

GENESIS ACCEPTED



NUMBER 22

September 2011

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LIGHT

I think it is true to say that the question of starlight is one of the most difficult, purely scientific questions, to answer if you are a Young Earth Creationist who believes that God created the universe about 6,000 years ago, in six days, as it says in Genesis 1. It hasn't been solved though there is a good deal of research and thinking being done on it for us. When something new and useful is presented in the creationist literature - and I can understand it sufficiently well enough to synthesize it for you - I'll do my best to do so. The ideas will not be mine. I'm not a physicist - O-level GCE was the height to which I climbed in that subject at 16 in 1958, though I have done some further study in certain things over the years since.

The ideas we are going to consider in this article come from the Answers-in-Genesis team in their wonderfully presented quarterly magazine *Answers*. The specific one is Vol. 6. No. 1, Jan-Mar. 2011 (as pictured) and the article therein is written by Dr. Jason Lisle, who holds a PhD in astrophysics from the University of Colorado at Boulder, USA. This is a specialist field of his which he employs for the benefit of creationist believers, and, of course, he is one of hundreds of fully accredited, serious scientists at the top level of their subject in secular circles, who believe in the Bible and the Young Earth. Richard Dawkins and his ilk would have us believe that there are no 'proper', or creditable, scientists who think like this but he is absolutely wrong, and deliberately so for he knows that is just a lie. The fact that because they hold these views and therefore he, personally, doesn't credit them, because he thinks such notions betray a certain feeble-mindedness, does not make his assertions about them correct. It just demonstrates his prejudice. Dr. Lisle IS a good and proper scientist in this field at the top level!

Pause for an advert

Before getting into the article, I would like to divert and tell you something about the magazines which prove to be so helpful in bolstering our faith in these areas of Genesis, and commend them to you.

There are two large groups doing a similar task, one based in America and the

other in Australia - though the American one is run by an Australian, Ken Ham. Until about six years ago they were just one group but sadly there was a sharp division about policy and how to run things, and the American group split off from the parent, Australian, group. They teach the same things about the Bible and Genesis in particular so the neutral observer doesn't have to decide which one teaches 'better' biblical truth. It just means that now, instead of subscribing to one superbly presented magazine, you have to subscribe to two AND they both cost around £14-£15 a year to do so. The Australian magazine is called *Creation* and the American one is *Answers*, as we said. There's

little to choose between them, though I have my preference. Barbara and I subscribe to both. The two groups also put out twice-yearly technical journals, which are truly technical and not really for non-scientists at all. We take one of them - *Journal of Creation* - just to aid the cause, as it were, but many times the articles are scaling the heights of Everest and we are at base camp, unable even to set foot on the mountain, let alone climb it! If any Dawkins-types try to pretend that creationists don't engage in real science, you can refer them to these technical journals and challenge that assumption very easily.

The Australian group is now called Creation Ministries International (CMI) and their UK address and contact details are: 15 Station Street, Whetstone, Leicestershire, LE8 6JS. Tel. 0845 6899 264. Their web site is simply, creation.com. The American group is called Answers in Genesis and its UK address is: PO Box 8078, Leicester, LE21 9AJ. Tel. (0116) 2708400 and you can look them up on www.answersingenesis.org. (This is the group who oversee the amazing Creation Museum near Cincinnati: creationmuseum.org)

One final, but very important point: both groups have the same basic theology. They are evangelical, Calvinistic and premillennial. They are superb on the first 11 chapters of Genesis but, unfortunately, leave a lot to be desired as they move down the Bible. Their answer to the question, 'What must I do to be saved?', is subtly unscriptural: repent, believe and then say a bidding prayer of dedication to the Lord, from which you emerge as a

born-again-Christian. I back them fully on Genesis 1-11 but am always saddened when they fail to answer the most important question correctly. They seldom venture down the Bible in their magazines but be aware of this if you decide to subscribe - which I recommend you do!

Restating the problem

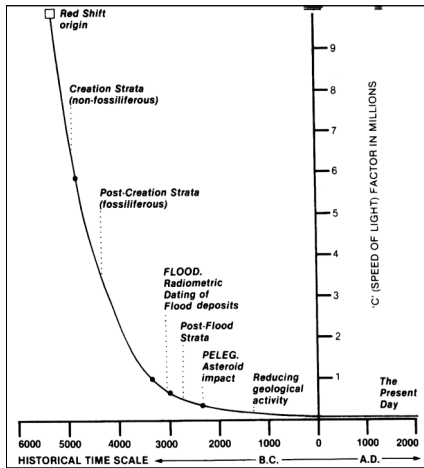
The problem over the stars and their light reaching the Earth is a simple one. Scientists have calculated the speed at which light travels - 186,000 mps (miles per second) - and, using very ingenious and sophisticated techniques, they have calculated that the stars are vast distances from us. Some are so distant that it would take light around 12,000,000,000 years to reach us. (I'm sorry. Being a pedant I cannot get used to calling that distance 12 billion years when to me, as a true Brit., I believe that that is twelve thousand million. A billion being a million-million and not a thousand-million as our American friends believe; consequently I frequently write the numbers out in full and you can call them what you wish - it's a massive figure however you might say it!)

