

JUNE 2007

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REAL TRUTH

A MAGAZINE RESTORING PLAIN UNDERSTANDING



SOUTH AFRICA

COUNTRY OF CONTRAST

THE REAL TRUTH

A MAGAZINE RESTORING PLAIN UNDERSTANDING

VOL. V | NO. 5 | JUNE 2007

ARTICLES

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DESIGNED FOR DISCOVERY – PART II

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ABOUT OUR COVER: Johannesburg (bottom) is home to many prosperous businesses, such as the stylish Michelangelo Hotel (top left). Yet, despite the South African capital's economic prosperity, many citizens continue to subsist in unthinkable conditions in surrounding shanties (top right).

PHOTOS: MCT (top left and bottom), RCG (top right)

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PERSONAL FROM

David C. Fack



The Existence of God

Logically Proven!

WHY SHOULD THERE be such doubt—such confusion—about the existence of God? For thousands of years, people have debated whether God exists. Most conclude that it cannot be proven—one way or the other. It is surmised that the correct answer lies in the area of abstract philosophy and the metaphysical.

Others become *agnostics*, asserting that they “don’t know” if God exists. Those who *do* accept God’s existence often do so passively, merely because they were taught it from childhood. Some do not even care. Such people probably cannot be moved from their apathy.

Atheists have concluded that God does *not* exist. These people represent a special category that God describes as, “The *fool* has said in his heart, There is no God” (Psalm 14:1). This scripture is repeated in Psalm 53:1. What follows will explain *why* God calls atheists “fools.”

Over thirty-seven years ago, I learned of absolute proof that God exists. My studies lasted 2 1/2 years. I came to realize that I did not have to accept His existence “on faith.” Since that time, science has learned much more and the “case” for God’s existence has become far stronger than at any time in history. This article presents numerous absolute, immutable proofs that God *does* exist. After reading it, you will never again doubt the answer to this greatest of questions!

Some proofs will amaze you. Others will inspire you. Still others will surprise or even excite you. All of them will fascinate you with their simplicity. We will first examine some traditional proofs and then consider material that rests on the cutting edge of scientific understanding, before returning to established proofs. You will learn from biology, astronomy, chemistry and mathematics.

Creation or Evolution?

There is an all-important question that is inseparable from the question of God’s existence. The question of whether life on earth exists, because of blind, dumb luck and chance, through evolution, or because of special creation by a Supreme Being, cannot be avoided in studying the existence of God.

Did all life on earth evolve over millions of years, as evolutionists assert—or did an all-powerful God author it at creation? Most people *assume* evolution is true, just as those who believe in God *assume* His existence. I also studied this question—evolution vs. creation—in depth, during the same period that I sought to prove God’s existence.

I learned that it takes far more “faith” to believe in the intellectually chic and fashionable evolutionary *myth*, than it does to believe in the existence of God. In fact, I learned that *evolution is based entirely on faith*, because no facts or proof have ever been found to support it!

(We have prepared a thorough and most inspiring, 33-page, magazine-sized brochure, *EVOLUTION – Facts, Fallacies and Implications*. Those who read this powerful publication will never again doubt the scientific case for Creation!)

Faith and Proof

Faith *does* play a role in the life of a Christian. For the person who truly wants to seek God and learn to please Him, notice:

“But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that comes to God *must believe that He is*, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him” (Hebrews 11:6). Faith is vital to a Christian. In fact, without it, no one can please God. Notice, this verse says that those seeking God “*must believe that He is*.” A deep belief in God, who “rewards” all who “diligently seek Him,” requires PROOF of His existence. After proof has been established, then—and *only then*—can one have FAITH—absolute CONFIDENCE—that what he does is being recorded in God’s mind, to be remembered when he receives his reward. If you are uncertain that God exists, because proof of that existence has not been firmly established, then, under fire, your faith will wane or disappear.

But Which God?

The apostle Paul wrote, “For though there be that are called gods, whether in heaven or in earth, (as there be *gods many, and lords many*,) but to us there is but *one God*, the Father, *of whom are all things*...HOWBEIT THERE IS NOT IN EVERY MAN THAT KNOWLEDGE” (I Corinthians 8:5-7).

The religions of this world have created many gods of wood, stone and other material. Others exist only in the minds of men. The ancient Greeks alone served 30,000 gods and modern Hindus worship 5 million gods! Truly, there are, and have always been, “gods many, and lords

many.” Yet, the God of the Bible created all the materials that men use to design their own gods. But, as Paul said, “there is not in every man that knowledge.”

Such unnecessary ignorance and confusion!

The God of the Bible has shown the way to peace, happiness and abundant life for all people willing to *study* His Instruction Book. Doing this would rid mankind of the confusion and evils that encompass this world. But, it is not our purpose here to prove that the God of the Bible is the one true God of creation. (Read our booklet *BIBLE AUTHORITY... can it be proven?*)

What Science Tells Us

Be willing to examine science. As we reason, do not *suppose* or *hope*. Stand on indisputable *facts*. We will see facts from a broad array of different kinds of science. They will demonstrate that an all-powerful Supreme Being, of infinite intelligence, carefully provided more than sufficient proof to remove all doubt that He exists.

The Bible is God’s instruction to mankind. He expects all who are willing to read the Bible, to “*Prove* all things; hold fast that which is good” (I Thessalonians 5:21). Surely *this* God would not then expect us to *assume* His existence, while instructing us to *prove everything else* from His Word!

Before beginning this study, remember, *assumptions do not count!* Neither do superstitious myths or traditions based on ignorance! What can be known from science? Only accept *facts*. Think rationally and clearly. Then accept what *can* be proven!

The Most Perfect Clock

You probably have a watch. Without it, you would be lost in a world that demands that people “be on time.”

Some watches are more accurate than others. How accurate is *yours*?

How long before it loses a *second*? When this happens, you adjust it by reckoning from a more accurate source. That source, whatever it is, is also imperfect and has to be regularly updated, though not as often, to be in accord with the Master Clock of the United States at the Naval Observatory in Washington, D.C.

For many years, until 1967, Naval Observatory astronomers “observed” the motion of the earth, in relation to the heavens, to accurately measure time. All clocks in this country were set in relation to these very precise measurements. *It was God who made this Master Clock of the Universe!* He set the heavens in motion and mankind learned how to use its wonderful accuracy. As marvelous as this Great Clock is, the story does not end here.

In 1967, scientists built an “Atomic Clock.” It uses Cesium 133 atoms because they oscillate (vibrate) at the rate of 9,192,631,770 times per second. This produces accuracy within *ONE SECOND EVERY 30 MILLION YEARS!* Wouldn’t you love a watch that accurate? Cesium 133 atoms never vary a single vibration. They are steady—constant—reliable—and cannot be an accident of nature that just “happens” to always turn out exactly the same. God had to design the complexity and reliability of these atoms. No honest mind can believe otherwise. Men merely learned how to capture what God designed, for use in time measurement. Again, the story continues.

Doubters, consider this! Scientists in Boulder, Colorado, at the National Institute of Standards and Technology, have built an *optical* clock that is even *more accurate*. How? By measuring time with *light*. Time is now measured in what are called *femtoseconds*—or a million-billionth of a second. These clocks use mercury ions at their

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CORRUPTION

A Worldwide Scourge Soon to End!



AN AMERICAN PRESIDENT lies under oath. A U.S. senator resigns in disgrace. United Nations officials take away funding intended for hungry Iraqis. A major American automotive company ignores federal law and conducts business with an enemy state.

The cancer of corruption in the world has reached an all-time high, leaving tangled webs of lies and “cover-ups.”

Why is this happening—and where will it lead?

Corruption spans almost 6,000 years of civilization. Each humanly devised government has battled this scourge.

Corruption appears in more than one shape and flavor, and includes, as defined by the dictionary, (1) dishonest proceedings, moral perversion, depravity, (2) debase or alteration of language, and (3) a perversion of integrity.

Widespread dishonesty and deceit, compromised morality, and perverted, twisted language are all signs of a culture with its underpinnings about to give way.

Corruption in Government

A candidate for the 2008 U.S. presidential election promised he would,

if elected, eliminate corruption in his administration with a paper clip. How? The paperclip would serve as a continual reminder to him and his staff of their moral responsibility toward the Oval Office. If a gift or some other benefit was offered, his staff would be instructed to compare its value to that of the paperclip: If the gift’s value were greater, it must be refused.

While the candidate is probably sincere about his intention, would his

innovative reminder prove to be effective?

Not likely—and here’s why. Gifts have now come to be viewed as part of the “benefits package” for those holding office, a reasonable compensation for their services.

But such thinking is in itself corrupt! Unless payment has been specifically described as part of a compensation package, gifts of significant value are *always* a violation of the public trust. Designed to influence policy and business decisions, these



■ **CORPORATE SCANDALS:** A former Hewlett-Packard Co. Chairwoman and four others were involved in a corporate spying scandal.

PHOTO: MCT

can lead to lies that cover up the payoff and “spin” a politician’s position. A political leader accepting what is essentially a bribe for his support of a business venture, public works or policy dictate has succumbed to thievery, deceit and hypocrisy—in every case!

Preference given to one group as a result of gifts or payoffs is unfair to others who have an interest in the influenced policy, funding or law. Honesty and integrity can quickly become overwhelmed by graft and corruption if such exchanges become commonplace.

“Corrupt behavior causes an entire nation to become spiritually sick, from the highest levels of government to those charged with enforcing its laws.”

Dishonesty and fraud at the top eventually spread to lower levels. Few seem to any longer believe that character *does* matter! Not long ago, the American public debated the importance of this attribute, generally excusing the dishonorable conduct occurring in the White House at that time. Many defended the indefensible by dismissing the importance of personal conduct in the Oval Office. Corruption had reached such a high level that the “checks and balances” of self-policing written into the U.S. Constitution proved to be ineffective. The legislative branch became paralyzed and failed to act because of its own corruption and immoral behavior. In effect, each branch had the other blackmailed into inaction!

When corrupt practices are tolerated—even *endorsed*—truth and justice are lost. Government appears to become more of a circus, in which propaganda reigns supreme, than a serious institution.

Corrupt behavior causes an entire nation to become spiritually sick, from the highest levels of government to those charged with enforcing its laws. The book of Proverbs states, “Righ-

teousness exalts a nation: *but sin is a reproach to any people*” (14:34). Is it any wonder a recent poll found that only three in ten Americans trust their elected government?

While the level of corruption observed in Western nations is unprecedented, other governments have been even more corrupt.

It is said that “absolute power corrupts absolutely.” Common in history is the tyrant or dictator who carries absolute authority. Such use fear and intimidation to suppress, control or murder any who are critical of the self-glorifying leader.

In certain nations, bribes and payoffs are expected as part of the culture; for example, it is not uncommon for police to expect payment on the spot for minor infractions. While the instability of these governments should have served as a warning to the rich, modern nations of the world,

it appears many can justify their corrupt deeds by comparing themselves to even more corrupt leaders of Third World nations.

But this should not come as a surprise to those familiar with God’s Word, the Holy Bible. Israel’s descendants, the prosperous countries of the Western world, were prophesied to corrupt themselves in the latter days—the age in which we live: “Ah sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers, children that are corrupters: they have forsaken the LORD, they have provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger, they are gone away backwards” (Isaiah 1:4).

God also compares the crooked and fraudulent culture of the West to a diseased and wounded body: “You will revolt more and more: the whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint. From the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it” (vs. 5-6). Rebellion against the true God leads to corruption, which spreads as a sickness from the leadership, or the “head,” of the nation, down to the weakest, “or sole of the foot.”

Perfect government and law have not been experienced since Adam and Eve were expelled from Eden for rebelling against their Creator. Even



■ **CORPORATE FRAUD:** Enron’s CEO and his wife hold hands as they enter the Bob Casey United States Courthouse in Houston, Texas.

