

WHO CREATED GOD?

NUMBER 182

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Don Batten wrote an interesting article titled "Who created God?" which stated it is an illogical question. "If a creator God needs to have been made by a creator, that creator would also need a creator who needs a creator...like an infinite chain of toppling dominos, which is an impossibility."

The question comes from the choice of whether the universe spontaneously sprang into existence or whether there was a supernatural force to cause it to spring into existence. According to the "experts", nothing existed and then 14.7 billion years ago a Big Bang happened and things came into existence. The Big Bang does not actually explain how things came into existence, but rather tries to explain the expansion process after they came into existence.

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BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS!

*"Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong."
(1 Cor. 16:13 NIV)*

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At a time when the world seems upside down, we put our trust in God. God knew us before creation, he determined our time and place and numbered our days. He holds each one of us in the hollow of his hand. We need not fear because his timing is perfect. God's message through all time is to "be strong and courageous."

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A CHANGE OF HEART?

"Your Cheating heart will make you weep,
You'll cry and cry and try to sleep.
But sleep won't come the whole night through;
your cheating heart will tell on you.

When tears come down like falling rain,
You'll toss around and call my name,
you'll walk the floor the way I do;

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WHO CREATED GOD, P2

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Everything has a cause and if there was nothing and then there was a universe there had to be a cause. If you saw a chair you would not presume it just popped into existence. You would understand that it had a cause. Why would you presume it of the Universe?

To get an idea of what the Cause might have been, let's look at some characteristics of the universe.

1. The universe is **enormous**. When we say we are seeing light from 14.7 billion light years away, that is only one direction. Likely this means that the universe is 29.4 billion light years wide. Since light travels at about 186,000 miles per second, 29.4 billion light years would be 927,793,000,000,000,000 miles. The Cause had to be able to span those unfathomable distances.
2. The Cause had to provide **massive** energy. Our sun alone, with its nuclear reaction, provides heat for our entire solar system, and presumably has been doing it for more than 4 billion years. Einstein's formula $E=m \cdot C^2$ says energy can be converted into mass. The Cause must have had enough energy to convert it into the complete mass in the Universe.
3. The Cause placed the stars and planets into controlled positions. Our Earth is in a closely controlled orbit around the Sun, and the Moon is in a closely controlled orbit around the Earth. The **massive force and intelligence** to place the massive Moon and the more massive Earth into specific

orbits is incomprehensible to us. We cannot figure out how it happened, but the Cause knew how to do it and did it. This is further complicated by the fact that over the alleged billions of years since the orbiting planets were formed, they have been and are still perpetually bombarded by collisions of space junk. Each contact is more impactful on the leading side as they orbit, adding mass to the planets which should slow them down; yet the perfect orbits have been maintained for these many billions of years.

5. The Cause created at least 118 microscopic elements to be used as the building materials to make our sun and planets, as well as the rest of the Universe and everything in it. Imagine a Cause that could build the entire gigantic macro-Universe from the microscopic atoms that make up everything in the universe except energy. And, of course, create energy.

Continued on page 3

The gap between rungs on a ladder has increased because people have become taller. This is officially known as climb it change.

WHO CREATED GOD, P3

Continue from page 2

And since there are reportedly 200 trillion trillion stars in the Universe, imagine the number atoms the Cause had to make just to make one planet--much less 200 trillion stars. The Cause is massively microscopic.

- The Cause made living things. The DNA programming in the simplest of organisms is massively complex. We spend billions of dollars trying to decode the existing DNA sequences. Imagine a Cause that could invent and implement the DNA coding. Thirteen people have received Nobel prizes for discovering and explaining parts of the DNA that the Cause invented and implemented. It is impossible for DNA to accidentally program itself. The Cause would of necessity be a **massively intelligent** entity.

That would say the Cause is massive in size, microscopic in detail, massive in force, massive in energy, massively intelligence, and massively inventive.