Now, if those stars are so far away and yet we are seeing their light, in order to reach us so we can see it, those stars must be at least 12,000,000,000 years old and not merely 6,000 years old as Young Earth Creationists maintain. That's logical and we see no need to challenge the estimation of the distances involved. As far as we can tell, they really ARE that far away. The vastness of the universe and its majesty are, in fact, evidences of the wonderful works of the Creator and a testimony to Him, for *'The Heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork'* (Ps 19:1); *'For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made'* (Ro 1:20). The light from our Sun takes eight minutes to reach us and from the nearest star, Alpha Centauri, it takes 4.5 years to arrive. Space is big, very big indeed.

Some suggestions

We considered two possible explanations in *Genesis Accepted* Number 7, 'Making Light of a Problem'. The first was the work of Barry Setterfield who believe that there was evidence that the speed of light has not been constant; it has slowed down over the years until it stabilized around 1960. As he did the Maths and fed the data into the computer, he discovered, to his surprise, that the best graph to fit it veered sharply upwards around 6,000 years ago. The graph below, which we published with the original article, shows what he discovered and thus the speed of light during creation week would have been just about at infinity. Consequently it could cover the distances instan-





Setterfield's speed of light (C) curve from the 'best fit' equation
(Copied from the CSM disc of pamphlets No 1)

aneously and there need be no conflict with Genesis.

The second theory we considered came from Dr. Russell Humphries' book *Starlight and Time* in which he entered the world of Einstein's Theories of Relativity. I say 'theories' rather than 'theory' because there was his 'Theory of general relativity' and his 'Theory of special relativity'. With this problem we are dealing with the Theory of general relativity. If you apply the figures to the Theory and assume the universe to be unbounded, the Big Bang drops out quite neatly but if you imagine it to be bounded and having expanded a very different scenario emerges. The Earth comes in at near to the centre of the universe, which expanded out of a white hole, rather than be fated to fall into a black hole. The point where things escape out of the white hole is what is known as the 'event horizon'. Clocks here run at different times than those on the outer fringes of the universe where they absolutely whizz along with massive amounts of time passing there whilst the clocks at the event horizon are just ticking normally. Thus millions, nay billions of years can pass in outer space during one day as measured at the event horizon



where we were situated during creation week.

It's complicated, and I don't begin to comprehend the Maths involved, but the basic book is small and easy to read. It contains only two chapters: 1) the theory, 2) the application to Genesis 1. The rest are appendices for the scientifically minded. The Creation societies mentioned above both carry the book and there's also a DVD to help explain it too.

Dr. Jason Lisle's ideas

In some ways this new idea is a mixture of both of the others. It is definitely bound up with both Einstein and Relativ-

ty but also with the speed of light, though it is not a synthesis of the two. He accepts that the speed of light is a constant but that the application of that constant is subject to assumptions which need not be true.

Einstein postulated that you can't measure the speed of light accurately in one direction - you can only get an average over two directions. Modern techniques of examining particles in accelerators which can push them around at nearly the speed of light, have proven that there is distortion, as Einstein said there would be, and thus you can't synchronise two timing clocks absolutely accurately. Thus 'the speed of light in *one direction* cannot be objectively measured, and so it must be *stipulated* (agreed upon by convention). This stands in contrast to the *round-trip* speed of light which is always constant' (emphasis in the original).

What does this mean?

If we imagine two points: A and B, and light going from A to B and back again. It will always take the same time. That can be accurately, and objectively, measured. But there is no way of measuring accurately how long it takes to go just from A to B, or back again from B to A.

