

ONE FLESH - GENESIS 2:4

NUMBER 186

March 2024

It is reasonable for a God to talk to you or at least provide proof that He is real. Although a few people think that God talks to them directly today, it is likely not true. That a God exists is a basic subject which has been frequently discussed in this newsletter, such as last month's article entitled CA185 THE UNSEEN GOD – SCIENTIFIC PROOF. It is available online at <https://occg.institute/christian-array-181-200/>.

Given that a God exists, the next step is to choose who that God is among the pretenders to be God. Can you select one, or are the many choices equally an acceptable way to acknowledge God? If you can identify an acceptable candidate to be God, does He tell you if you can worship other candidates to be God if you like instead of Him?

Continued on page 2

CONFIDENT TRUST

“So do not throw away this confident trust in the Lord. Remember the great reward it brings you!” (Heb. 10:35 NLT)

We can have confident trust that God is our sustaining power in all we do. *“Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence,*

so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.” (Heb. 4:16 NIV)

Continued on page 3

DESCENT OR ASCENT OF MANKIND?

The Descent of Man-from a culture of truth, order and obedience to God, to a culture of lies, theories, chaos and denial of God. Who can restore order of chaos?

ONLY GOD

Continued on page 4

FRONT LOADED CREATIONISM

“A friend and I had another discussion about God and science. He indicated that he believed that God put all the required DNA programming in one or a few starter cells. Over time more sections of the DNA programming were turned on or off to produce the life forms we see today.

I thought up the term front loaded creationism to identify what I thought he was saying, and it turns out to be a standard term.

Continued on page 5

IN THIS ISSUE:

One Flesh - Genesis 2:4 - Baugh	1
Confident Trust - Brown	1
Descent or Ascent of Mankind - Grubbs	1
Front Loaded Creationism - Baugh	1
Impossible for Evolution	7
Advertisements	8
Calendar of Events	12



I am waiting on a 1966 Mustang washer and dryer set.

ONE FLESH - GENESIS 2:4 , P2

Continued from page 1

One way that God may identify himself is to make scientific statements which cannot be understood by mankind at the time He made them, but are understood years later.

Such a scientific statement proof of God must have an initial meaning that makes sense, so that it will not initially be a disproof of God. Then it must have a second deeper, or more scientific, meaning to be understood later when society becomes more educated. The second, deeper meaning must not be able to be understood initially or it would not qualify as a proof of God. It would just be wisdom.

Eight items are presently identified as Biblical scientific statements. Paths of the sea, springs of the sea, hangs the earth on nothing, circle of the earth, circle on the surface of the waters, singing of the stars, atoms, and atomic energy are identified in and discussed in our lesson 7.4 **BIBLICAL SCIENTIFIC STATEMENTS**. There may be dozens or hundreds of such statements in the Bible for us to discover as we study.

At this time we are going to suggest an ninth candidate for a Biblical scientific statement proof of God. Genesis 2:24 "For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh." NASV

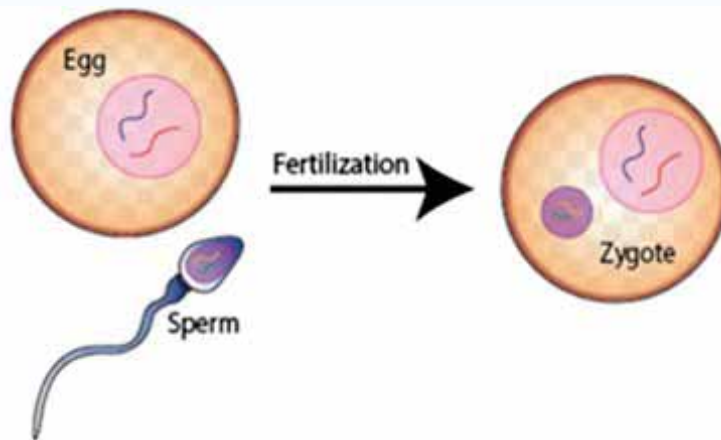
"One flesh" is a descriptive metaphor of the intimate conjugal relations of a newly married couple. Not a perfect metaphor, but it is probably as good as most of them are.

