SA TX 78214



Genesis Commentary

Jacob Flees From Laban

Gen. 31 Jacob heard that Laban's sons were saying, "Jacob has taken everything our father owned and has gained all this wealth from what belonged to our father." ²And Jacob noticed that Laban's attitude toward him was not what it had been.

³Then the Lord said to Jacob, "Go back to the land of your fathers and to your relatives, and I will be with you."

⁴So Jacob sent word to Rachel and Leah to come out to the fields where his flocks were. ⁵He said to them, "I see that your father's attitude toward me is not what it was before, but the God of my father has been with me. ⁶You know that I've worked for your father with all my strength, ⁷yet your father has cheated me by changing my wages ten times. However, God has not allowed him to harm me. ⁸If he said, 'The speckled ones will be your wages,' then all the flocks gave birth to speckled young; and if he said, 'The streaked ones will be your wages,' then all the flocks bore streaked young. ⁹So God has taken away your father's livestock and has given them to me.

¹⁰"In breeding season, I once had a dream in which I looked up and saw that the male goats mating with the flock were streaked, speckled or spotted. ¹¹The angel of God said to me in the dream, 'Jacob.' I answered, 'Here I am.' ¹²And he said, 'Look up and see that all the male goats mating with the flock are streaked, speckled or spotted, for I have seen all that Laban has been doing to you. (This verifies that what happened with the speckled/spotted lambs was a God thing.) ¹³I am the God of Bethel, where you anointed a pillar and where you made a vow to me. Now leave this land at once and go back to your native land."

¹⁴Then Rachel and Leah replied, "Do we still have any share in the inheritance of our father's estate? ¹⁵Does he not regard us as foreigners? Not only has he sold us, but he has used up what was paid for us. ¹⁶Surely all the wealth that God took away from our father belongs to us and our children. So do whatever God has told you."

¹⁷Then Jacob put his children and his wives on camels, ¹⁸and he drove all his livestock ahead of him, along with all the goods he had accumulated in Paddan Aram, to go to his father Isaac in the land of Canaan.

¹⁹When Laban had gone to shear his sheep, Rachel stole her father's household gods. ²⁰Moreover, Jacob deceived Laban the Aramean by not telling him he was running away. ²¹So he fled with all he had, crossed the Euphrates River, and headed for the hill country of Gilead.

Lies, deceit, the taking of idols. This is as bad as a "soap opera" and will end badly for many. The fact that Laban had household idols reveals much about how he had acted all through this story. He was not a committed man of Yahweh. His transfer of this false religion to Rachel will be a source of problems for Jacob.

Coming to SABBSA on the second Tuesday of each month in 2024

July 2024 - "Evidence for the rapid depositing of Earth's Rock Layers"



August 2024 - "Designs from Nature that have led to discoveries which have changed Human History"

September 2024 - "The Rocks Cry Out - Lesson 15: The Missoula Flood"

October 2024 - "Lesson 16: The Miracle of Life"

November 2024 – Dave Nutting, Alpha Omega Institute

SABBSA on KSLR

Please join the **San Antonio Bible Based Science Association** "on the air" each Saturday afternoon with "**Believing the Bible!**" Join us **Saturday afternoons at 1:45 pm on radio station KSLR 630 AM in San Antonio and airing for 15-million people across the U.S. in thirteen major markets and internationally in 120 countries on WWCR.**

Here is our schedule of upcoming program topics



7/6 **Creation Science: A side Issue or the Key to Evangelism?**

7/13 **Single cell to Multicellular Organisms**

7/27 **Twins in the Womb**

8/3 **The Heavens Declare**

8/10 **Scholars & Skeptics (Sir William Ramsey)**

8/17 **Caveman Language**

8/24 **Prosecutor for Evolution**

8/31 **God holds us Together**

9/7 **Islam vs. Christianity**

9/14 **Shema, Golden Rule + 10**

9/21 **Has Language Evolved?**

9/28 **Comb Jellies**

If you cannot tune in on Saturday afternoons or would like to sample our program or hear previous shows, they are available on podcast on the KSLR website (kslr.com). Click on the link below to go to the KSLR podcast page and scroll down till you find "**Believing the Bible.**"

["Believing the Bible" - SABBSA on KSLR Radio](#)

Cartoon Corner

Thanks to Answers in Genesis, who provides many of these cartoons each month for our newsletter and our presentations. Please think about donating to them in gratitude for this and all the ministries they give us.



Prayer Needs and Praises!