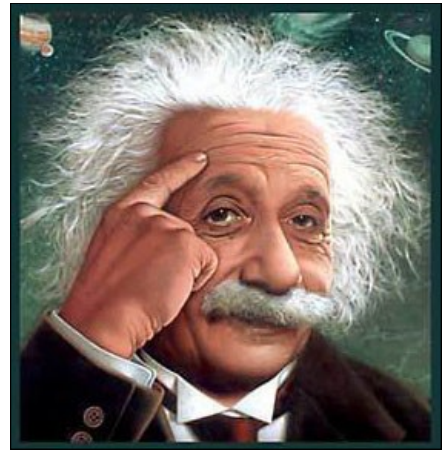
Let's be silly and bring the maths down to understandable numbers for convenience. If light travels at 1000 mph and two objects are 500 miles apart, the light will take exactly one hour to make the round trip. This we can measure and so, on this basis, we can say that light travels at 1000 mph. And it always comes to that answer. Consequently the assumption is that it travelled at 1000 mph there - and got there in half-an-hour - and did the same coming back. However, it could have got there at 2000 mph and returned at 500 mph, or vice versa, taking the same, constant, average time but making the two journeys at very different speeds.

What's the problem?

'The reason that the one-way speed of light cannot be objectively measured is that you need a way to synchronize two clocks separated by a distance. But in order to synchronize two clocks separated by some distance, you already have to know the one-way speed of light. So it cannot be done without circular reasoning.

'We need to have a way of synchronizing clocks to know the one-way speed of light. But we need to know the one-way speed of light in order to synchronize clocks. Einstein was well aware of this dilemma. He said, "It would thus appear as though we were moving here in a logical circle."

Einstein solved it by simply considering the one-way speed of light as a convention - 'something that we may choose!' Most physicists choose to believe that the



Albert Einstein
(Picture from Web under Albert Einstein: Images for Albert Einstein)

speed of light is the same in all directions but 'any other choice is also acceptable, so long as the round-trip speed is 186,000 miles per second'. There is nothing fundamentally wrong with choosing not to believe that light always travels at 186,000 miles per second in all directions.

Application to our problem

Some creationists have held to the notion that God had to create light beams in transit so we could see them. This means that as we look deep into space we are not seeing what actually is but rather an illusion which God planted there to amuse us - or some such reason. The supernova never actually happened. This does not seem like the God we read about in the Bible. And why should He do this when He could create distant stars and transport their light instantaneously across space so it could be seen as and when it said it was - on Day Four of Creation Week? Genesis 1:15 uses the phrase 'and it was so' implying that the stars began fulfilling their God-ordained rôle instantly, which they would not have done, nor have been doing, from creation until now because their real light would have thousands of millions of years still left to travel in order to reach us. Adam would have seen Alpha Centauri instantly as he looked upwards on the evening of Day Six and not have to wait 4.3 years before its light arrived. All the starlight could be thought of as arriving instantaneously 'because the light was on a one-way trip', and that this is how God brought it into being.

So we can see how the ideas of Barry Setterfield concerning the speed of light slowing down and the interplay and influence of the Theory of general relativity come together and lead us into the creative mind of God. It was only when modern technology was able to confirm some of Einstein's predictions that scientists are now able to look with confidence at the world and nature's laws and find new avenues, which could well lead into greater understanding of the Bible and what it tells us about the universe.

Darwin's Fruit

The British Isles are amongst the best mapped countries in the world. In fact we, and the French, were pioneers of the map-makers' art. Fuelled by the Jacobite Rebellion of 1745, when Bonny Prince Charlie gave the Hanoverians a massive fright, and the army's subsequent lack of knowledge of the topography of the Highlands as they were trying, brutally, to root out rebels and ensure that they didn't rise up again, they began to survey and map one of the most difficult and desolate areas of the country. Then the French seemed likely to invade so lands to the south needed to be mapped precisely, and consequently our islands were carefully mapped and have been ever since. Ordnance Survey maps can be read almost like a book to the skilled eye and it was an area in which I was most successful at university reading Geography. It was the only thing I topped my class in while I was there!

One thing I learned quickly was that the things they left off the maps were probably almost as interesting as those they included. In my own territory of Merseyside I soon noticed that a big power station on Deeside was missing, so too was a limestone quarry and the steel works it serviced at Shotton, also on Deeside (now sadly closed). Then there was a complex at a village called Capenhurst, on the Wirral peninsula, which apparently didn't exist. On a school visit to Trawsfynydd Nuclear Power Station, in the Snowdonia National Park, I asked about it because I knew it was connected to the nuclear power industry. I was told: 'You don't ask about that. We don't ask about that. It's top secret, hush-hush.' So I didn't ask, but later learned, from somebody who once worked there, that very few actually knew what was going on there or had an overview. You worked in your section and had no contact with other sections - a bit like the code-breaking department at Bletchley Park, Buckinghamshire, during the Second World War. Maps, of course, can be purchased by hostile foreign powers so our cartographers omitted, no doubt under secret government instructions, items which would make things easier for a potential enemy. A wise move, but we have to realise that even the most faithfully-produced maps deliberately don't tell the whole truth at times.