Back to our question of whether the universe spontaneously sprang into existence or whether there was a supernatural force to cause it to spring into existence. When there was nothing did "nothing" offer the characteristics required to be the Cause? Certainly not. No matter how many secular scientists say that "nothing" can provide these characteristics (and say that is rational science), it is not rational.

It is simply impossible. It is either dishonest or naive to make such a statement.

Springing into existence from nothing is not a natural event. It is a non-natural or supernatural event, circumventing all laws of science. A Cause that can provide the required characteristics would be so large, powerful, and intelligent that we would have a great difficulty in simply comprehending it, if even possible with our human limitations. In a sense it would be like asking an ant to explain mathematics. The cause may live in another time frame, another dimension, another frame of reference or something else we cannot comprehend.

This leaves as **us only two choices**: belief in the spontaneous existence of massive amounts of mass and order, or belief in a Cause that is outside our capability of actual comprehension. Spontaneous uncaused existence being an impossibility leaves us with only the Cause which is outside our capability of actual comprehension as the logical and rational choice.

We know the Cause exists as we see the results - the existence of things.

We would call that Cause God. We would also invite you to read the attached lesson 8.1 "What is a god?" for a broader discussion about what the term "god" means.

Continued on page 4

If someone from Ziplock could contact literally anyone in the cereal business, that would be great.

WHO CREATED GOD, P4

Continue from page 3

Now for an actual discussion about who created God, if we were to say that something created God, e.g. GOD(1), the next simple question would be who created GOD(1). If that was GOD(2), then the question would be who created GOD(2) and so on.

We could (and do) spend personal time trying to figure out how God exists. However, in this lifetime we can recognize that a God-like cause had/has to exist in order for us to exist. If that cause did not exist, we would not exist. Then we need to be satisfied to know that we do not have the capability to fully comprehend Him. It is sort of like expecting an ant to understand algebra. A mystery of life, akin to how smallest child can understand eternity but the oldest adult cannot explain it.

If you have a better idea for an explanation of God, please let us know.

Benton F. Baugh

BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS!

Continued from page 1

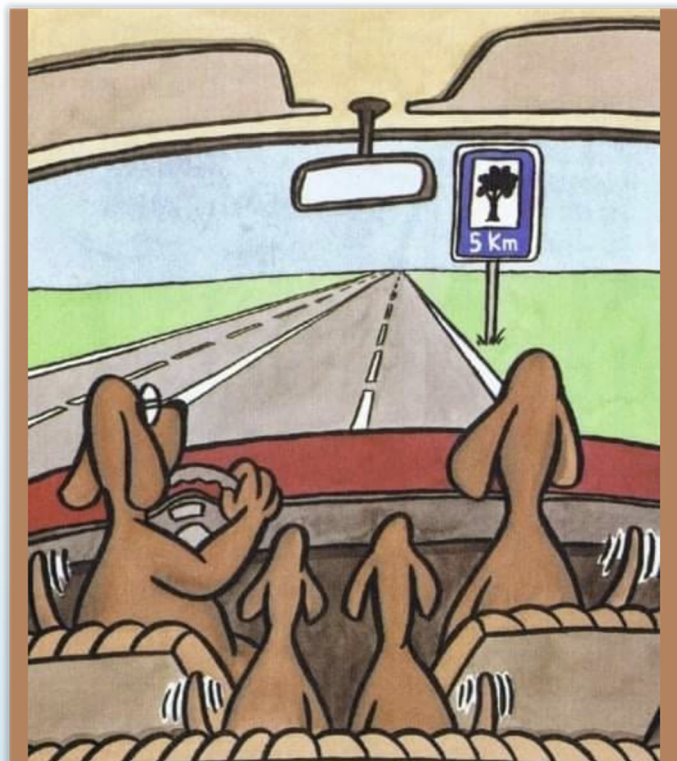
BE ON YOUR GUARD: *“So be on your guard, not asleep like the others. Stay alert and be clearheaded.”* (1 Thes. 5:6 NLT) Our adversary, the accuser, knows he can defeat us with fear. What he offers is trust in material things, which is idolatry. *“But the Lord is faithful; he will strengthen you and guard you from the evil one.”* (2 Thes. 3:3 NLT)