Now 3500 years later we know that when these intimate conjugal relations occur, a male sperm

penetrates a female egg and literally becomes "one flesh". The combination is a single cell called a zygote. That is not a metaphor, it is a scientific reality. Every time the couple gets pregnant, a part of the man and a part of the woman literally becomes one flesh. In ways we do not understand, that one-celled zygote divides and becomes more than 400 different types of cells (e.g. heart, muscle, brain), which continue on to make all the complex organs of a complete human being.

When Moses wrote Genesis 2:24, he could not have known that this is what happens to cause a pregnancy; the sperm and an egg were not identified until the 17th century. To the best of our knowledge, this has not been identified as a scientific proof of God until now.

This is just one more in a long series of proofs that God created the Universe and all living things. It is simply naive to believe anything else.



This is added to our lesson 7.4, which is attached to this newsletter and is at <https://occg.institute/christian-array-topical-lessons/5-the-bible-and-histories/>

This aspect of God's creation is so interesting it is added as the **ninth Biblical Scientific statement and as Impossible for Evolution #140**.

It is impossible for and accident of evolution as two incredibly complex cells join together and share a portion of their DNA to make another incredibly complex zygote which grows up to be a unique individual.

B.F.Baugh

Continued from page 1

CONFIDENT TRUST

God remembers our patient endurance and confident trust though our daily walk with him. *“Let everyone see that you are considerate in all you do. Remember, the Lord is coming soon.”* (Phil. 4:5 NLT) *“Make allowance for each other’s faults and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.”* (Col. 3:13 NLT)

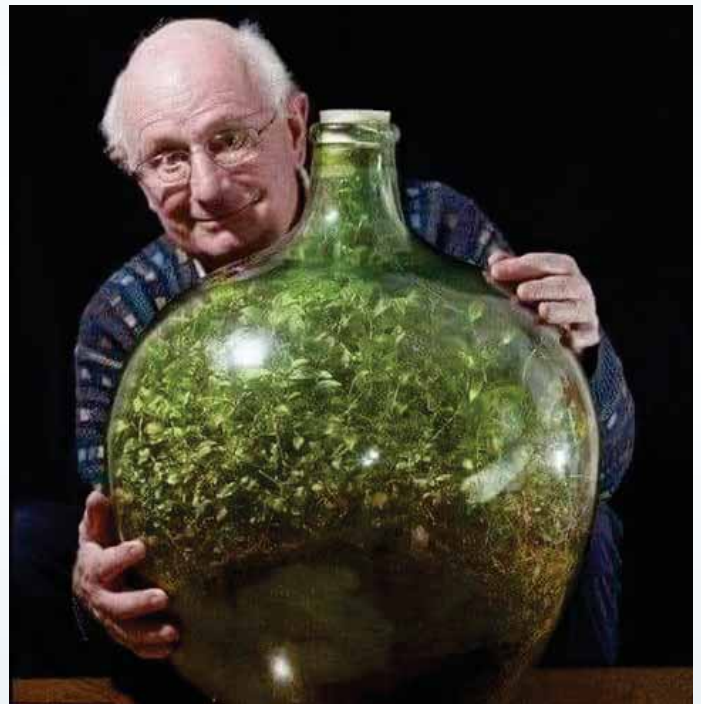
Live in confident trust because God claims you as his very own. *“And do not bring sorrow to God’s Holy Spirit by the way you live., he has identified you as his own, guaranteeing that you will be saved on the day of redemption.”* (Eph. 4:30 NLT) *“So we can say with confidence, “The LORD is my helper, so I will have no fear. What can mere people do to me?”* (Heb. 13:6 NLT)

Elizabeth Brown, Texarkana, TX



JUST INTERESTING

In 1960, David Latimer planted a tiny garden inside of a large glass bottle and sealed it shut. He opened the bottle 12 years later in 1972 to add some water and then sealed it for good. The self-contained ecosystem has flourished for nearly 60 years.



For those who are wondering how this is even possible: the garden is a perfectly balanced and self-sufficient ecosystem. The bacterium in the compost eats the dead plants and breaks down the oxygen that is released by the plants, turning it into carbon dioxide, which is needed for photosynthesis. The bottle is essentially a microcosm of earth.

Makes you want to go find a big bottle and try it.

Descent or Ascent of Mankind?