PHOTO: MCT

ancient Israel—a nation that had God as its civil Head for a time—quickly corrupted itself. The earth today waits for the time when widespread dishonesty will fade away, becoming a historical testimony to the futility of man living life on his own terms, rejecting instruction from his Maker.

Corruption Leads to Injustice

Justice is another casualty of corruption. In most countries, unjust and incomprehensible decisions rendered by dishonest judges have led to a general distrust for the legal system. In the West, an increasing number of judicial decisions are being made that have roots in political agendas. Sometimes, judges are even intimidated by those with a special interest in certain cases, resulting in the law being compromised and twisted.

Justice administered in the United States and the British Empire was once regarded as a beacon of hope and model for other nations. But today the obvious tolerance for corruption and criminal behavior brings only derision and contempt from friend and foe alike, especially as court proceedings are transmitted around the globe.

Each generation believes it has a better way than the one that preceded it. Each civilization has failed as its legal system became nothing more than a means for those with power to enforce their will and further their personal agenda over others. Even democracy is not immune—certainly, justice is one of the first of its pillars to crack.

Notice this powerful passage found in Isaiah 59 describing the worldwide corruption that exists today: “NONE calls for justice, nor any pleads for truth: they trust in vanity, and *speaking lies*; they conceive mischief [evil] and bring forth iniquity...*there is no judgment* [justice] in their goings: they have made them crooked paths...Therefore is judgment far from us, neither does justice overtake us: we wait for light, but behold obscurity; for brightness, but we walk in darkness...And judgment [justice] is turned away backward, and justice [righteousness] stands afar off: for *truth is fallen in the street*,



■ **MEDIA FRENZY:** A close associate of the Mexico City Mayor and a businessman are seen on television in composite video scandals receiving money.

PHOTO: MCT

and equity cannot enter. Yes, truth fails; and he that departs from evil makes himself a prey: and the LORD saw it, *and it displeased Him that there was no judgment* [justice]” (vs. 4, 8-9, 14-15).

But God has a solution to the current system of dishonest practices found throughout the world.

A Corrupt Business Environment

Honest businessmen understand that established rules benefit everyone, and that one should not steal from his partners, for embezzlers are nothing more than corporate thieves. The Enron scandal demonstrated that business leaders do *not* have the right to “cook the books.”

Sadly, honest business practices that were once generally expected have given way to widespread corruption.

Publicity surrounding the Enron scandal has also shed light on the size of the salaries of many CEOs in the U.S. While a corporate leader of a successful company is entitled to fair compensation, salaries of senior level executives have become largely disproportionate to the benefit provided

to employees and stockholders. There seems to be little accountability, as huge compensation packages are provided to CEOs by the boards of companies that are losing money, downsizing and going bankrupt! While it may be legal, it is obvious that human nature, greed, selfishness and *corruption* play a prominent role.

Other types of corruption are more subtle. Agreements made between developers and government officials often involve huge exchanges of private money for projects that may not be in the public’s best interest. For example, a municipality insists upon and accepts a new fire engine from a major corporation in exchange for a development being approved. The state then sets aside acreage for private land that will be used for the project. While these are considered legal, they are only a small step away from the shady payoffs common in other countries.

Corruption in business punishes honest men and women, and provides advantage—and wealth—to those willing to be the most dishonest and ruthless.

A Corrupt Media Machine

An independent and objective news media can sometimes correct and even prevent the abuses of the rich and powerful.

However, when the media becomes controlled and manipulated by political and commercial interests, it is reduced to a servant to corruption.

A popular American talk show host remarked that the major networks are no longer interested in truth, but rather work tirelessly to twist and spin news critical of certain leaders. Photos are carefully selected to manipulate and mislead the public. Words are chosen to infuse emotion into events, and to turn evil into good. He observed that the media “spin” always leans culturally toward amorality—and anyone who speaks out honestly in a moral tone, with any authority, is vilified.

A Corrupt Language

Several pages could be written describing the calculated corruption of language, which God predicted for the end time: “Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!” (Isa. 5:20).

The word “gay” was once associated with joy—but now refers to a lifestyle that God describes as “against nature” (Romans 1:24-27).

“Single Mom” has largely replaced the term “unwed mother” to remove any unpleasant stigma from children born without a father around.

“Migrant worker” has replaced “illegal alien” in an attempt to obscure the problem that neither political party can decisively fix.

In addition, popular music screams lyrics so reprehensible, they cannot be printed in this publication.

The perversion of modern language is so complete that most do not realize they have been deceived into accepting ideas that would have been unthinkable only a generation ago. The corruption of language and news media has contributed greatly to the mental

U.S. BUSINESS SCANDALS

Confidence in corporate America has been shaken by a series of accounting scandals:

- **Biggest bankruptcy** filing in history (Chapter 11 protection from creditors); company admitted falsely accounting for \$3.9 billion in expenses

- **Energy company** under investigation for its off-balance sheet partnerships, hiding debt and inflating earnings; it filed for bankruptcy

- **Auditors** destroyed important Enron documents; company convicted on obstruction of justice charge

- **Former CEO** charged with fraud

- **Cable TV** operator filed for bankruptcy; faces criminal investigation into its accounting

- **Energy firm** being investigated for a controversial project that lowered its tax liability and boosted its cash flow

- **Telecommunications** firm under investigation for inflating revenue

- **Photocopy giant** paid a \$10 million fine for misstating four years' worth of profits

Source: MCT; BBC; Chicago Tribune

drunkenness of the public-at-large. They have forgotten that words are what men live by.

The Corruption of the Family

The basic definition of the family unit—father, mother and children—has also been corrupted, with unmarried “domestic partners” and “civil union” couples now considered a family by many.

The most corrupt in society are the greatest antagonists of the only real family unit. They seek its complete redefinition, and by doing so its destruction. They fail to recognize that the destruction of the family also seals their nation's fate, removes their protection and assures *their* destruction.

What Does the Future Hold?

These latter days have seen the surrender of morality and virtue. Lust, vanity,

self-centeredness and greed have all cast their shadow over leaders throughout society.

Government officials accept money for their influence. Corrupt business practices are virtually unchecked. Corruption infiltrates the basic family unit and confuses men, women and children about their roles and purposes.

But *why* is this world filled with such corruption? Interestingly enough, the answer is found in the same chapter of Isaiah referenced earlier. Notice: “But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid His face from you, that He will not hear” (59:2). In a world cut off from a just, fair, righteous and loving God, widespread dishonesty and corruption result.

Yet there is hope.

Jesus Christ—the Being who came to the earth two millennia ago to provide a means for mankind to live eternally in His family with the Father—is soon returning to the earth! He will establish a pure language, eliminate corruption and institute justice based on God's Law!

He is returning not as a human to die on a stake, but as an all-powerful LIVING KING! He is returning to smash all human governments and establish a DIVINE, WORLD-RULING government—the kingdom of God! (Daniel 7:13-14, 22, 27).

Notice: “For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given: and the GOVERNMENT shall be upon His shoulder: and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His GOVERNMENT and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon His kingdom, to order it, and *to establish it with judgment* and with JUSTICE from henceforth even for ever. *The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this*” (Isa. 9:6-7).

Only then will there be a government built on a solid and sustainable foundation. Only then will leaders govern in the best interests of their subjects. Only then will those deceived by illusions have their eyes opened.

Only then will corruption end! □

THE ANTI-U.S. rhetoric coming from Russia is once again approaching Cold War levels—and some believe it is on the verge of becoming worse.

While the relationship between the two powers has been strained since the beginning of the Iraq War, the exchanges and events of recent months indicate that Russia and the United States, along with their respective allies, are on conflicting paths.

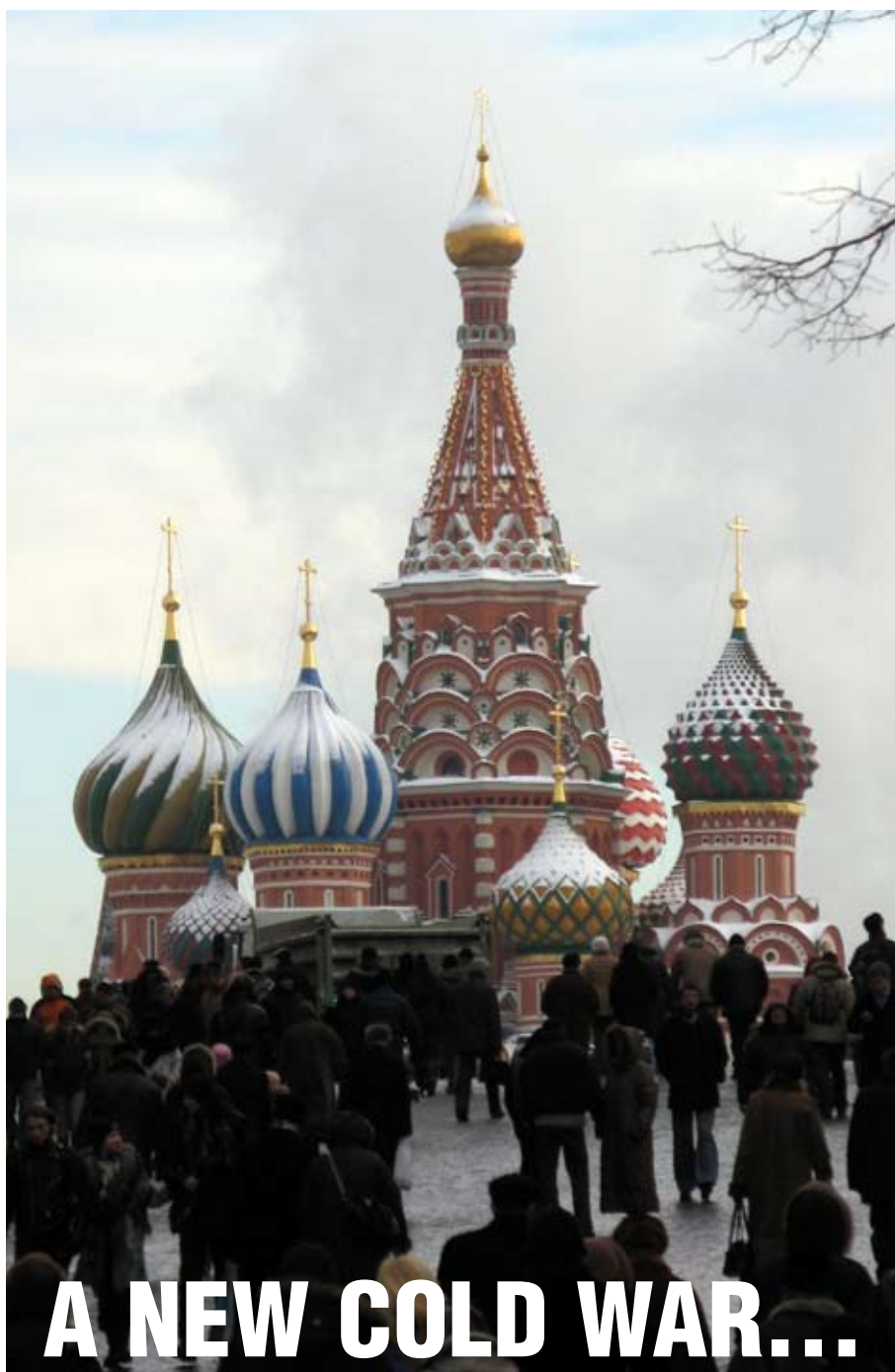
In addition, several recent events in or connected to Russia are proving that authoritarian government is alive and well in the world's largest country.

Consider for a moment recent events surrounding sociopolitical freedom in Russia. The *BBC* reports that Scotland Yard is preparing arrest warrants for three former KGB agents suspected of murdering Alexander Litvinenko, a former KGB agent and outspoken opponent of Russian President Vladimir Putin. Mr. Litvinenko died in November 2006 in London from radiation poisoning. His wife and friends maintain that his death was a function of “state-sponsored terrorism,” allegedly carried out from an order by President Putin.

