

# Is There Really a God?

By Al Felder

*“He hath made everything beautiful in his time: also he hath set the world in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end.” (Ecc. 3:11)*

The question of how everything originated has always been within man. In fact, the Bible teaches us in this verse that God placed it there. The word translated as world in this verse actually means eternity<sup>1</sup>. Man has a desire to know how he came to be as well as the universe around him. Yet, God’s creation is so vast that we simply cannot know it all, otherwise, we would be God. God has, however, provided us with the information we need to know Him. It is this very information that we would like to discuss at this time and ask the question, “Is there really a God?”

In past generations of our society the question of the existence of God was taken for granted. The majority of people believed in God, but that has changed. Now an increasing number of people in our society say that there is no God. What happened? For years now, children have been taught in school that there is no God. In God’s place, man has put evolution as the reason for the existence of life.

This of course was foretold within the word of God.

*“<sup>3</sup>Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, <sup>4</sup>And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation. <sup>5</sup>For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: <sup>6</sup>Whereby the world that was, being overflowed with water, perished: <sup>7</sup>But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.” (2 Peter 3:3-7)*

Man seeking to reject God has developed his own theory for the existence of life. As stated in the word of God it is based upon the premise that life continues just as it always has. Thus, the evolutionist motto is, “the present is the key to the past.” In other words, man believes that through the observation of present events he can understand the past. For example, since fossils very rarely form in today’s world, evolutionists conclude that the vast layer of rocks containing billions of fossils must have taken millions of years to develop. Yet, God states in His word that the world of today is not the same as the world of the past. God destroyed the past world by means of a global flood.

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<sup>1</sup> Strong, James. 2001. *The Strongest Strong's*. Grand Rapids, MI : Zondervan, 2001. p. 1545.

The Bible makes it clear that man is without excuse in his denial of God.

*“<sup>18</sup>For that wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; <sup>19</sup>Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. <sup>20</sup>For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: <sup>21</sup>Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.”* (Rom. 1:18-21)

There is enough evidence in nature to convince man of the existence of God. That evidence points to an intelligent design. Why does an archeologist become excited when he finds ancient artifacts? It is because they are a sign of intelligence. The scientist recognizes that these objects did not create themselves, rather, they were created by an intelligent being. It is in that same manner that creation points to God.

The very existence of the Universe points to a Divine Creator. Many atheists rejected this line of reasoning by holding to the belief that the Universe itself was eternal. Recent scientific discoveries have shown this idea to be impossible. In his book, *God and the Astronomers*, Dr. Robert Jastrow makes the following statement, *“Now three lines of evidence – the motion 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.”*<sup>2</sup> Dr. Jastrow is an astrophysicist who is considered by many to be one of the greatest science writers of our time.

According to the laws of thermodynamics the total amount of mass-energy is limited, and the amount of usable energy is decreasing. In short, the Universe is winding down and will come to an end someday. This is not a problem for those who believe in the Bible for God states that He will bring things to an end when He judges the world.

The beginning of the Universe is not a problem for those who believe in the Bible either. *“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.”* (Genesis 1:1) Since the Universe had a beginning something or someone existed before it, and caused its existence. The Bible begins with God being that someone who caused the Universe.

It is amazing to consider the fact that the Bible does not begin with an attempt to prove the existence of God. It starts with the fact that He is and has always been. He is outside of time, for time did not exist until He created it. He is eternal with no beginning and no end.

Also, the scientific laws of the conservation of mass and energy are consistent with the teaching of the Bible. Basically, as far as mass and energy are concerned no new material can come into existence neither can existing material cease. *“And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had*

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<sup>2</sup> **Jastrow, Robert. 1978.** *God and the Astronomers.* New York : W.W. Norton, 1978. p. 111.

*made.*" (Genesis 2:2) Only God can create and the Bible states that He ended His work on the seventh day, therefore, no new material will come into existence. *"Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high."* (Heb. 1:3) Since God created all things, the Bible teaches that he also sustains all things.

The Universe further points to God by the rules to which it conforms. We often refer to these rules as the laws of Nature. These laws are exact and precise. They are consistent, predictable, and can be studied through scientific experimentation. Because of man's understanding of the laws of Nature he is able to make predictions as to weather patterns and solar/lunar eclipses among many other things.

If, however, everything came about by chance how could the Universe have such order? How could we depend upon anything to be consistent? These are questions that are difficult for the evolutionist to answer, but not for those who believe God and His word. God created the laws of the Universe. *"Thus saith the Lord; If my covenant be not with day and night, and if I have not appointed the ordinances of heaven and earth."* (Jer. 33:25) We can expect that these same laws that applied yesterday will apply today, and in the future as well, because God is consistent. *"For I am the Lord, I change not."* (Malachi 3:6) Natural laws exist because the Universe has a Creator who is logical and has imposed order on His creation.