The resurrected Jesus Christ announced; "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me". He gave his disciples The Great Commission; "Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28:18-20

As it is written in the Book of John 15, Jesus explained very clearly that He is the "true Vine" established by His Father, the Gardener, to produce fruit (of redemption) through branches (disciples) directly connected to Him, nourished by His Works, God's love and the Holy Spirit. Healthy branches are pruned to produce more abundant fruit, while branches that bear no fruit wither, are cut off, thrown away, picked up and thrown into the fire.

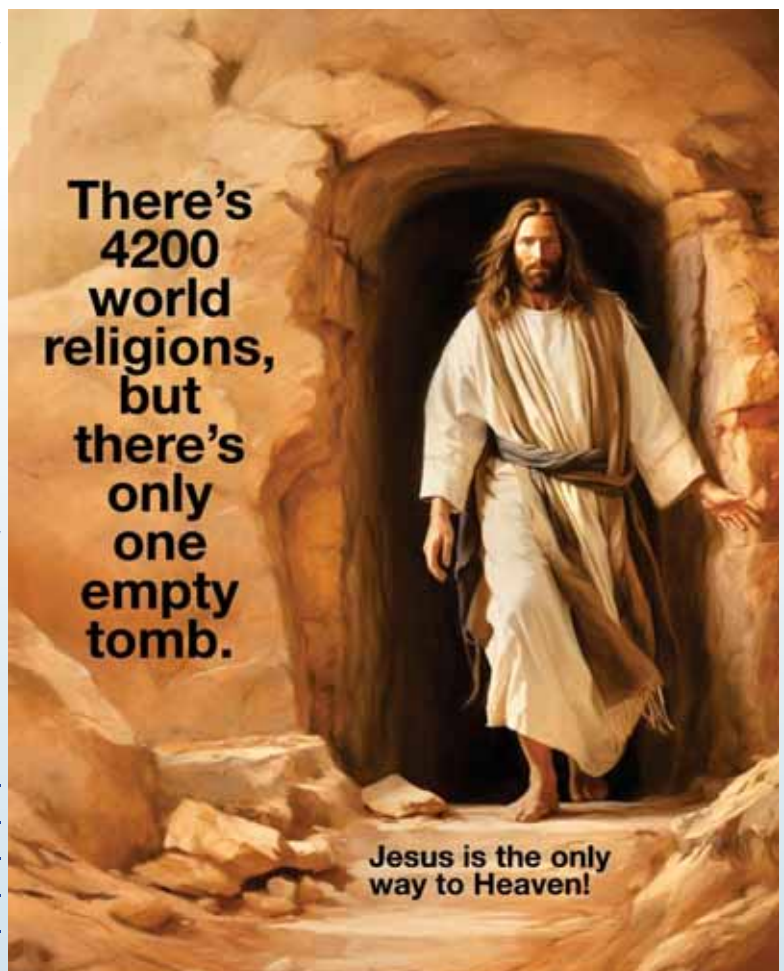
Today, many of the world, Americans in particular, are attempting to "graft" some branches of the vine to produce bitter fruit, falsely claiming their fruit will better sustain man through man's progressive management of hardships inflicted by rising sea levels, climate change, pollution of atmosphere by hydrocarbon emissions, as well as encouraging better "natural selection" of newly evolving gender types and their oversight efforts to "rebalance" racial divisions. [Note that the Chinese Communist Party is rewriting the Bible to balance Biblical principles with Communist principles.]

In Truth, the deceptive strategies, tactics, goals and hidden agenda of the progressive revisionists are best termed common "graft": illegal and immoral practices used to seek, secure bribe or extort illicit gains to

fund their lust for power and absolute authoritarian power over people.

The great unanswered question for all readers remains: what is my rational, ethical, intellectual, moral, and spiritual role and responsibility on behalf of my family, my children and their children, my neighbors, friends? And my forbearers, to whom I am indebted for my life opportunities and whatever contentment and freedom I have known as a citizen of the United States of America and inhabitant of earth?

Larry S. Grubbs, Harrison, Ohio



FRONT LOADED CREATIONISM

Continued from page 1

It is one of the ways in which God could have created the life forms we see, but it is not what the Bible says.

The extreme choices are:

CREATIONISM: It is my understanding that God was active in coding the DNA for each unique species. Sections of the coding would have some variability (e.g. in size and color), which is referred to as micro evolution.

ATHEISTIC EVOLUTION: Life happened by chance and variability happened by chance mutations of DNA.