STAND FIRM IN THE FAITH: *“Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.”* (1 Cor. 15:56 NIV)

BE COURAGEOUS: *“But Christ, as the Son, is in charge of God’s entire house. And we are God’s house, if we keep our courage and remain confident in our hope in Christ.”* (Heb. 3:6 NLT) The opposite of courage is cowardice. The word coward is mentioned only one time in the Bible. See if you can find the reference.

BE STRONG: It is not our strength but God’s great power in us that enables us to be the light of the world. *“Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.”* (Eph. 6:10 NIV)

Elizabeth Brown, Texarkana, TX



Continued from page 1

A CHANGE OF HEART?

Your cheating heart will pine some day and crave the love you threw away. The time will come when you'll be blue. your cheating heart will tell on you.

When tears come down like falling rain, you'll toss around and call my Name. You'll walk the floor the way I do; your cheating heart will tell on you." Hank Williams, 1951

Author Monica La Rose quotes Eugene Peterson in "Our Daily Bread" January 14, 2023, "Christian consciousness begins in the painful realization that what we had assumed was the truth is in fact a lie." A person has to be thoroughly disgusted with the way things are to find the motivation to set out on the Christian way [One] has to get fed up with the ways of the world before he, before she, acquires an appetite for the world of grace."

Scripture of Psalm 120:1-121:2 expresses the anguish of someone living in distress among people with lying lips, deceitful tongues who hate peace – circumstances that seem very comparable to our world today. The psalmist asked "where does my help come from? My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth".

Country music artist and author Hank Williams described his personal pain and view of the consequences of "A Cheating Heart" in his classic song quoted above.

Perhaps the deceitful hearts of many today will experience similar consequences, even as Jesus Christ "walks and waits" for today's deceived to realize that what promises we have assumed to be truthful are in fact lies. We must "become disgusted" and find the motivation, courage and boldness to expose and confront the liars with the help of Jesus' Word and the Holy Spirit given us by the grace of God Almighty so that we to may proclaim with the psalmist "My Help comes from the LORD, the Maker of Heaven and earth".

Larry S. Grubbs, Harrison, Ohio



IMPOSSIBLE FOR EVOLUTION #137 - UNIHEMISPHERIC SLEEP

We all know how important sleep is. If we miss a night's sleep it really puts us out of sorts.

The longest recorded period of intentional sleep deprivation in a controlled scientific experiment is around 11 days, conducted by Randy Gardner in 1965. During this period, he experienced severe cognitive and psychological symptoms. He eventually recovered after getting a full night's sleep.

Just imagine if you could turn half your brain off so it could sleep for a period, and then turn it back on and let the other half of your brain sleep.

In the case of a bird flying, parts of the brain would have to be always active to allow continuous flight when either half brain is asleep. This might be done by having duplicate controls in the brain or possibly a third portion of the brain that never goes to sleep.

This is a capability which some mammals like Dolphins have, so they can watch for predators while they rest. The photo of the Dolphin shows it sleeping with its left eye open.

Likely the most extreme case of this is the **Common Swift**. They essentially live in the air, where they can eat, drink, mate, and likely even sleep from the time they depart from Scandinavia in August until they return to breed in June.

Many bird species, such as **ducks, geese, and pigeons**, are able to sleep with one eye open. This allows them to stay alert for potential predators while still getting some rest. Some mammals (**whales, dolphins, fur seals, sea lions**) sleep with one hemisphere of the brain sleeping while the other is awake.

This is referred to as unihemispheric slow wave sleep (USWS) and contrasts with the bihemispheric slow-wave sleep (BSWS) exhibited by humans and other mammals.

Unihemispheric sleep is not getting used to no

Pinterest



sleep; it would be reprogramming to allow parts of your brain to sleep while other parts are not sleeping.