The power of the hidden agenda

History can be like that too, as can



Adolf Hitler - 20 April 1937

other disciplines. We learned about Adolf Hitler in history, and I sometimes think that the rise and fall of the Third Reich is the only thing some of our youngsters are being taught in the subject today, if television channels and documentaries are anything to go on. We trace the rise of Hitler from the Treaty of Versailles (1919), which imposed swingeing penalties on the Germans after the First World War, and which left an amazing residue of resentment in the country on which Hitler was able to build. He tapped into it and managed to restore their sense of pride in the Fatherland. We learn too about his views of the Master Race, his hatred of Jews, mental and physical defectives, gypsies and homosexuals, and how he set about trying to eliminate them in horrific programmes of genocide, and we wonder how it happened - but we're never really told the truth because the authorities, the ruling intelligentsia, don't want you to know because they have an agenda they still want to pursue. Hitler didn't drop out of the sky from nowhere; he just took the ideas he found, mainly in both the USA and Britain, to a horrifying, yet absolutely logical, level. And not only Hitler; there were Stalin, Mao Tse-Tung, Pol Pot, and so on, for the 20th century has been bathed in genocidal blood as never before - and it's not a coincidence!

1859 and all that

In 1859 Charles Darwin wrote and published *The Origin of Species*. It had a much longer and fancier title than that but that's how it's generally known today. In the end it was something of a rush job because he discovered that another man, Alfred Wallace, was thinking along almost exactly the same lines as he was about how animals and plants evolve - and he was about to go public. Wallace was a

younger man and Darwin had been 'sitting' on his ideas for 21 years since the Beagle voyage ended. He had suffered from a mysterious illness, which many think was caused by anxiety because he knew full-well what the effects his Theory of Evolution could have on religious faith, and in other areas too. He was aware that it was an anti-God polemic and would be seen as such, and Darwin did not like controversy. Whatever the reason was we'll never know, but one thing he couldn't abide was the thought that somebody else was going to get there ahead of him in the public's mind and take away his credit and 'glory'. He was certainly not THAT altruistic!

He did not read the public's mind very well. Thinking that the book would only really appeal to academics, he had just 1250 copies printed initially. They all sold out on the first day. Word had got around and people were craving it. It always seems to me to be a puzzle as to why his theory took hold so quickly and became the accepted norm in academia in just a few years. However, his theory too did not drop out of the sky on to an unsuspecting, and unprepared, world.

The Theory he developed was not his own. His contribution lay in the mechanism he proposed for evolution to have taken place, which was 'natural selection'. His grandfather, Erasmus Darwin, had written a book about evolution, though the idea actually goes back to the ancient Greeks. By 1859 many religious leaders had already compromised the Genesis account of creation in six days, some 6,000 years ago, in favour of the Earth being millions of years old. It was the geological lobby which had carried the day here. Charles Lyell's book, *The Principles of Geology* (1830-33), which renounced the idea that catastrophes on a major scale had anything at all to do with creating the Earth's geological structures and forms, was a major influence on the young Darwin. He took his Bible and Lyell's *Principles* on his voyage in the Beagle, and by the time he returned, five years later, it was Lyell's book he believed when it came to geology. Lyell made no secret of his desire to oust Moses and thus he taught the concept of gradualism, with its axiom of 'The present is the key to the past', as its guiding principle. We refer to this as 'uniformitarianism' and it was just what Darwin needed for his Theory of Evolution for he envisaged small changes over vast periods of time to work the wonder of Nature and bring man into being from primitive stock. Without such aeons evolution could not work (it actually can't work with them either but at the time such understanding could not be sustained) so Darwin had what he wanted from the geologists and thus he was able to plant his biological ideas on top of that.

Political and social thinking

When I studied History at school we were taught that the Industrial Revolution went from *circa* 1750 - 1850. That had been accompanied just a little earlier by the Agricultural Revolution and both had changed the face of our country. Towns and cities had sprung up as had factories and a massive underclass was created. We had fought several wars in the 18th century, including the War of Austrian Succession in the 1740s, as well as the Jacobite Rebellion, and, of course, the American Revolution when those dastardly colonials dared to resent being taxed from London without being represented in Parliament (only kidding!). They wouldn't have won without help from our traditional enemy, the French, and when the French world collapsed in the Revolution, followed by the Napoleonic Wars, people were very edgy about upheavals from without and challenges to conformity from within. The political world was most unstable but the social world was making progress quietly and pervasively. That there was a potentially unstable underclass which could erupt at any time was well known to those in the power, who were nervous of the unwashed masses.