Front Loaded Creationism is a credible way it could have happened, but I would be surprised if it did. There are apparently 8.77 million species of animals on the earth. That would be everything from worms to hummingbirds to woolly mammoths. To have enough DNA programming to have 8.77 million species preprogrammed seems difficult to do. However, if it happened God did it. The only thing it does is to eliminate God's personal interventions earlier that if he created the species individually.

Today when a male sperm and a female egg get together to make a Zygote (a fertilized egg) it has no nerve cells to connect to the mother. In other words all the DNA information for the baby is already there.

It is accepted that DNA is massively complex with what we know about it. A good part of what we know about DNA is the process of making proteins, which is amazing and complex.

It seems reasonable to me that when you are born, the shape of your ears, your male pattern baldness, your graying hair, your tendency to gain weight and a lot of other characteristics are in your DNA someplace. As near as I can tell, we are

learning a lot about DNA, but haven't even learned where the DNA information about characteristics such as these are located. We have scientists who have referred to sections of DNA (whose functions that they don't know) as "junk DNA"; I think the truth is closer to junk scientists.

I have been on a specific search to learn how much DNA it takes to give the shape of an ear. Not only can I not find it, but as near as I can tell such things are not even addressed yet. Not only are there 8.77 million species on the earth, but there are eight billion humans on earth, all with unique ear shapes. They all have unique fingerprints, foot prints, and retina shapes.

That being said, God accomplished a massively complex task just making DNA for a human being. He could have further complicated his work by putting every species' DNA in every living cell, but I would be surprised if He did it that way. I hope to ask Him some day.

B.F. Baugh

I just got a call from a 304 area code. Thinking it was someone I know in WV, I answered. It was a man claiming to be from customer service (didn't say what company, only "customer service")
The first thing he asked was "Can you hear me?"
I remembered something I saw on Facebook saying people are calling and asking if you can hear them, then using the recording of your "Yes" reply as a way to sign you up for all kinds of stuff. So I replied "I hear you" to which he again asked "so you can hear me?"
Me: I hear you
Him: I just need a yes or no
Me: I hear you
Him: *hangs up*
Thanks to whoever posted that story. I probably would have answered Yes the 1st time he asked.

YOU PROBABLY DIDN'T KNOW THAT....

1. Debra Winger was the voice of E.T.
2. Pearls melt in vinegar.
3. It takes 3,000 cows to supply the NFL with enough leather for a year's supply of footballs.
4. It's possible to lead a cow upstairs...but not downstairs.
5. Humans are the only primates that don't have pigment in the palms of their hands.
6. The sentence "The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog," uses every letter in the alphabet. (Developed by Western Union to Test telex/two communications)
7. Average life span of a major league baseball: 7 pitches.
8. A duck's quack doesn't echo, and no one knows why.
9. The reason firehouses have circular stairways is from the days of yore when the engines were pulled by horses. The horses were stabled on the ground floor and figured out how to walk up straight staircases.
10. The airplane Buddy Holly died in was the "American Pie." (Thus the name of the Don McLean song.)
11. Each king in a deck of playing cards represents a great king from history. Spades - King David; Clubs - Alexander the Great; Hearts -Charlemagne; and Diamonds - Julius Caesar.
12. $111,111,111 \times 111,111,111 = 12,345,678,987,654,321$
13. Clans of long ago that wanted to get rid of their unwanted people without killing them used to burn their houses down-hence the expression "to get fired."
14. Hershey's Kisses are called that because the machine that makes them looks like it's kissing the conveyor belt.
15. The name Jeep came from the abbreviation used in the army for the "General Purpose" vehicle, G.P.
16. The highest point in Pennsylvania is lower than the lowest point in Colorado .
17. The only two days of the year in which there are no professional sports games (MLB, NBA, NHL, or NFL) are the day before and the day after the Major League All-Star Game.
18. Only one person in two billion will live to be 116 or older.
19. The mask used by Michael Myers in the original "Halloween" was actually a Captain Kirk mask painted white.
20. If you put a raisin in a glass of champagne, it will keep floating to the top and sinking to the bottom.
21. Snails can sleep for 3 years without eating.
22. Actor Tommy Lee Jones and vice-president Al Gore were freshman roommates at Harvard.
23. The fingerprints of koala bears are virtually indistinguishable from those of humans, so much so that they could be confused at a crime scene.
24. Months that begin on a Sunday will always have a "Friday the 13th."
25. The man who plays Lt. Commander Montgomery Scott on Star Trek is missing the entire middle finger of his right hand.
26. The Eisenhower interstate system requires that one mile in every five must be straight. These straight sections are usable as airstrips in times of war or other emergencies.
27. There are 293 ways to make change for a dollar.