It requires:

1. A decision that this is a good idea
2. DNA programming in the brain to allow it to happen
3. Possibly the DNA programming to make duplicate parts (e.g. wing motion controllers)

These are all capabilities well outside the conscious decision-making abilities of the dolphins, Common Swifts, ducks, geese and pigeons. This is clearly a proof that God exists.

With the technology that Charles Darwin had in the 1860s, it might have been excusable to say that this was an accident of evolution. For someone to say it today, with the technology and information we have now have, is either biased from previous experience/educational training, or simply naïve.

Benton F. Baugh, PhD, PE

Common Swift

Apus apus

Swifts land only when nesting. They eat, drink, mate and even sleep in the air!

Month-old chicks will do 'press-ups' to strengthen the wings in preparation for fledging.

Swifts mate for life, finding each other at the same nest site every year.

The oldest swift was found to be around 18 years old. In its lifetime, it likely flew the distance similar to flying to the moon and back - over 6 mln km.

At a constant altitude, swifts are the fastest birds, recorded flying at over 110km/h!

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SIGNS OF A STROKE:

Carla tripped and fell during grilling. I offered to call an ambulance, but she assured everyone she was okay and only tripped over her new shoes. She was a little pale and wobbly; she was helped to clean up and was brought another plate of food. Carla spent the rest of the evening happy and joyful.

Carla's husband later called to say his wife had been taken to the hospital. Carla died at 11pm that night. She had a stroke while grilling. If her friends knew how to interpret the signs of a stroke, Carla might still be alive today. Some people don't die right away. They often stay in a desperate situation.

It only takes 1 minute to read the following... A neurologist said that if he can intervene on a stroke victim within 3 hours, he could reverse the effects. He said the trick would be to recognize a stroke, to diagnose and treat patients within 3 hours, but that's not easy.

Recognizing a stroke: there are four stages to recognize a stroke.

- Ask the person to smile (they won't).
- Ask the person to pronounce a simple sentence (for example: "It's very nice today. ").
- Ask the person to raise both arms (she can't or only partially).
- Asking the person to stick out their tongue (if the tongue is crooked, twist left and right, is also a sign of a stroke.)

If he or she has problems with one of these steps, call an ambulance immediately and describe the person's symptoms over the phone. A cardiologist said that if as many people as possible become aware of this, we can be certain that any life — maybe even our own — can be saved. We send a lot of “garbage” every day through the network, but sometimes you can get stuck with something significant, like this.

If it's this important to you... copy so it can reach more people who might change the fate of those affected by stroke...

COPY AND PASTE - Please keep this going!

"The challenges ahead of you can only be measured by the ability inside of you."

Zone Leader: 7 Tactics for Leading in the Zones is a field-guide designed to help you navigate change. Resistance and conflict occur anytime change is introduced, and leaders must have the tools and resources necessary to avoid the pitfalls that hinder real success. No matter where you find yourself in the four zones, the tactics discussed in *Zone Leader* will enhance your ability to lead through each zone. "The challenges ahead of you can only be measured by the ability inside of you. The more you put into developing your leadership, the greater your ability to deal with the challenges you face."

"To get where you're going, you need more than just a destination: you need to know where you are now, and you need a map. To assist you on your journey, this thought-provoking book provides you with all three."

Sheila Heen, Harvard Law Professor and co-author of *Difficult Conversations: How to Discuss What Matters Most*.

"I wish this book could have been available when I was in both undergraduate and graduate studies. I was struck with how readability and depth worked in concert to clearly address leadership. The zones resonated with my thought processes and lay a logical format for understanding."

Gery Taylor, Executive Vice President, Prosperity Bank



Bob directs the Sunset Academy of Leadership Training. He is a coach, consultant, and full-time speaker, conducting workshops in leadership development. He is dedicated to helping leaders implement positive, transformational change and creating a vision to prepare the next generation of leaders. He lives in Virginia Beach, VA and holds a Doctorate in Intercultural Studies with an emphasis in adult leadership development from the Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, CA.