In the meantime, Russia has twice demanded that Britain extradite Russian billionaire Boris Berezovsky, who, from his London office, has been calling for Mr. Putin's removal from power.

German magazine *Der Spiegel* reported in October 2006 that no less than eight influential journalists have been murdered during Mr. Putin's reign, some of whom were highly critical of the Russian president (in regard to issues such as the war in Chechnya). Most were investigating areas of Russian life that were presented in a less than flattering light. The Committee to Protect Journalists ranked Russia as number three on a list of nations in which journalists are most likely to be killed.

In mid-April, about 2,000 Russians participated in anti-Kremlin



A NEW COLD WAR...

Soon to Get Hot?

A rift is widening between Russia and the West.
Where will this lead?

BY MARK P. DENEY

demonstrations in both Moscow and St. Petersburg, each ending with fights involving baton-wielding police and interior ministry troops. According

to *BBC* reports, many were beaten, including an elderly man. Former chess champion Garry Kasparov, who was one of those arrested, said, “It is

no longer a country...where the government tries to pretend it is playing by the letter and spirit of the law.”

The crackdown brought formal statements of concern, including from several European states and the EU presidency.

More recently, *Der Spiegel* reported that the Russian government has told all state-run media outlets to produce at least 50% “positive” reports about Russia. The recent takeover of the nation’s largest independent radio news network leaves an increasingly small number of media outlets not

“Few, it would seem, can still maintain the position that Russia is ‘an ally’ of the U.S. in the ‘war on terror.’”

managed directly by the Kremlin or the state national gas company, Gazprom, which is itself a major owner in the Russian media industry.

The article also indicated the Russian parliament is examining news resources on the Internet as well, and went on to theorize this latest campaign “seemingly aimed at tying up the loose ends before a parliamentary election in the fall that is being carefully stage-managed by the Kremlin.” Media watchdog groups say the recent restrictions are the worst since the dissolution of the Soviet Union.

In a national address similar to the American “State of the Union,” President Putin said Russia would not tolerate the continued “colonial-style” assault from the West on Russia’s internal affairs. He also announced that Russia would implement a freeze on its observance of the 1990 Conventional Forces in Europe treaty, which placed limits on non-nuclear forces in Europe. Mr. Putin indicated that this was in response to U.S./NATO plans to install anti-missile systems in Poland and the Czech Republic. He also told Russian media, “The threat of causing mutual damage and even destruction increases many times.”

The *Itar-Tass* news agency also quoted him as saying, “This is not just a defense system, this is part of the U.S. nuclear weapons system,” after meeting Czech President Vaclav Klaus.

Reuters also reported that Mr. Putin stated the following: “These systems will monitor Russian territory as far as the Ural Mountains if we don’t come out with a response. And we will indeed do this. Anyone would. We will not get hysterical about this. We will just take appropriate measures,” he said, without elaborating.

Mr. Putin also confirmed that he would indeed be stepping down as president in 2008. The expected successor is one of the two current First Deputy Prime Ministers, Dmitry Medvedev and Sergei Ivanov. Analysis by Peter Zeihan of *Stratfor* (a private intelligence agency), based on the fact that history largely operates in cycles, indicates that Russia is in the process of transition between what he refers to as a “white rider”—a leader who is primarily optimistic and operates with a grander vision in mind—and a “dark rider”—a leader who rules with great power and authority, regardless of any morals or beliefs.

Mr. Zeihan further indicates that the crackdowns in April, on what were relatively small groups of demonstrators, were intentional and indicative of Mr. Putin’s realization, involvement in, and preparation for, this leadership transition.

Few, it would seem, can still maintain the position that Russia is “an ally” of the U.S. in the “war on terror.” Russia has always sought its own interests first and foremost, and will likely continue to do so. Many would also concede that, at this point, Mr. Putin has done a “good job” in this

regard, and that Russia has maintained and/or restored its position on the world scene as a major power. This alone will set the nation once again on divergent and, ultimately, likely conflicting paths with the United States of America. In addition, few can still insist that Russia is, or is going to be, any sort of democratic nation—its history, people and geography seem to dictate that it is characteristically governed with a strong hand.

Consider just a few points based on the autobiography of former Russian spy Colonel Stanislav Lunev and an interview he had with talk radio host Barry Farber:

■ The current alliance between Russia and China makes the landscape more dangerous than during the Cold War, when these giants were in ideological conflict. They are now cooperating politically and militarily.

■ The Russians now have more than 100 spy satellites, mostly searching for new technology developed by the U.S.

■ Russia’s first democratic leader was bitterly anti-U.S. and vigorously pro-military. Yet the Americans considered him a friend of democracy and presented him billions of dollars to rescue the economy and to dismantle the Soviet arsenal—but these funds were mostly used for weapons research and development.

The geopolitical winds of change are blowing hard. Consider: the soon-coming changes in government in Russia, the United Kingdom and the U.S.; the renewed effort in Europe, with Germany leading politically and economically, toward a “United States of Europe”; the burgeoning Chinese economy and military; the turbulence in Iraq; the nuclear standoff with Iran; and the ongoing unrest in the Middle East.

Ask yourself: What if the U.S. Dollar collapses?

What if Turkey undergoes a bloody revolution?

Who will come out on the other side of any of these possible scenarios in better shape—America or Russia?

Keep reading *The REAL TRUTH* for insight found nowhere else. □

SOUTH AFRICA

UNDER SIEGE FROM WITHIN



JOHANNESBURG, South Africa – Seeing a small child playing in the streets of a slum in South Africa is an unforgettable sight. The difference in lifestyle compared to that of a Westerner is so great that it is hard to fully comprehend.

Yet no matter the circumstances, a child is still a child. Many children in this world may not have the latest set of high-priced sneakers—in fact, some have no shoes at all!—but children still manage to have fun in whatever state they find themselves.

Wherever you go on this earth you can almost always witness the type of simple, exuberant joy that beams from the face of a child.

But try to imagine this South African setting imprinted in the memory of any visitor: Tiny eight-by-eight-foot shacks, cobbled together from rusty pieces of corrugated tin. Looking across these endless crammed groupings of shacks, a splash of muted colors reflect from the pieces of metal and other materials that have been scavenged and used to put together this meager existence. But the color that stands out the most is a lifeless brown—coming from the dusty, garbage-ridden dirt between the “homes” and the rusted metal roofs. Often, you will see items on top of the tin holding it down—old vehicle seats and other car parts, rusted out bed frames, and stones. Smoke fills the air, rising from distant piles of burning garbage. There is no running water and often no electricity. Using a car battery to power a television for a few hours each evening is considered a luxury.

■ **LAND OF CONTRAST:** (Top) Two women head from the black area of Cradock, South Africa, toward the predominantly white commercial district. (Left) Two men are frisked while walking in a residential area late at night. (Right) A murder victim lies in the road as relatives and friends mourn.

PHOTOS: MCT

A recent trip to South Africa reveals a land of stark contrast and an ever-growing need for hope.

BY KEVIN D. DENEK

This is what millions call home.

But South Africa is somewhat different from other African countries. A recent visit revealed to me and a fellow writer that South Africa is a land of stark contrast. Having been to East Africa (Nairobi, Kenya, and rural areas of western Kenya), it seemed as if South Africa was an intertwining of a typical African country with a modern Western one.

Several contrasts particularly stood out in our eyes. South Africa is a story of great wealth and immense poverty—robust economies and faltering infrastructure—state-of-the-art healthcare and a widespread epidemic of AIDS—Mercedes-driving yuppies and endless intersections lined with beggars—peaceful, gated communities and rampant crime.

The *BBC* described it this way: “It’s an old truism that South Africa is a land of two realities. It has never been more than a short drive from lush gardens and shopping malls to tin shanties and open sewers.”

We experienced this firsthand.

Statistics Speak for Themselves

One visit to any country cannot provide the full perspective, background and context needed to understand the conditions there. However, South Africa has been the subject of international news for years. In the early 1990s, and previously, the nation hit world news because of the system of apartheid and the drastic change from it that followed.

Then, as the years progressed, other news came from South Africa. Stories of violent crime—rape, robbery, murder and mayhem—were commonly reported.

Consider some of the latest facts:

■ On average, 50 people are killed each day. Johannesburg, the capital city,

is one of the most violent places on earth outside a war zone.

■ A staggering 150 women a day report being raped. One can only imagine the numbers who do not report this atrocity. To place this statistic in a more vivid perspective, *BBC News* reports that “one in four girls faces the prospect of being raped before the age of 16...” Or put another way, “It is a fact that a woman born in South Africa has a greater chance of being raped, than learning how to read.”

■ From 1992 to 2002 sexual violence against children has increased a staggering 400%. And baby rape is not uncommon and not a new phenomenon either!

■ As of the year 2000, 50% of the 43 million South African citizens lived below the poverty line.

Here are a sampling of newspaper headlines from just a few days in April 2007: “Woman dies in bus crash”; “Three die in lorry crash”; “Hijackers shoot man after bump”; “Taxi crashes into accident scene”; “Sergeant shot with his pistol”; “12 hurt in Joburg crash”; “Highway chaos at roadblocks”; “Three boys shot in error in brother feud”; “Teens killed in E Rand crash”; “Three killed as car rolls at De Deur”; “Woman killed for her intestines”; “One killed as two trucks collide”; “Man lying in road, shot in the head”; “More arrests over gang rape of pregnant woman.”

What kind of future does a child growing up in a South African slum have when she has a 25% chance of being sexually assaulted before reaching age 16? Innocence is being ripped away from children who deserve so much better.

Incessant Crime

Crime is reported daily, dominating the headlines. But because of the ram-

nant crime, many incidents fail to be reported. Because of the poverty, many see stealing as the only option. One person broke the window of a car for a slice of pizza. A man was killed in Cape Town by an angry mob after stealing two bags of potatoes and a pumpkin.

On our first night in Johannesburg, we were confronted by a man at an intersection who wanted money. With luggage in the car, we clearly looked like tourists. After we declined, he continued to stare at us, his eyes cold and piercing. Later that night, it occurred to me that many in the depths of poverty must face the temptation to *demand* money instead of ask for it. A very fine line certainly crossed by thousands—at the expense of thousands.

What makes this problem worse is the *senseless* violence that accompanies it. People not only steal, they commit horrific crimes *because they can*—often killing the victim.

We learned that the streets and slums are filled with drugs, alcohol and guns. Reportedly, one can buy an AK-47 without any problem. You can also “rent a gun” with ammunition for one-time “needs.” Out of the 14 million guns that are estimated to be on the streets, only four million are legally registered (*BBC*).

As for rape, many don’t even consider it a crime. “In a related survey conducted among 1,500 schoolchildren in the Soweto township, a quarter of all the boys interviewed said that ‘jack rolling’—a South African term for recreational gang rape—was fun. More than half the interviewees insisted that when a girl says no to sex she really means yes” (*ibid.*).

In addition, sodomy is not viewed as rape; therefore, it incurs a smaller charge and sentence. To put it bluntly,

“Man lying in road, shot in the head”

“Highway chaos

“Hijackers

“One killed as two trucks collide”

“Woman dies in bus crash”

“Teens killed in

men can never be the victims of rape, because of a ridiculous law.

To protect citizens from the rampant crime and to make people feel secure, South Africa has built what has been termed the “architecture of fear.” Houses are surrounded by walls, razor wire, high-voltage fences, burglary bars and security systems. Lives are shrouded in fear. And if they are ever tempted to forget it, the architecture of fear is a continuous reality check.

The Deputy President of South Africa recently asked, “When did South African society lose its morals?” (*Cape Argus*). She continued, “Why do some people get joy out of giving other people pain?...Has life become cheap?...Why is it that...the crime that we continue to grapple with is so violent?”