From Ray Scott

IMPOSSIBLE FOR EVOLUTION #141: LUNGS 1: BASICS OF BREATHING

A lung is a organ for extracting oxygen from the air and delivering it to the body, accepting CO₂ from the body and sending it into the atmosphere. At rest human lungs inhale and exhale ½ liter every 5 seconds, extract ¼ liter of pure oxygen every minute from the air, and give at least ¼ liter of CO₂ to the air every minute.

The first graphic shows generally how complex a cell is, given that the DNA is in the nucleus of the cell.

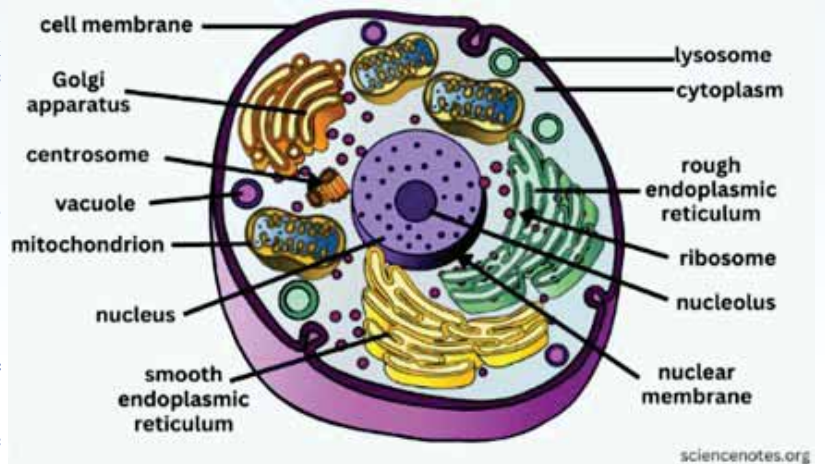
The second graphic is a simplified drawing of a one celled living thing showing that O₂ or oxygen enters the cell and CO₂ or carbon dioxide leaves the cell through the cell wall or membrane. But how does it do it?

Air pressure at sea level is 14.696 p.s.i. Each of the gases in air have partial pressures which add up to that total. Nitrogen, which is 78% of the gas, has a partial pressure of 11.45 p.s.i., and Oxygen, which is 21 percent of the gas, has a partial pressure of 3.09 p.s.i. Other gases make up about 0.14 p.s.i. of the atmospheric pressure. The individual partial pressures explains why odors tend to dissipate, or be smelled quickly a distance from the source.

Looking at our simplified graph, presume that there is a partial pressure balance across the membrane for both oxygen and carbon dioxide. Now presume that within the cell, one molecule of oxygen joins with one molecule of carbon to provide energy and/or heat to the cell, and forms a molecule of carbon dioxide in doing so. The concentration of oxygen in the cell is reduced, reducing its partial pressure. This tends to cause another molecule of oxygen to come across the membrane into the cell to balance the partial pressure across the membrane. The concentration of carbon dioxide is increased, increasing its partial pressure. This prompts a molecule of carbon dioxide to exit the cell across the cell membrane.

The cell just breathed. Human lungs are structurally much more complex, but are based on this method.

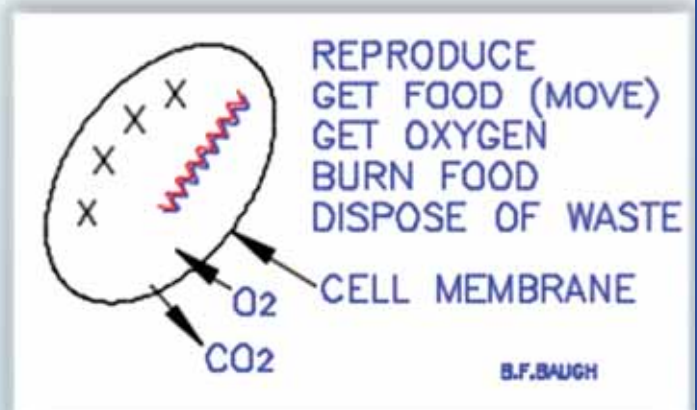
The second graphic shows some basic functions of life. If the life form cannot reproduce, get food, get oxygen, burn the food, and dispose of its wastes, it cannot survive. If the cell does not have the stuff inside the cell, it cannot survive. If it does not have a membrane to contain the stuff inside the cell, it cannot survive.