ZONE LEADER
7 Tactics for Leading in the Zones

ZONE LEADER: 7 Tactics for Leading in the Zones

TURNER



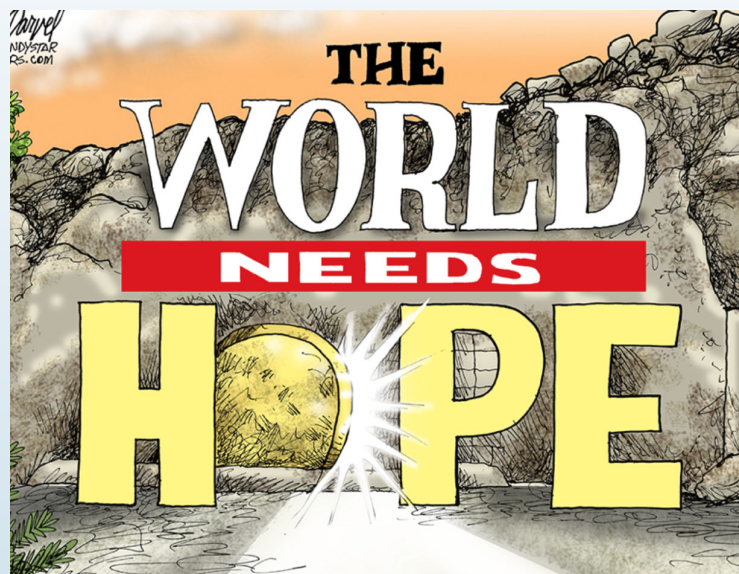
ZONE LEADER
7 Tactics for Leading in the Zones

Dr. Bob Turner

Author of *Essential: Building Blocks 4 Life and Leadership*

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38. *All that truly matters in the end is that you loved.*
39. *Get outside every day. Miracles are waiting everywhere.*
40. *If we all threw our problems in a pile and saw everyone else's, we'd grab ours back.*

Source unknown.

A 13 lesson book written by a long time Church of Christ minister and servant of Jesus. Intended for Bible Class studies, this book can also be used for personal evangelism.

Most Bible class study books on this subject begin with Genesis 3. This study however, lays the foundation by beginning with a basic study-outline of Biblical History, which is sorely lacking among many Christians today. Then after laying this foundation, it seeks to present a "Synthesis of Scripture" by asserting that the theme of all the Bible is Jesus, His Death, Burial, and Resurrection! The Eternal Purpose of God for Redemption is then presented with an in-depth study of Ephesians 1, and other New Testament passages which describe God's redemptive plan.

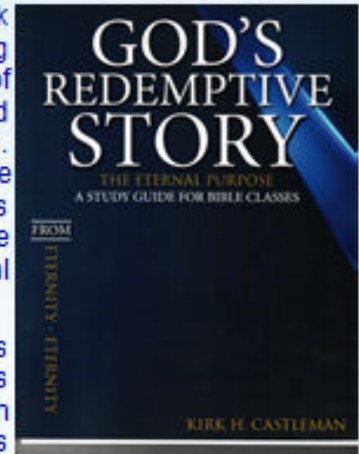
It is not until the fourth lesson that God's Eternal Purpose in Genesis 3 is presented. Then other Promises, Pictures, Prophecy, and Prep-

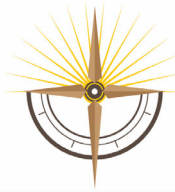
"AN EXCITING STUDY OF GOD'S POWER AND REVELATION IN HUMAN HISTORY"

aration, are fully described. This study includes a description of the Davidic Covenant, as well as a helpful approach to Old Testament Prophecy.

This guide is helpful for all Christians, but especially new Christians who need an understanding of God's eternal desire for all the world!

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THERE IS POWER IN KINDNESS!

*Why do our feet
smell and our noses
run?
Barry & Ace*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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To post your event: info@occg.institute

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