The reality is that *human nature* is violent. (To learn more, you may wish to read *Did God Create HUMAN NATURE?*)

Limping Infrastructure

While driving the highways of Johannesburg you immediately notice a sense of general disregard for certain laws. You can see a man on the side of a busy highway trying to stay warm near a fairly large fire. You can see children in the back of pick-up trucks speeding along. In some instances, cars do not stop at stop signs; they simply slow down.

This led us to ask, “Where are the police? Why can’t more order be achieved?”

A recent story in *The Citizen* highlights the problem. Titled “SA drivers high on the highway,” the article reports that drugged drivers are becoming a greater problem than drunk drivers. “Although the South African Road Traffic Act prohibits people from driving while drunk or ‘under the influence of a drug having a narcotic effect,’

drugged drivers have little to fear... The police simply do not have the resources to routinely test motorists for narcotics use.”

In effect, we cannot even know how big this problem is because the police are unable to monitor it. A spokesman for the Automobile Association claims that 1 in 16 motorists are drunk after dark, and as many as 1 in 10 are high. Since a system is not in place to charge these individuals, *if* someone is caught, he is simply required to sit alongside the road until sober!

During our travel to Johannesburg, we also heard that an entire section of the city was without power. It happened to be an area we visited just a few days later. *The Citizen* reported that “chaos erupted as the outage and other isolated outages struck the East Rand.” This instance is just one example of the country’s overtaxed electric system.

While, in some regards, the nation is booming, other areas of infrastructure are faltering. Some say this is the legacy of the previous government. But South Africa simply went from one form of government that had its problems to another form of government that has its problems—period. The end result: millions still suffer.

Does this mean that the government is standing idly by as all this crime occurs? No. Certain crime is declining. The economy is improving. Public debt has been cut by 50% since 1999. Electricity is being directed into townships that never had power. Also, South Africa remains a large player on the world scene and the dominant force in Africa, often mediating conflicts between countries on the continent.

Searching for Hope

Despite the obvious problems, the individual South African, just like any

other person on earth, desires and is seeking a life of happiness and fulfillment. Many in South Africa turn to alcohol and drugs.

When asked about the change in South Africa in the last couple of decades, a woman stated, “There has been no change physically in my life, but I am optimistic” (*BBC*). On the other hand, many claim that South Africa’s crime problem is insoluble. Others claim there are still inequalities between races. But how will equality be achieved?

A question must be asked: What can solve the social scourge of violent crime in South Africa? Where is the hope and happiness for that child playing in the dirt? A street youth said, “I was born in a cruel world, I’m living in a cruel world, and I’ll die in a cruel world” (*ibid.*).

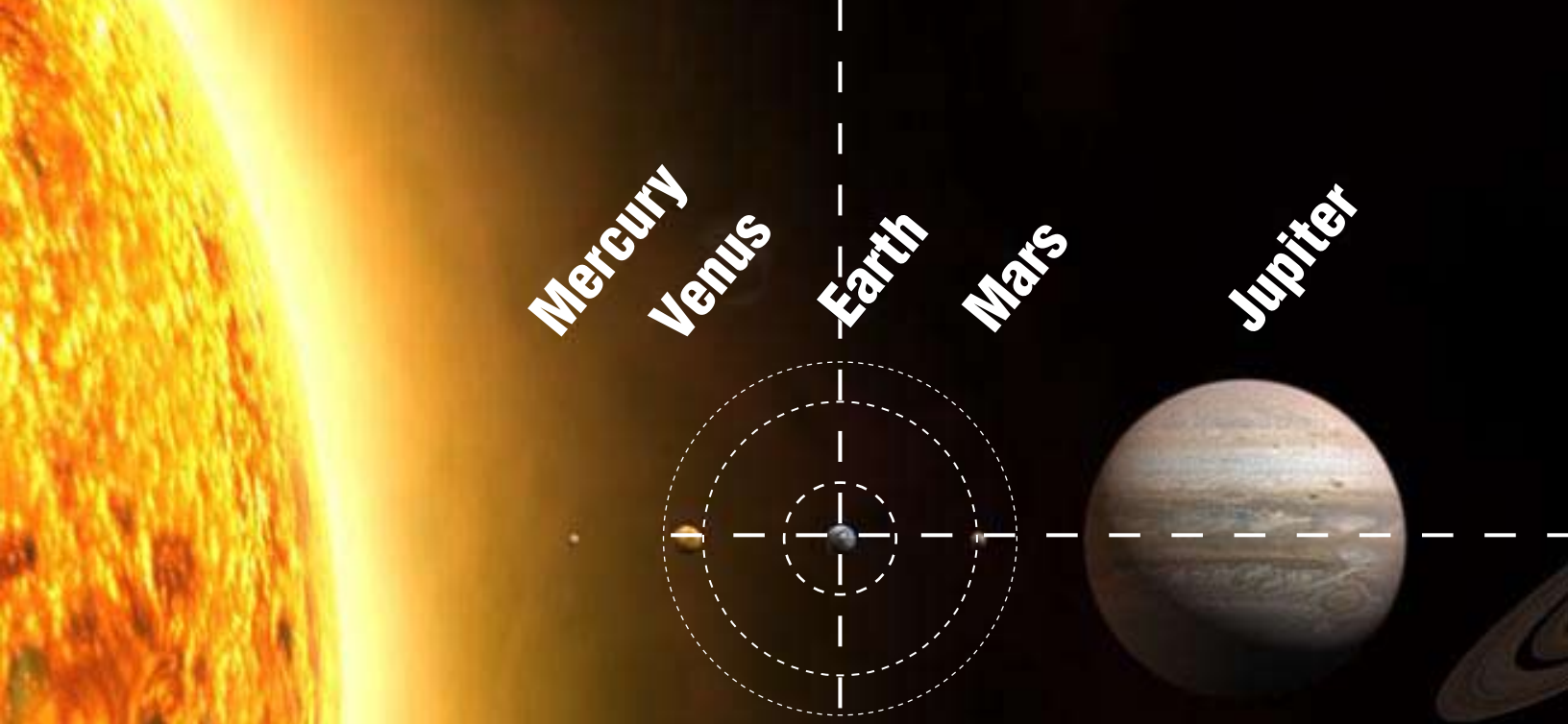
The answer to that boy—and to every other child—is that there is hope. This magazine’s message is one of hope and happiness. It explains that there is a future ahead for South African children that few understand. Despite today’s terrible headlines, there is good news on the horizon for South Africa.

However, if nothing changes, chances are that innocent child in the slum may lose his or her innocence, growing up in a country of crime.

No man can solve all the problems of the South African. I close with a quote from *The REAL TRUTH* magazine’s predecessor, *The Plain Truth*: “Even with the best of intentions, one can only help in a small way. But God has a plan that includes all the [South Africans]. And when it happens—and it will happen—all this will be just a memory.

“If only they could know this. If only they could believe it. It would make the waiting easier.” □

at roadblocks” “12 HURT IN JOBURG CRASH”
“Shoot man” “More arrests over gang rape of pregnant woman”
“Woman killed for her intestines”



EARTH'S GALACTIC

BY BRADFORD G. SCHLEIFER

WHEN SEARCHING FOR a new home, a real estate agent will tell potential clients, "Location is everything." It determines one's school district, the value of nearby homes, the proximity of stores, parks and many other factors that will affect the value of a house.

One's address is even more important in commercial real estate. Success or failure is directly tied to a store's location. The three most important things in business are often trumpeted as, "Location! Location!! Location!!!"

Location in our solar system, galaxy and universe can mean the difference between the lush, vibrant planet on which we live, and a barren wasteland, devoid of life. Though our solar system is remarkably stable compared to others, only a tiny few exist in which life might possibly survive.

The formation of galaxies is said to be a violent and volatile occurrence. Collisions, explosions, combining of

planets and the interplay of gravitational pulls come into play. With each budding galaxy, certain characteristics must appear within its solar systems to support terrestrial (rock) planets. Never mind the endless array of characteristics required for life.

A deeper understanding of our universe opens our minds to something greater. Each fact we learn should elicit questions. Could the Big Bang, sheer coincidence or blind chance align to create Earth's extremely favorable conditions for life of which you are about to learn? Can random processes *create* anything? Is there a more logical answer?

Our Celestial Neighborhood

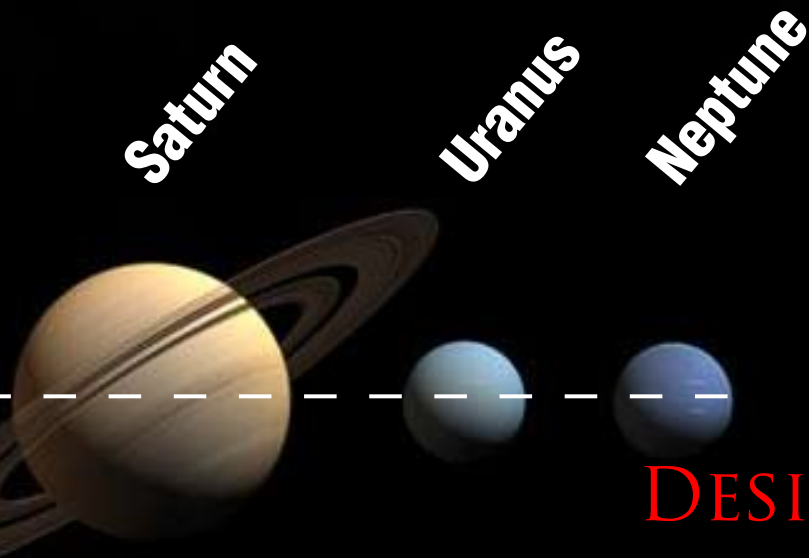
The universe is estimated to have ten billion, trillion stars, most having their own solar system. The differences between these systems are great. Some stars are so enormous that their diameter would engulf Mars if they replaced the sun at the center of our solar system. Others are so small that planets with an orbit as close as Mercury would be solid blocks of ice. Some of the more

exotic solar systems consist of clusters of stars intertwined in a gravitational dance that allows nothing larger than dust to form in their wake.

Among all this diversity is an uncommon group, known as type G stars. Only an estimated 8% of the stars in the known universe are of this type and fall within the ideal age spectrum. When stars are the correct age, they are neither too hot nor too cold, and create the foundation of a solar system able to support life.

However, the star type is only *one* factor. Stars must also form in metal-rich nebulae, which in turn produce metal-rich stars, creating the building blocks for the formation of terrestrial planets. Without complex metals, only gas giants such as Jupiter and Saturn would orbit a star. (Metals are also required for complex chemical reactions needed for life, but that is outside the scope of this article.)

Even with all of the factors described above, there exists only a small distance from the star, known as the *habitable zone*, in which life has *any* chance of survival. If a planet is too close to its star, it is doused with solar radiation. It becomes superheated



Our planet's location within our solar system and galaxy is more unique than you could imagine.

DESIGNED *for* **DISCOVERY**

PART II

POSITION INVESTIGATED!

like Venus, which has a surface temperature of approximately 700 degrees Fahrenheit. There are many other reasons why close proximity to a star would make life impossible, but such intense temperatures prove the point.

Just outside the other end of the habitable zone is Mars. This interesting planet is as close to Earth in characteristics as we have found in the entire universe. However, it is completely unable to support complex life. Its distance from the sun means that a Martian year is 687 earth days. This distance also makes it impossible to sustain liquid water—a fundamental component of life. The temperature range of liquid water largely defines a star's habitable zone.

In our entire solar system there is only one planet in the habitable zone: Earth!

Yet there are other elements of the Earth's position that make it unique.

Planetary Security

There is much more to a stable solar system than a planet orbiting inside the habitable zone. The gas giants, or Jovian planets—Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune—serve a critical purpose as well. Their massive gravi-

tational fields attract nearby comets, asteroids and debris, keeping the inner solar system safe. The most dramatic example of this protection occurred in 1994, when the Shoemaker-Levy 9 comet collided with Jupiter. Despite the colossal explosions on impact, all evidence of the strike had disappeared within a few months.