God's most prized creation is also a display of intelligent design and further evidence of the existence of God. *"And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth."* (Genesis 1:26) Man is unlike anything else that God created. Man was made in the image of God.

Evolution teaches that man evolved over the course of time. Through the process of chemical reactions simple organisms came into existence and through a series of mutations became present day man. However, recent scientific research on human DNA have shown this to be false. DNA contains a code, a language for the instructions to build life. It is similar to a computer program, but it is far more complex.

Such evidence has caused some within the ranks of the atheists to change their thinking about creation verses evolution. Antony Flew was renowned as one of the top atheistic minds of the twentieth century, but when these discoveries concerning DNA were made he came to believe in the idea of intelligent design. He is quoted as saying, *"Can the origins of a system of coded chemistry be explained in a way that makes no appeal whatever to the kinds of facts that we otherwise invoke to explain codes and languages, systems of communications, the impress of the ordinary words on the world of matter?"*<sup>3</sup> He compares the information stored in DNA to

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<sup>3</sup> **Varghese, Anthony Flew and Roy. 2007.** *There is a God: How the World's Most Notorious Atheist Changed His Mind.* New York : Harper Collins, 2007. p. 127.

the information stored in a book, and draws the conclusion that to explain one is to explain the other. Both have a creator.

Scientists have also made recent discoveries about the brain. Prior to these discoveries, evolutionists believed that the mind was nothing more than a function of the brain. This allowed them to say that the mind and the brain were the same and since the brain is matter, matter is all that exists. However, research by Nobel Prize winner Sir John Eccles showed that the mind is more than merely physical. He studied the neural synapses of the brain and showed that the supplementary motor area of the brain may be fired by mere intention to do something, without the motor cortex (which controls muscle movements) operating. In short, the mind is not matter. Something that cannot be seen or measured with instruments controls the brain.

This is a problem for evolutionists because they cannot allow for anything to exist that did not come from matter. Yet, this is not a problem for those who believe the Bible. *“And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.”* (Genesis 2:7) It is this soul that gives man consciousness and the ability think and reason. These are things that do not contain matter. How can you measure a thought? You can weigh a cd, then completely fill it with information, weigh it again, and guess what, it still weighs the same thing. Intelligence cannot be explained by evolution because there is no known natural law through which matter can give rise to information.

Further, scientists have discovered that everything can be present within the brain, all of the systems present within it, and consciousness cannot be produced. Once again this is difficult for evolutionists, but not for those who believe the Bible. *“For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.”* (James 2:26) The brain plays a part in the process of consciousness, but there is clearly a non-physical part as well. Through God’s word we know this to be a soul. God has made man a spiritual being like Himself.

Finally, morality points to the existence of God. According to evolution, everything came about by chance. Everything is the result of a series of chemical reactions and mutations. In such a belief there is no basis for determining right and wrong. Each person is left with his or her own beliefs. Each person decides what they believe to be right and wrong. It is all just someone’s opinion.

Earlier we read from Romans and I would like to do so again in order to show the consequences of man rejecting God.

*“<sup>28</sup>And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; <sup>29</sup>Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, <sup>30</sup>Backbiter, haters of God, spiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, <sup>31</sup>Without understanding, covenant breakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful.”* (Rom. 1:28-31)

When man becomes his own basis for morality, this is the result. When you convince a man he came from a monkey, he'll act like a monkey. Within the belief of evolution there is no good or evil, only human opinion exists. One person believes that it is wrong to kill, and another does not. Who is right? Well, that's your opinion. In the end, right and wrong changes along with man's preferences. At one time it was considered murder for a woman to kill her unborn child, but society's views have changed and now it has become her right.

True morality is based on the fact of the unchanging nature of God. He is eternal, holy, just, and righteous. *"There is one lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy."* (James 4:12) Only a belief in God can explain absolute morality because it recognizes a higher authority than man. Killing, along with many other actions, is not wrong because I say so. It is wrong because God says that it is wrong.

God has not left man to his own devices to determine what is right or wrong. God through His word, the Bible, has made His laws known to man. *"<sup>16</sup>All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: <sup>17</sup>That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."* (2 Timothy 3:16, 17) Through studying the word of God we learn what is good and what is evil.

With all of the evidence that exists, why would anyone refuse to believe in the existence of God? If one accepts that there is a God who created us, then that God also owns us. If this God is the God of the Bible, He owns us and He has given us a set of rules by which we are to live. More importantly, He tells us within His word that we are in a state of rebellion against Him. This rebellion is called sin. *"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."* (Rom. 3:23) As a result of this rebellion we are sentenced to death.

The good news is that God has provided a means of deliverance from this fate. *"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."* (John 14:6) Only through obedience of the Gospel of Christ can a person receive the forgiveness of sins and have the hope of eternal life.