not survive. It is the old chicken or egg question. You cannot contain the stuff in the membrane if you don't have a membrane. You can't have a membrane unless you have the stuff that goes in the cell. This is irreducible complexity. Everything had to magically appear at once to have a living cell. The supernatural appearing at once is what an Intelligent Designer could do, not an accident of nature. That Intelligent designer is God.

Benton F. Baugh, PhD, PE

Note: for #140 see page 2



"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."

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"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."

Geny 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

TURNER



ZONE LEADER

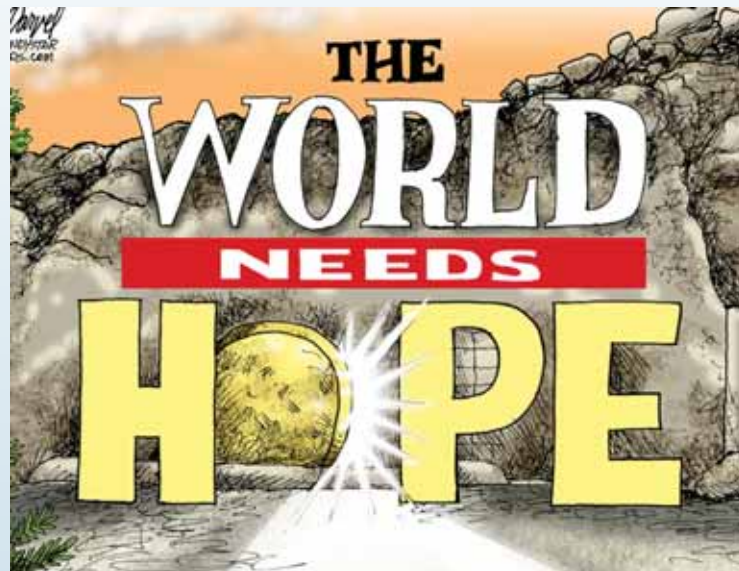
7 Tactics for Leading in the Zones

Dr. Bob Turner

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Need answers! 😊

Why do you have to "put your two cents in"... but it's only a "penny for your thoughts"? Where's that extra penny going? (taxes?)

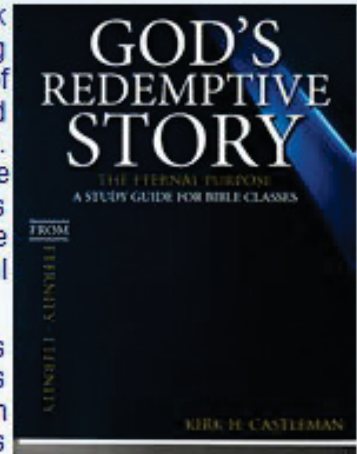
Once you're in heaven, do you get stuck wearing the clothes you were buried in for eternity?

What disease did cured ham actually have?

How is it that we put man on the moon before we figured out it would be a good idea to put wheels on luggage?

From Ray Scott

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!

This book can be bought on Amazon for \$10.



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Located at occg.institute, TOPICAL LESSONS, 02 WINGS OF EAGLES

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- (4) Sunday morning worship: A church growth sermon

See <https://occg.institute/services/refocus/> for more specific information.

For more information, contact:
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I don't know how to act my age, I've never been this old before.

Barry & Ace

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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March 30-April 4, Churches of Christ 78th Annual National Lectureship, Montgomery, Ala. See cocrationallectureship1945.org.

April 24-27, Revive Texas Church Growth Workshop, Homemission and Brown Street COC, Waxahachie, Texas, see homemission.org

June 3-7, Global Reunion 2024, Hosted by Oklahoma Christian University, Edmond OK, See oc.edu/globalreunion

June 7-12, 50th National Jail & Prison Ministry Workshop, Corpus Christi, TX, See kingscrossingprisonministries.org.

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