If this same comet had struck Earth, little more than bacteria would have survived. Analysis of the Shoemaker-Levy 9 impact and the moons around Jupiter and Saturn reveal these gas giants have long protected the inner solar system from comets and asteroids that would have annihilated our planet. Their ability to “vacuum” the solar system also removes some of the dust that would make observing our solar system and beyond more difficult.

Calm Among Chaos

Another interesting characteristic of our unique solar system is its relative stability. Much of the universe is far from stable. Supernovas (dying stars), nebulas (star nurseries), black holes, violent collisions and other phenomena make the universe an exciting place, to say the least.

It has been suggested that a solar

system would have to be a near-perfect match to Earth's to have any chance whatsoever at facilitating life. Each planet in our system has a near circular orbit around the sun. Such an orbit is critical! It means the distance between each planet is steady, and interaction is kept to a minimum. Interaction would be particularly problematic if any of the inner planets “brushed” the gravitational fields of the gas giants. Such an encounter could tear Earth from its orbit and send it hurtling into the sun or thrust it into deep space.

Our sun's age also accounts for Earth's stability. As mentioned above, a star's age is crucial for life. This is mainly due to the relatively short period in which a star is stable—its middle life. The beginning of a star's existence is marked by expansion and violent eruptions; the end, by cooling that would not generate enough heat to encourage simple or advanced life.

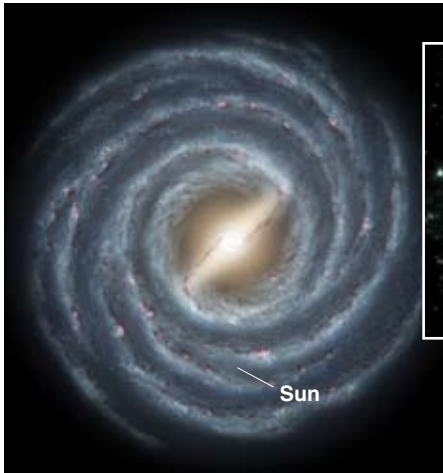
The Milky Way

Most are familiar with the shape of the Milky Way galaxy, a disc about 1,000 light years thick and up to 100,000 light years in diameter. Its spiral arms appear as bands streaming off a spinning center and contain between

200 and 400 billion stars. It is nearly impossible to convey the immense size of our galaxy.

If the Earth were shrunk to the size of a peppercorn, the sun would be slightly smaller than a volleyball. The distance between the peppercorn Earth and volleyball sun would be 78 feet. Jupiter would be the size of a chestnut and be 405 feet from the sun. The furthest point would be Pluto. It would be smaller than a pinhead and be over 3,000 feet—over half a mile—from the sun! If you were standing at Pluto, you would not be able to see the sun without binoculars.

Let's go further. If our entire solar system were scaled down to fit inside the volleyball, it would take 1.26 MILLION VOLLEYBALLS stacked on top of



each other just to equal the THICKNESS of the Milky Way! The diameter, or length, of our galaxy is 1,000 times larger than that.

Put another way, it takes light approximately seven hours to travel from the sun to the edge of our solar system. This means it would take light 876 million hours—100,000 years!—to traverse the Milky Way.

Our galaxy's nearly unimaginable size is not the only interesting aspect. Like our solar system, the Milky Way also has a habitable zone. It is located in a relatively "quiet" area nestled between two spiral arms. This region is primarily defined by the distance from the galaxy's center. The closer you are to the center, the nearer you are to the massive black hole found there. Extreme levels of X-ray and gamma radiation spew from it, com-

pletely eradicating any chance for life. On the other hand, the farther a solar system is from the galaxy's center, the less metallic its star will be. As we have seen, metals are crucial to the formation of terrestrial planets.

Perfect Viewing Station

Our location in the solar system and galaxy allows for another fascinating related phenomenon: We can observe, measure, analyze and define our galactic neighborhood. Many would not even consider this, but it is extremely rare.

Much of the universe is pitch black. Other locations are densely packed with clusters of stars, making the sky far too bright to observe the vast array of celestial bodies. Is it mere coincidence that we are located in the *perfect spot*?



■ MILKY WAY: At left, the location of our solar system. Above, NGC 7331, often referred to as "the Milky Way's twin."
PHOTOS: NASA

It is hard to call it mere coincidence that all the factors to produce conditions for advanced life are directly aligned with the conditions that make it possible to observe the universe. It would take a species as advanced as man to understand and measure the universe—and a galaxy, solar system and planet that is perfectly designed for mankind to develop!

Consider the points covered:

(1) The size of our sun keeps Earth's temperature in the range necessary for life. The size of our star also does not flood our planet with radiation, which would make it impossible to observe and measure distant galaxies.

(2) Our metal-rich solar system allows for terrestrial planets and advanced life. This rich array of metals allows for technological advancement and the creation of tools to observe our

world, solar system and universe.

(3) The location of the habitable zone means that life can flourish under an atmosphere perfect for viewing the night sky.

(4) The gas giants in our solar system are far enough away to shield the inner planets from asteroids and comets. This distance also means they do not block our view or distort observations with their gravitational effects.

(5) Planets in our solar system exhibit rare, nearly circular orbits, allowing the stability required for life. This also means extremely precise relational measurements can be made of our universe.

(6) Distance from other stars in the Milky Way keeps us from being bombarded with deadly radiation. This also means our night sky is dark, making viewing possible. If we were too close to the black hole in the galaxy's center, X-ray and gamma radiation would not only destroy life but make precise observations impossible!

Each characteristic allows for both life *and* discoverability! Could this just be an amazing coincidence?

The Source Becomes Clear

Discovering the true source of our galaxy can be determined by looking for telltale signs and fingerprints. The precision and intricacy of our universe point to an over-arching design—and a Magnificent Designer. God's Instruction Book to man—the Holy Bible—indicates that the Creator of the universe left His fingerprints: "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" (Romans 1:20).

All that is "seen" bears the fingerprints—shows evidence—of our Master Designer. He is not only able to create the entire universe and life within it, but design it to be observable, measurable and definable.

By His Creation, we can understand our Creator. If you search for God's fingerprints, you will be amazed by how often they appear and what you will discover! □



WHEN YOU DO your grocery shopping, have you ever thought about where the food you buy comes from? How is it produced?

Many advertisements depict food as coming from small family farms. They picture cows grazing in pastures, chickens hopping around the yard, and farmers planting small acreages of crops such as corn, wheat, potatoes, soybeans and barley.

But is this the type of environment in which our cows are raised, corn is grown, eggs are hatched, etc.?

No. The reality is quite different. Most of the food in supermarkets comes from large industrial operations, or “factory farms.” This food is produced in a manner drastically different from the past, when most food was produced by small family-owned farms. Since most of our

FACTORY FARMS

Are they good for consumers?

Do you know how the food you eat is produced? The answer may surprise you.

BY ROBERT R. FARRELL

food now comes from these factory farms, it begs the question: Is the food they produce healthy?

Large-Scale Agriculture

A factory farm produces huge volumes of food by industrial type operations. These food factories typically cover as many as several thousand acres. If it has livestock, it generally has several thousand animals confined in the same area. Because factory farms are so large, they achieve “economies of scale,” producing much more food at cheaper prices than smaller farms.

These farms are owned by giant corporations and operate purely on the profit motive, maximizing profits for their shareholders. Unlike small family farms, they usually do not have close connections to the communities in which they operate. Much of their produce is often sold hundreds and even thousands of miles away.

In developed nations, factory farms have expanded rapidly since their origins in the early 20th Century. So much so that in the U.S. only 3% of farms now generate an astonishing 62% of that nation’s agricultural output! In fact, they have so consolidated the agricultural sector that only five food retailers (Kroger, Albertson’s, Wal-Mart, Safeway and Ahold USA) account for a whopping 42% of all retail food sales in the U.S. And because they are able to produce food cheaper, factory farms are forcing several smaller farms out of business (according to Natural Agricultural Statistics Service, 330 farmers leave their land every week). Typically, they control all aspects of production, including animal rearing, feeding, slaughtering, packaging and distribution—a process known as “vertical integration.”

Indeed, factory farms have become so powerful that many are questioning whether they are beneficial to our society and environment. Because they wield such tremendous power, they have become a highly controversial topic.

A Good Thing?

Those supporting factory farming point out that it provides multiple benefits:

■ **Cheap food production:** Due to the use of technology and “economies of scale,” they produce food at less cost than smaller farms, thus enabling customers to save money on food purchases.

■ **Efficiency:** The ability to efficiently produce and distribute huge quantities of food to feed large cities.

■ **Employment:** Factory farms provide employment to nearby communities.

■ **Capital:** Supporters argue that factory farms do invest in the communities in which they operate.

On the other hand, opponents of factory farming point out:

■ **Animal cruelty:** Typically large numbers of animals are kept in close confinement, having little room to maneuver. This overcrowding frequently causes stress, frustration, boredom and joint pains. Other examples of cruelty include drugging and mutilating animals (for example, chickens’ beaks are sliced off and cows’ tails are amputated).

■ **Diseases:** Raising large numbers of animals in cramped conditions leads to disease. Therefore, the animals are fed antibiotics in order to ward off diseases.

Also, animals are injected with hormones to speed their growth and some are even given feed containing animal byproducts.

This has led to humans acquiring antibiotic resistant bacteria, and diseases such as mad cow disease.

■ **Pollution:** Factory farms produce large quantities of waste that is difficult to dispose of. This waste emits greenhouse gases, and leaks into lakes, rivers and ground water, putting entire communities at risk.

■ **Monoculture:** Factory farming typically devastates the ecosystem in an area by wiping out large tracts of land to produce one crop.

■ **Inferior food:** Food produced by factory farming has lower nutritional value than food produced by organic farming.

Organic food contains a higher level of minerals, vitamins, antioxidants and nutrients.

What is the Alternative?

An alternative to factory farming that has been touted is “sustainable farming.” With this type of farming, farms are smaller, crops are often grown organically (i.e., without chemical fertilizers), routine crop rotation is practiced, and the produce is sold in the local communities. Animals are pasture-raised, well-treated and live in conditions that are suited to their normal behaviors.

Supporters of sustainable farming claim it is more harmonious with the environment, and the food produced is healthier and more nutritious.

There are two basic ways of life, the way of “give” and the way of “get.” The way of give is the way of out-flowing love; it is based on what is best for others, helping and serving them, looking out for their best interests.

On the other hand, the way of “get” is based what the self wants. It is not concerned with what is best for others.

God’s Way is to produce food that is most nutritious for others while simultaneously keeping the environment healthy. It shows love and kindness to man and animal alike. It is not the “profit at all cost” approach.

Man’s greed in placing the profit motive above all else has resulted in environmental damage, in sickness and disease, and in the production of inferior food that weakens rather than strengthens the body.

You may be surprised to know that some of the issues addressed here are also addressed in the Bible, through God’s laws, statutes and principles, which regulate the care of animals, agriculture, property and ultimately one’s concern for his fellow man

These divine laws and principles will be administered justly worldwide

through the soon-coming kingdom of God. All will benefit from its equitable governance, which will enable everyone to lead healthy, happy, abundant lives. □



Who is Jesus Christ?

PART IV

BY GABRIEL N. LISCHAK

Millions of professing Christians claim to follow the teachings of Jesus Christ—and thousands of ministers claim to accurately preach His words. Could they be wrong? Is it possible that what they believe and what Jesus *actually* taught are in opposition to one another?

IT HAS BEEN said that for every human being there exists a different opinion on any particular matter. This is perhaps no more true than with the teachings of Jesus Christ. While what He taught has influenced millions throughout the millennia, few—if any—seem to agree on the meaning of His words. Where there are 20 people gathered, you will find 20 different ideas on what Jesus taught. Most see this as reasonable, and in fact embrace such confusion.