- Pray for spiritual healing in our nation.
 - Pray for SABBSA's Public Seminars
 - Pray for our Radio Ministry
 - Pray for our effectiveness of monthly meetings and speakers
 - Pray for how we can get the gospel out better
 - Please pray for Mrs. Cindy Williams who is battling cancer.
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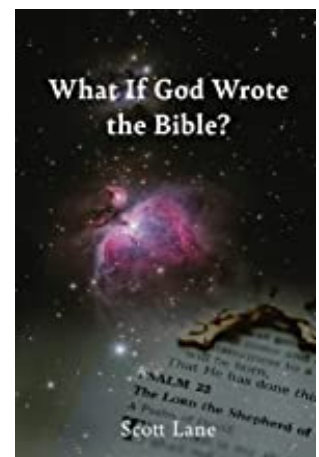


Special Book Study in July

Each Wednesday evening in July you are invited to a multimedia book study of Scott Lane's book **"What if God Wrote the Bible?"**

- July 3 - **Is Genesis the First and only True Creation Account?**
- July 10 - **Do History, Archaeology and Geology support the Bible?**
- July 17 - **Is Biblical Prophecy 100% accurate?**
- July 24 - **Philosophical and Logical Coherence + God Protecting His Word**
- July 31 - **Prescience + Conclusions**

This study will be held each Wednesday night in July 2024 at 6 pm at the Lane household - **7620 Avery Rd., Live Oak, TX 78233**. Please RSVP for this event by calling Scott Lane at 210-861-0454



Around Texas

Houston:

The **Greater Houston Creation Association (GHCA)** meet at Houston's First Baptist Church at 7 pm every first Thursday, in Room 143. Their meetings can be streamed live by going to www.ghcaonline.com.

Dallas-Ft Worth:

The Metroplex Institute of Origin Science (MIOS) meets at the Dr. Pepper Starcenter, 12700 N. Stemmons Fwy, Farmers Branch, TX, usually at 7:30 pm on the first Tuesday of each month. <http://dfw-mios.com/>

Greater San Antonio area: Listen to **Answers with Ken Ham** online at the address below.

<http://www.answersingenesis.org/media/audio/answers-daily> To hear creation audio programs from the **Institute for Creation Research**, listen online at this address. <http://www.icr.org/radio/> Also, tune in

KHCB FM 88.5 (San Marcos) or KKER FM 88.7 (Kerrville) for **Back to Genesis** at 8:57 AM Mon-Fri, then **Science, Scripture and Salvation** at 1:30 AM, 8:00 AM and 4:30 PM on Saturdays.

Glen Rose:

Dr. Carl Baugh gives a “*Director’s Lecture Series*” on the first Saturday of each month at the **Creation Evidence Museum** just outside Glen Rose, TX. This museum is a great and beneficial way to spend any day. Presentations are at 11 am and 2 pm. For more information, go to www.creationevidence.org

Dallas:

The Museum of Earth History uses the highest quality research replicas of dinosaurs, mammals, and authentic historical artifacts to not only lay out for the visitor a clear and easily understood connection between Genesis and Revelation but will do so in an entertaining and intellectually challenging way. Open M-F 9 to 6. <http://visitcreation.org/item/museum-of-earth-history-dallas-tx/>

ICR in Dallas:

Of course, the **ICR Discovery Center for Science and Earth History** is the foremost creation history museum in the Southwest. They are open from 10am to 5 pm Tuesdays through Saturdays. For more information on this exceptional facility go to <https://discoverycenter.icr.org/>

Abilene:

The Discovery Center is a creation museum/emporium that exists primarily to provide scientific and historic evidence for the truthfulness of God’s word, especially as it relates to the creation/evolution issue. It also features some fascinating “Titanic Disaster” exhibits. <https://evidences.org>

Last Month at SABBSA

"A Matter of Time" – Rocks Cry Out #12

The vast majority of dating methods reveal a recent creation. Did you know that there are only about two dozen dating methods, based on questionable assumptions, which indicate an extremely old Earth? Did you also know that there are more than 70 scientific dating methods which show the Earth, and our solar system are something less than 15,000 years old, as the Bible would suggest. Bruce Malone and Scott Lane explored some of these methods with us in June.



**Next SABBSA Meeting: Tuesday,
July 9, 2024, at 7 pm**

Coming to SABBSA in July

"The Rocks Cry Out" #13 - "Missing Time"



This video starts the 3rd volume of Search for the Truth Ministries' **"The Rocks Cry Out"** Series. It gives evidence for the rapid depositing of the Earth's rock layers during the Noahic flood.

If the layers in the Earth were laid down over millions of years, they should not be so perfectly uniform and parallel in the strata. There should be worm trails, ruts from erosion and many other surface details which by their absence shows these layers of rock were not laid down gradually, but quickly and catastrophically. Join us in July as we explore the truth of Earth's history!

Please join us in July for creation science and biblical apologetics teaching you will find nowhere else in Bexar County. We meet at **Faith Lutheran Church** just **south of the corner of Jones Maltsberger and Thousand Oaks**. The address is 14819 Jones Maltsberger Rd., San Antonio, TX 78247.