It is likely that since the first century more than one billion people have read the words of Christ, and most of these have claimed to follow Him, calling themselves Christian. Perhaps you are among them.

But how many *truly* understand Jesus' words? How many have "ears to hear" (Matthew 11:15)? Could the following verse, also in Matthew, apply to you?—"For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them" (13:15).

If you answered no, are you sure?

The Gospel—About Jesus?

When you hear the word "gospel," what comes to mind? How would you define it? Most professing Christians would say something similar to the following: "The gospel is the good news of the forgiveness of sins through the sacrifice of Jesus."

Is this how you would answer?

Although this is the prevailing opinion in the world of Christendom, what is important is what the BIBLE states—and what Jesus actually taught on the subject. What hundreds of millions say is irrelevant if it does not line up with God's Word.

Nearly everyone who professes to be Christian believes that the gospel (which means "good news") is about the *Person* of Jesus Christ—His death, burial, resurrection—and His love for, and acceptance of, everyone. Each Sunday, millions gather at church services to listen to ministers speak about the Person of Jesus, and the forgiveness of sins, stating that He is the gospel.

Yet, in the book of Mark, the gospel is defined quite differently. After Jesus was baptized (which is when His ministry began) and then tempted by Satan in the wilderness for 40 days, Mark records, "Now after that John was put

in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD" (1:14).

Immediately following, Jesus proclaimed, "The time is fulfilled, and *the kingdom of God* is at hand: repent you, and believe the gospel" (vs. 15). After reading verse 14, it should be clear what gospel Jesus is talking about in verse 15. He clearly states that, not only must one repent, he must also believe the gospel. Which one?—"the gospel of the kingdom of God."

Only 15 verses into the book of Mark, the gospel is clearly identified. Why then are so many unaware of what is the true gospel? If there were no other scriptures on the subject, these two would be enough to define the good news. But as any Bible student understands, more than one scripture is needed to paint a complete picture on any given doctrine.

The book of Matthew continues the theme of Jesus preaching the kingdom of God: "And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching *the gospel of the kingdom*" (4:23). Also, in chapter 9: "And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching *the gospel of the kingdom*" (vs. 35). In these two verses, the phrase "of God" is left out, but it is apparent they are speaking of the same gospel mentioned in Mark.

Toward the end of Matthew, Jesus declared that just before His Return the gospel would be preached to the entire world. But again, notice *which* gospel He refers to: "And this *gospel of the kingdom* shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come" (24:14).

Notice that none of these passages say, "...the gospel of the forgiveness

of sins through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.” In fact, this statement—or anything similar to it—cannot be found anywhere in the Bible. Instead, what is found is the continual theme of “the gospel of the kingdom of God.”

While the forgiveness of sins through Christ’s sacrifice is extremely important, since without it mankind would have no hope of receiving eternal life, it is *not* the gospel—it is *not* the message Jesus brought. Jesus Himself is **NOT** the gospel!

Rather, Jesus was sent as a Messenger: “Behold, I [Christ] will send My messenger [John the Baptist], and he shall prepare the way before Me [Christ]: and the LORD, whom you seek, shall suddenly come to His temple, even the *Messenger* [Christ] of the covenant, whom you delight in” (Malachi 3:1).

Messengers carry messages. Jesus was the “Messenger” of the gospel, not the message itself. He was sent from God with an announcement—and that announcement was not about Him. He functioned as a SPOKESMAN for the kingdom of God.

In other New Testament accounts, the gospel is identified by several different terms. For instance, in Mark 1:1, it is called “the gospel of Jesus Christ.” Also, the apostle Paul refers to the gospel as “the gospel of Christ” nearly a dozen times. These are not contradictions, nor references to other gospels. The “gospel of Christ” is simply a way of saying that the gospel is Jesus’ gospel—in other words, the message He brought.

The overarching theme of Jesus’ ministry is the kingdom of God. Everywhere He traveled, this was the gospel He preached. He taught about it in parables. He sent out 70 men to preach the kingdom (Luke 10:9). He sent the first century apostles to preach the kingdom of God (Luke 9:1-2). Even after He was resurrected, Jesus taught His disciples about the kingdom (Acts 1:3).

Yet contrary to these plain scriptures, most modern preachers teach that the gospel of Jesus Christ is *about* Jesus Christ—that the gospel of the

kingdom refers to Him. Again, Christ’s sacrifice is of paramount importance, but to say that it is the gospel simply contradicts the Bible—and Jesus’ own words while He was on earth!

In John 7:18, Jesus said, “He that speaks of himself seeks his own glory.” Certainly then Christ would not contradict Himself and speak a message about Himself.

Do not take lightly the significance of believing the true gospel. It is so important that Paul was inspired to warn us of a danger: “I marvel that you are so soon removed from Him that called you into the grace of Christ unto *another gospel: which is not another*; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach *any other* gospel unto you than that which *we have preached* unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that you have received, **LET HIM BE ACCURSED**” (Galatians 1:6-9).

This is quite a statement! It unmistakably reveals that the first century apostles preached one gospel and that all others are false. Also, those who preach any but the true gospel are under a curse. Believe your Bible. You *can* be deceived into believing false gospels.

Further solidifying the fact that there is only one gospel message, in Galatians 2:5, Paul stressed the hope “that *the truth of the gospel* might continue with you.” So there is only one true gospel—with all others being false.

Do you believe the correct gospel? Are you sure?

For much more information on the true gospel, read our booklet *What is the KINGDOM OF GOD?* In addition to expanding upon certain points covered here, it reveals that the good news of the kingdom of God was preached throughout the Old Testament, and is actually the very centerpiece of the entire Bible!

The booklet also explains exactly what is the kingdom of God. Some believe it is in the “hearts of men.”

Others think it is wherever you find a particular church. Still others believe it is Jesus Christ Himself. And some believe it is on earth now, with others believing it is yet to come, but not understanding how or when this will occur. You need not be confused. You can know the truth of the matter—made plain!

The Law of God—Necessary to Obey?

Perhaps the hallmark of mainstream Christianity is the belief that the Law of God has been nullified, done away with. Most Christian leaders teach and lay members believe that the Ten Commandments are impossible for man to keep, so Jesus needed to abolish them through His death. In their eyes, trying to obey God but constantly failing is equated to being in “bondage to the Law.” But now that Jesus has “kept the Law in our place,” we are “free” from having to keep the commandments, so the thinking goes. (The phrase “nailed to the cross” comes to mind.)

Some even claim that they keep the commandments “in the heart,” thus spiritualizing away any need to *actually* obey God.

Yet most will say that, although not mandatory for salvation, the Ten Commandments are still “nice principles” to live by, and Christians should more or less try to obey God (with the near-universal exception of the Fourth Commandment). Most agree that murder, stealing and lying are wrong; and some would generally agree, to one degree or another, that children should obey their parents, committing adultery should be avoided and coveting can lead to less than desirable outcomes. Of course, the penalties for doing these things are subject to debate.

Many professing Christians sincerely believe that, while we should strive to keep some aspects of the Law of God, overall it is not a necessary ingredient in receiving salvation. To illustrate this thinking, an Internet website states that all one must do to become a Christian and receive eternal life is recite one simple prayer: “Lord Jesus, I need You. Thank You for dying on the cross for my sins. I open the

door of my life and receive You as my Savior and Lord. Thank You for forgiving my sins and giving me eternal life. Take control of the throne of my life. Make me the kind of person You want me to be.”

The site then states that if this prayer expresses the desire of an individual’s heart, he should pray it and Jesus will enter his life. Finally, the page reads, “Congratulations on your decision to accept Christ!”

In the minds of many, receiving salvation is that easy; simply recite a prayer. There is no more to it than that. Whether a person then goes on to *obey* God is not important. Once “a decision for Christ” has been made, eternal life is secured—or is it?

Similar to the gospel, opinions on whether commandment-keeping is necessary are irrelevant. What *does* matter is what the Bible states and what Christ taught on the subject.

Contrary to the popular opinions of men, Jesus did NOT come to earth to do away with the Law. Instead, He came to live in accordance with it—to OBEY it. Notice Christ’s own plain words in Matthew: “Think NOT that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: *I am not come to destroy*, but to fulfill” (5:17). Jesus fulfilled the Law by obeying it.

Romans 3:23 states, “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.” One of the purposes of Christ fulfilling the Law—living a perfect, sin-free life—was to satisfy or pay in full the death penalty (“For the wages of sin is death” – Rom. 6:23) that mankind has earned by breaking God’s Law (“For sin is the transgression of the law” – I John 3:4). Had Christ sinned even once, humanity would have no savior, and thus no hope of eternal life. Someone needed to pay the price of man’s sins. Jesus did so by living a perfect, sinless life and dying in our place.

Also, by Jesus fulfilling the Law, He set an example for us: that we should follow in His steps. Of course, we could never live as perfectly as He did, but He showed us that obeying God is possible.

In the book of Luke, Jesus asks a question that all who consider themselves to be His disciples should seriously ponder: “Why call you Me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?” (6:46). Many profess to follow Jesus Christ, calling Him Lord (which means “master”), yet He asks

“Many profess to follow Jesus Christ, calling Him Lord (which means ‘master’), yet He asks them, in effect, ‘If I am your Master, why do you not obey Me?’”

them, in effect, “If I am your Master, why do you not obey Me?”

With human beings, when someone is another’s master, he has authority over him. Think of parents as masters of their children. What good parent does not tell his little ones what to do? What parent lays out rules for sons and daughters to live by and does not expect them to obey?

Surely then Jesus, as a Christian’s Master, would expect His followers (“children”) to obey His words. Yet, amazingly, many do not. They prefer to follow “commandments of men,” as Jesus describes in Mark: “Howbeit in vain do they worship Me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. For laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the tradition of men” (7:7-8).

Have you considered that it is possible to worship Christ IN VAIN? Yes, it is possible to think about Him, talk about Him and refer to Him often as

Lord—as millions do—all in vain! Most believe the common “tradition of men” that the Law of God is no longer in effect, though this directly contradicts Jesus’ own words found in Matthew.

Then how *does* one follow Christ? Jesus shows us in John 8:31: “Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on Him, *If you continue in My word*, then are you My disciples indeed.”

During Jesus’ ministry there were a number of Jews who, like so many religious believers today, believed *on* Christ, but did not actually *believe* Him. They did not do what He said.

The phrase “continue in My word” is simply another way of saying “obey Me.” The Greek word for *continue* means “abide, dwell, endure, remain, stand.” Those who abide in, dwell in, endure in, remain in and stand in—or obey!—Jesus’ words are His disciples, not those who only *profess* to believe, without any action.

Beginning in Matthew chapter 5, Jesus taught His disciples during what is commonly referred to as the “Sermon on the Mount.” Various topics are addressed, including that of obedience. In chapter 7, Jesus clarified who will and who will *not* enter the kingdom of God: “Not every one that says unto Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that *does the will* of My Father which is in heaven” (vs. 21).

Again, many call Jesus their Lord, or Master, but fail to do what He says. Here, Jesus points out that only those who do “the will of the Father” will enter into the kingdom of God. To do the will of the Father means to obey Him, and of course to obey Christ as well.

In verses 22-23, Jesus expounds upon this: “Many will say to Me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name and in Your name have cast out devils? And in Your name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from Me, you that work iniquity.”

The Greek word for *iniquity* means “violation of law, wickedness, trans-

gression of the law, unrighteousness.” These verses indicate that those who profess to “know Jesus” and to be His disciples, and yet transgress or disregard the Law of God, will be told by Christ that He never knew them.

That is serious!

Continuing the account in Matthew 7:24-25, Jesus illustrates the wisdom in obeying Him: “Therefore whosoever hears these sayings of Mine, and *does them*, I will liken him unto a WISE MAN, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not; for it was founded upon a rock.”

That “rock” is Jesus Christ! “And I say also unto you, That you are Peter [Greek: pebble], and *upon this rock* I will build My church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it” (Matt. 16:18). Contrary to popular opinion, Jesus was not speaking about building His Church upon Peter. Would Christ build upon a mere man? Of course not! The Church is built upon the living Christ, who is again described as a “rock” in I Corinthians 10:4. As such, building upon His words is likened to building a house on solid ground.

The apostle Paul was inspired to describe God’s Church as “the household of God,” which is “built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the *chief corner stone*” (Ephesians 2:19-20).

In verses 26-27, however, Jesus demonstrates the condition of those who hear His words but do not apply them: “And every one that hears these sayings of Mine, and *does them not*,

shall be likened unto a FOOLISH MAN, which built his house upon the sand: and the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.”

Not obeying Christ is likened to foolishly building a house on shifting sand: Eventually, the disobedient, like the house, will fall. When storms (trials and temptations) come, they will not stand.

Finally, consider Matthew 19:16, in which a young, rich man asked Jesus what he must do to receive eternal life: “And, behold, one came and said unto Him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?”

How do you suppose Jesus responded? Did He say, “Accept Me into your heart as your personal Savior and you will receive eternal life”? No! Instead, He plainly said, “If you will enter into [eternal] life, KEEP THE COMMANDMENTS” (vs. 17).

Most ministers and churchmen claim that keeping the Law of God is impossible. But Jesus declares, “With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible” (vs. 25-26).

It is possible to obey God, but only by Christ living in Christians, through the Holy Spirit. And as Jesus stated in verse 17, obedience is MANDATORY for receiving eternal life—no matter the smooth words you might hear preached every Sunday.

Are You Willing?

Very few ministers teach the full truth of Jesus’ words. This may have been

the first time you read these scriptures explained correctly in their proper context.

This leads to a question: Are you willing to believe your Bible? Are you willing to believe Jesus Christ? Is it your desire to hear Christ say to you, “Well done, you good and faithful servant: you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things: enter you into the joy of your Lord” (Matt. 25:21)?

If so, you must find and align yourself with the Church Jesus promised to build (Matt. 16:18). The booklet *Where is God’s TRUE CHURCH?* will help you in this endeavor.

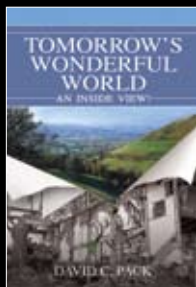
Much, much more could be written not only about what Jesus taught concerning the gospel, the Law of God and many other subjects, but also about the topics covered in parts one through three of this series. There is simply not enough room in only four articles to fully answer the question “Who is Jesus Christ?”

What you have read in this series is only the beginning. Be sure to visit *TheRCG.org* in the coming months to read a book to be released by The Restored Church of God, tentatively titled *The True Christ—Or Another Jesus?* This book, unlike any other, will thoroughly address the topic of the true Jesus Christ of the Bible, and will expose the false Jesus who so many unwittingly worship today.

In the meantime, you may wish to read Chapter Seven of the book *The TRINITY – Is God three-in-one?* for more on the subject of “another Jesus.” □

IS UTOPIA POSSIBLE?

WHERE is the world going? Why is it filled with problems, troubles, evils and ills, causing unhappiness, confusion and misery of every kind? What lies ahead? Is there hope for a different—and truly better—world? Yes! A WONDERFUL WORLD—unlike anything ever seen—is coming. Its arrival is certain. This book presents an *inside view* of what it will be like!



READER COMMENTS

As part of our goal to continually improve the quality of our online magazine (www.RealTruth.org), we have enabled Internet users to comment as they sign up to receive weekly email updates of new *REAL TRUTH* articles, "World News Desk" briefs and special reports. The response to this new feature has been tremendous.

Below is a sampling of comments received over the past month:

AUSTRALIA:

■ "This site is fascinating."

CANADA:

■ "Well written, thought provoking articles. Thanks. Keep it up."

CHINA:

■ "A very balanced article on India becoming a super power."

FIJI:

■ "I have never been to any church service on Sunday after I confirmed that I was wrong in doing so. I need more words and instruction to guide me through."

INDIA:

■ "I do feel happy to subscribe to a magazine like *The REAL TRUTH*, which can strongly help in my research on geopolitics."

■ "The words of your magazine are authentic, appeasing and encouraging, giving confidence to live a godly life with authority and truth."

■ "I want to be updated on the never-ending war of 'one-upmanship' among the three religions."

■ "My late father was a subscriber to *The Plain Truth* [this magazine's predecessor] twenty years back. I often used to read it. It is my earnest desire to subscribe again."

■ "I have gone through some of your articles. Those were excellent, espe-

cially "India: A Superpower in the Making?" I want to regularly read such types of articles."

■ "I found your articles quite absorbing. The references to Bible predictions are interesting. I would like to continue reading on this site."

■ "Please do send this type of burning issues India is facing, and will face in times to come."

■ "It gives a different perspective."

■ "I would like to be notified of new articles and [*WORLD TO COME*] broadcasts."

KENYA:

■ "I read your article on the Internet. It was very good; it taught about marriage life. I will be very grateful if you update me with news updates."

■ "I am a Catholic priest, working as a Missionary in Kenya. I would like to receive your periodicals..."

■ "I am very much impressed by the articles."

MALAWI

■ "*The REAL TRUTH* magazine is beneficial to one's spiritual life. Through this publication I really know the truth of the Bible as it is well explained through your answers to a number of questions."

NAMIBIA:

■ "It's my first time to

subscribe and I hope my hunger to be well-informed through this website will be quenched on a daily basis."

NIGERIA:

■ "Interesting breaking news. Educating and informative. Worthy of learning. I need to know."

OMAN:

■ "Your articles are informative and unbiased."

PAKISTAN:

■ "An outstanding site to read articles giving a true picture of world events."

PHILIPPINES:

■ "This article is so interesting and so helpful! Really helps!"

SOUTH AFRICA:

■ "Formal and straight to the fact."

■ "I want to be informed about the creation of this universe and why people are living in different areas, with different interests. I want to know the real truth if any about the world and its universe around."

UAE:

■ "It is a pleasure to read the articles."

UGANDA:

■ "Very good; interesting real news."

UNITED KINGDOM:

■ "I must say how much

truth your site has brought to me. You confirm a lot of things that I have thought about for a long time. Thank you."

■ "What a totally interesting site. I look forward to hours of knowledgeable reading. Thanks."

UNITED STATES:

■ "Sounds like the perfect magazine I've been waiting to come across..."

■ "Thank you for your wonderful site. I've told many others about it. Also in our Bible studies we can now share a much clearer meaning to scriptures. The Sabbath one we are particularly in at the moment."

■ "I enjoyed your analysis of the current events in the Middle East."

■ "Very interesting and enlightening article about life after death ['What Happens When You Die?', July-August 2006 issue]."

■ "I found the article on 'Who is Jesus Christ?' Part 3 interesting and would like to read Part 1 and 2, etc."

■ "Your articles are wonderful as well as educational. I plan on telling my pastor of your website as well. Thank you for printing the truth about Jesus Christ!"

■ "I enjoy this site."

ZIMBABWE:

■ "This is the best webpage I've visited."

PERSONAL

Continued from page 2

“heart” to count the number of times they vibrate in a second.

Optical frequencies regularly oscillate at one million-billion (1,000,000,000,000,000—*one quadrillion*) times per second. By using lasers and “cooled down” mercury ions, scientists have harnessed God’s precision to better measure time. Optical clocks only slip by *ONE SECOND EVERY 30 BILLION YEARS!* This is *1,000 times* more accurate than atomic clocks!

All human watchmakers use extraordinary precision in their work. *Quartz* watches measure time by counting the exact number of oscillations of a quartz crystal through use of a digital counter. *Digital* clocks use the oscillations of quartz crystals or power lines (60 cycles per second in the United States), but may also count through use of digital counters. *Grandfather* clocks use the swing of a pendulum, once every second and recorded by metal gears inside the clock, to keep time.

As with the movement of the heavens, men have learned to capture the reliability of Cesium 133 atoms and the movement of cooled mercury ions to count time. Their number of oscillations per second *never* varies. Could this perfect order be the product of an *accident*?

In summary, only with great time and effort, the finest watchmakers in the world can, at best, devise several kinds of *relatively imprecise* clocks. Can any honest, fair-minded person then believe that the three *highly precise* clocks—the heavens, atomic and optical clocks—came about by *accident*? In other words, are we to believe that while very sophisticated, *humanly devised* watches required the effort and ingenuity of skilled, intelligent men to create them, clocks of far greater sophistication, precision and design developed *on their own*? How utterly ridiculous!

You have seen ABSOLUTE PROOF that only the “Greatest Watchmaker”

could have devised these “greatest watches.”

The First Law of Thermodynamics

What is the truth of modern science regarding the origin of all matter in the universe? Do scientists tell us that it has *always existed*? Or have they determined that there was a moment

“Even with your creative power engaged in the effort, you would never be able to do it. You will not be able—in a hundred lifetimes of trying—to produce a single thing from nothing!”

in time in which all matter came into existence? The answer to the second question is, yes! But what is the *proof* that this is true?

The FIRST LAW OF THERMODYNAMICS is stated as follows: Matter and energy can be neither created nor destroyed. There are no natural processes that can alter either matter or energy in this way. This means that there is no *new* matter or energy coming into existence and there is no *new* matter or energy passing out of existence. All who state that the universe came into existence from *nothing* violate the first law of thermodynamics, which was established by the very scientific community who now seem willing to ignore it. In summary, this law plainly demonstrates that the universe, and all matter and energy within it, must have had a

divine origin—a specific moment in which it was created by someone who was all-powerful.

With the coming of the Atomic Age, beginning with the discovery of radium in 1898 by Madame Curie, came the knowledge that all radioactive elements continually give off radiation. Consider! Uranium has an atomic weight of 238.0. As it decomposes, it releases a helium atom three times. Each helium atom has a weight of 4. With the new weight of 226.0, uranium becomes radium. Radium continues to give off additional atoms until eventually the end product becomes the heavy inert element called *lead*. This takes a tremendous amount of time. While the process of uranium turning into radium is very long, the radium turns into lead in 1,590 years.

What are we saying? There was a point in time when the uranium could not have existed, because it always breaks down in a highly systematic, controlled way. It is not stable like lead or other elements. It breaks down. This means there was a specific moment in time when all radioactive elements came into existence. Remember, all of them—uranium, radium, thorium, radon, polonium, francium, protactinium and others—have not existed forever. This represents absolute proof that *matter came into existence* or, in other words, *matter has not always existed!*

This flies directly in the face of evolutionary thought—that everything gradually evolved into something else. Here is the problem. You cannot have *something* slowly come into existence *from nothing!* Matter could not have come into existence by itself. No rational person could believe that the entire universe—including all of the radioactive elements that prove there was a specific time of beginning—gradually came into existence *BY ITSELF!*

Through your own efforts, try to build something—anything—from *nothing*. Even with your creative power engaged in the effort, you would never be able to do it. You will not be able—in a hundred lifetimes of trying—to produce a single thing

from NOTHING! Then, can any doubter believe that *everything in the entirety of the universe*, in all of its exquisite detail, came into existence completely by itself? Be honest. Accept facts. This is proof that the existing natural realm demands the existence of a Great Creator!

The Second Law of Thermodynamics

The SECOND LAW OF THERMODYNAMICS is best summarized by saying that everything moves toward *disorder*—or a condition known as *entropy*. This bears some explanation and we will consider several examples.

Remember that evolutionists teach that everything is constantly evolving into a higher and more complex order. In other words, they believe things continue to get better and better instead of worse and worse.

If water being heated on a stove is at 150 degrees Fahrenheit, and the burner is turned off, the temperature will drop instead of rise. It will move toward colder rather than hotter. If a ball is placed on a hill, it will always roll downhill and not uphill. Energy used to perform any particular task changes from usable energy to unusable in the performing of that task. It will always go from a higher energy level to a lower energy level—where less and less energy is available for use.

When applied to the universe, the second law of thermodynamics indicates that the universe is winding down—moving toward *disorder* or *entropy*—not winding up or moving toward more perfect order and structure. In short, *the entire universe is WINDING DOWN!*

Even evolutionists admit that the theory of evolution and the second law of thermodynamics are completely incompatible with each other. Consider: “Regarding the second law of thermodynamics (universally accepted scientific law which states that all things left to themselves will tend to run down) or the law of entropy, it is observed, ‘It would hardly be possible to conceive of two more completely opposite principles than this principle

of entropy increase and the principle of evolution. Each is precisely the converse of the other. As (Aldous) Huxley defined it, evolution involves a continual increase of order, of organization, of size, of complexity. It seems axiomatic that both cannot possibly be true. But there is no question whatever that the second law of thermodynamics is true” (Morris, Henry M., *The Twilight of Evolution*, Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1967, p. 35).

Like a top or a yo-yo, the universe must have been “wound up.” Since the universe is constantly winding down, the second law of thermodynamics looms before us in the form of a great question: *Who wound it up?* The only plausible answer is *God!*

The Great Proof of Creation

We have established that creation demands a Creator. The next few paragraphs introduce some amazing scientific proofs of creation.

The theory of evolution is shot full of inconsistencies. Evolutionists have seized on many theories, within the overall *theory* of evolution, in an attempt to explain the origins of plants, animals, the heavens and the earth.

Over and over, these “theorists” try to explain *how* life evolved from inanimate material into more complex life forms until it reached the pinnacle—human beings.

Yet, as one geologist wrote, “It must be significant that nearly all the evolutionary stories I learned as student...have been debunked” (Dr. Derek V. Ager, Dept. of Geology, Imperial College, London, *The Nature of the Fossil Record, Proceedings of the Geological Assoc.*, Vol. 87, 1976, pp. 1132-1133).

Perhaps the biggest reason that so many theories within the overall theory of evolution collapse is because they contain terrible logic requiring great leaps in faith to believe. Here is one example of a “debunked” theory: “Many evolutionists have tried to argue that humans are 99% similar chemically to apes and blood precipitation tests

do indicate that the chimpanzee is people’s closest relative. Yet regarding this we must observe the following: ‘Milk chemistry indicates that the donkey is man’s closest relative.’ ‘Cholesterol level tests indicate that the garter snake is man’s closest relative.’ ‘Tear enzyme chemistry indicates that the chicken is man’s closest relative.’ ‘On the basis of another type of blood chemistry test, the butter bean is man’s closest relative’” (Morris, Henry M., *The Twilight of Evolution*, Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1967).

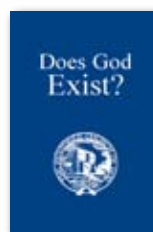
Complexity of Life

Everyone has witnessed explosions. Have you ever seen one that was orderly? Or one that created a watch or a clock? Or one that produced a single thing of exquisite design—instead of the certain result of chaos and destruction? If you threw a million hand grenades, you would see them produce chaos and destruction a million times! There would never be an exception.

Consider the following quotes, involving the likelihood of an explosion creating the entire natural realm of life all around us on earth—let alone the beautiful magnificence and order seen no matter how far one looks out into space.

Dr. B. G. Ranganathan said, “...the probability of life originating from accident is comparable to the unabridged dictionary resulting from an explosion in a printing shop” (*Origins?*, p. 15). And this only speaks to the likelihood of *any life at all*, rather than the most highly complex forms such as large animals or human beings—let alone all the different kinds of life that exist today.

For more undeniable proof of the existence of God, be sure to read *Does God Exist?* □



SUGGESTED READING: Millions believe God exists! Few have proof. Can His existence be *scientifically* proven? Can you *know* with certainty that an all-intelligent *Mind* created the universe and all life on earth—including you? Must the answers be “accepted on faith”? Let’s squarely face these questions!

SOCIETY & LIFESTYLES

Internet Blamed for South Korean Suicides

Suicide rates have been dramatically climbing in South Korea—making it the fourth most prevalent cause of death in the country. The number of deaths from suicides nearly doubled from 6,440 in 2000 to 12,047 in 2005. During the last few decades South Korea has been transformed into an ultra-modern country and the climbing suicide rate is partially attributed to a failure to cope with the “rigors of modern life.”

Many contemplating suicide are turning to the Internet to discuss the “ins and outs” of taking their lives.

Some users even look for part-

ners with whom they can commit suicide, sometimes forming groups that devise detailed plans for killing themselves—selecting a date, place and method for ending their lives.

This trend, which has been growing in Japan as well, has triggered a marked response from the government in South Korea. Because most suicides are committed by ingesting poison or jumping from a building, measures are being considered to build fences and walls on some higher buildings and bridges, and to make the pesticides used for farming less potent. Also, if some-

one enters a search term in a web browser involving terms related to suicide, the first sites to pop up are now counseling groups and suicide hotlines.

Despite attempts to locate and close down suicide-themed websites, those who start them continue to dodge the authorities by using ambiguous website names such as “Life is Tough” and by using anonymous screen names.

Even with increased attention by the public, government and news media, the trend continues to worsen. □

AMERICAS

Experts Forecast Scorching Summer Temperatures

■ **WILDFIRES:** A firefighter hits a fire burning in the median of the 241 toll road as a brush fire is blown across the road. More than 1,500 homes were evacuated as the fires swept through the southeast forest area of Los Angeles, California.

PHOTO: MCT

As early summer temperatures sizzle across the northern hemisphere, experts warn that possible spikes in warm weather could leave most of the western United States and Canada in danger of severe drought and susceptible to an increase in wildfires.

In its latest seasonal assessment, forecasters at the National Weather Service predict the ongoing drought that has plagued the southeast will continue into the summer, resulting in

serious wildfire outbreaks, especially in states such as Georgia and Florida, where water restrictions have already been imposed in some cities.

In Atlanta, where water usage has been drastically curtailed, desperate residents have even begun to turn one another over to the authorities because of violations.

However, forecasters caution that even with rain, certain areas experiencing deficits of more than a foot will not be able to compensate for the

unnaturally low rainfall. Southwest Florida is already 6.77 inches behind for the year and is experiencing an unusually high number of wildfires due to these dry conditions.

“We can honestly say this is one of the most severe droughts that we have dating back to when records started in the early 1900s,” said Randy Smith, spokesman for the South Florida Water Management District (*Associated Press*).

In the west, the situation remains bleak for farmers. The drought area stretching from California into the Great Basin is not expected to experience relief, nor is Montana, Wyoming, the western Dakotas and western Nebraska.

Even the U.S.’s cooler neighbor to the north, Canada, is bracing for scorching temperatures, which could bring treacherous weather, including tornadoes and hailstorms.

Inherent in these is the danger of lightning strikes, one of the leading causes of wildfires, which in turn cause extensive property damage for Canadian residents.

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AFRICA

Lights Out for Zimbabwe



Life in Zimbabwe is becoming increasingly bleak as its citizens struggle with famine, economic distress and violent resistance groups. The average citizen struggles to scrape together what he or she needs to survive.

The nation's inflation rate has surged to 3,731.9%—the worst in the world; compare this to that of the United States, at 2.28%. In Zimbabwe, currency is printed as fast as the presses can churn it out, making the money virtually worthless.

Stores often do not stock staple items, such as bread, sugar, gasoline, etc., and the price of the few items that are available may double by the end of any given day.

The typical Zimbabwean has only four hours of electricity per day; the other 20 hours are shifted to farm fields to run irrigation equipment, intended to help relieve the food shortage.

Due to starvation and a national epidemic of AIDS, life expectancy in Zimbabwe is at 35 years. British and U.S. media sources—which are reported to be biased by Zimbabwe's government-owned newspapers—have stated that many families

resort to eating rats just to survive. Events and conditions there are portrayed differently, depending upon the

source and whether the news comes from inside Zimbabwe or elsewhere.

Take, for example, the current drought and famine that has been plaguing the country for years, due to poor crop yield. The government simply blames poor weather conditions. But, due to the fact that most media sources are owned by the government, opinions and countering ideas move to a more free forum—Internet blogs.

One blog painted a different picture, stating, "This 'drought' is a misnomer because all the dams in Zimbabwe are full but irrigation equipment is lying idle. The reality is that this 'drought' is manmade as a result of experienced farmers being prevented from doing what they do best—farming to feed Southern Africa. It is notable that South African farmers, who have not been subjected to the same treatment, have produced good grain yields under the same climatic conditions."

This implies that the starvation is a result of the policies of President Mugabe's ruling party, the Zimbabwe

African National Union-Patriotic Front.

Mr. Mugabe, age 83, helped lead the country to independence from British rule in the late 1970s. He has been president of Zimbabwe ever since, recently securing his office until he is nearly 90 years of age.

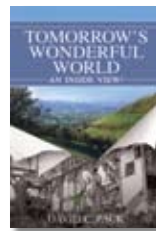
Zimbabwe was once known as Rhodesia, a commonwealth of Britain, and was called the breadbasket of Southern Africa, supporting neighboring countries with food and economic aid. It also had a booming mining industry.

In the early years after Zimbabwe's establishment it appeared to have weathered the change in government. However, things quickly changed, and the country began to spiral toward the conditions of today.

Most residents seem to have given up on the nation, convinced that elections are fixed. Few seek to align themselves with the resistance groups. Many wish to flee to South Africa or one of the nations of the West.

However, it is difficult to get passports and save enough money—which quickly becomes worthless due to exploding inflation rates—to afford the move.

Solutions appear to be far off as the sun sets on Southern Africa's onetime breadbasket. But the answers to the misery of Zimbabwe lie ahead! □



TEMPERATURES

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According to NASA scientists, these types of long-term patterns are not expected to change—at least not for another 70 years.

Recent research by NASA suggests that normal summer temperatures will

be more than 10 degrees warmer by 2080—not only resulting in higher temperatures, but drier weather, said Leonard Druryan, of Columbia University and NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies, who co-authored the study.

Using the established link between rainy and cooler weather and hot and drier weather, the study was able to

forecast certain increases in temperature for cities across the United States and Canada.

"It's going to get a lot hotter," said Barry Lynn, now a scientist at Hebrew University of Jerusalem, who also co-authored the study. "It's going to be a lot more dangerous for people who are not in the best of health" (*CBSNews*). □

George Marsden
who departed this life Jan 7 6 18 18
Aged 69 Years.
Prepare to meet thy God. Amos 20 120.
ALSO of Martha the wife of
John, Son of the above George
and Mary Marsden who departed
this life August 18 18
aged 29 Years.

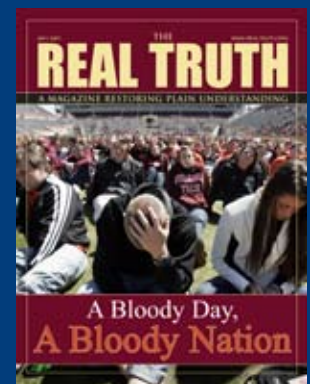
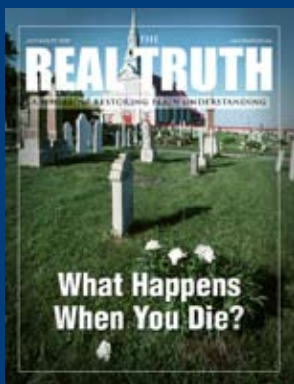
An EVER-BURNING FIRE of Eternal Torment?

The idea of an ever-burning hell has frightened countless millions! What *really* happens to the wicked after death? Are they “doomed to hell,” where their “souls” roast in “torment” forever? If hell exists, and the wicked go there, *where* is it and *what* is it? And *when* do they go? What about the resurrection of the dead? And the parable of Lazarus and the rich man? There are many popular beliefs about the fate of unrepentant sinners. Why such confusion? What are the Bible answers? Here is the *truth* about hell!

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