It was not a world fashioned by sudden upheavals and cataclysmic intensity which they wanted to hear about, but rather one which ran slowly and smoothly onwards and upwards as man made progress towards his home-made utopia. Perversely, though the overall scheme of Evolution seemed to promise this, via small changes over millennia, nevertheless the mechanism which was supposed to drive it - natural selection and the survival of the fittest - gave the intelligentsia the very impetus they needed, from a scientific scenario, to ensure that the socially unfit did not take it into their heads to introduce a cataclysmic upheaval of their own and overturn the establishment.

These were allied both to religious beliefs and world views. John Calvin had a tremendous influence on such thinking and his notions of predestination conformed nicely to the evolutionary paradigm. The rich and ruling classes were rich and ruling because God had predestined them thus. Hence they were blessed by God and were deserving. The unwashed masses were not blessed by God so deserved to be kept down. The rich and powerful were the fittest to survive and therefore the fittest to lead. There is some dispute as to what exactly Mrs Cecil Frances Alexander meant when, in 1848, she wrote in her hymn, 'All things bright and beautiful',

*The rich man in his castle,
The poor man at his gate;
God made them high or lowly,
And ordered their estate.'*

It sounds too much like an unacceptable justification of privilege almost by Divine



Mrs Cecil Frances Alexander

decree, and as we'd already chopped off the head of one King who thought that he was King by such a right, we don't see that verse printed in the hymn any more. (It was positively banned in 1982 by the Inner London Education Authority!)

Finally, of course, Darwin's Theory of Evolution was welcomed by the intellectuals who were always looking for opportunities to pour scorn on simple faith and belief in the Bible. If geologists and astronomers were 'proving' that the Earth was not all that special, then biologists could now 'prove' that man wasn't either. He was not created by God from the dust of the ground but came to be by slowly developing characteristics acquired over millions, nay billions, of years. Man was moving onwards and upwards and, given time, he would create heaven on Earth unaided by God. Towards the end of the 19th century the atheistic poet A. C. Swinburne in his 'Hymn to Man' concludes: 'Glory to Man in the highest! For Man is the Master of things.' Many thinkers were certain that they were close to complete mastery and understanding of life. Swinburne had no doubt of it. (I wonder how he would react to the fact that three of his descendants - though not his directly since he never married - are leading members in the Aylesbury (Buckingham Park) congregation where I too worship!) Then X-rays were discovered, and then the electron microscope, which took scientists beneath the surface as never before and they began to discover an amazing microcosm which is equally as vast as the macrocosm of the telescope. Then they realized they were not the masters of anything but were dancing on the fringes of Creation with far more things to learn than they even knew up to the present. The sinking of the Titan-

ic too, that monument to the power, might and creative ability of the 'great Man', who had built the unsinkable ship which didn't even complete its maiden voyage, put an amazing dent into the inflated ego of many who thought Man had made it above everything else by his own efforts.

The Bible teaches that the true picture of Man is that he was perfect and then fell, and that there is no way he can rise again unaided. He was high up, and fell down, and will stay down unless God lifts him up again. Human nature is not on an upwards path. His quality of life might well be but he has a fallen nature and will ever be thus unless God intervenes and he accepts that intervention. God has intervened through Jesus and there is no way back without Him.

The Fruit begins

The greatest teacher the world has ever known said: "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thorn bushes, or figs from thistles? So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus you will recognize them by their fruits." (Mt 7:15-20). Evolution is a diseased tree. I cannot think of a single benefit such a belief has brought to mankind. Richard Dawkins would no doubt answer that it has freed us from the superstition of belief in a deity so we can now be free and enlightened in our thinking - or something along those lines. He credits Darwinism as the underlying reason which gave credibility, and still gives credibility, to atheism and Humanism. But what is its fruit? We are going to consider some below, much of which may be new to most of you, because it is not presented in History lessons in schools, nor generally in documentaries on television.

The case of Ota Benga



Ota Benga in the Bronx Zoo 1906

What Darwin discovered, or recognized, wasn't 'microbes-to-man' evolution but rather variation within kinds. We now understand genetic mechanisms far better than he did because of scientific advances. Unfortunately what is still being touted as evolution is no such thing. Darwin talked about the different types of finches he found on different islands in the Galapagos Islands - but they were still finches. White peppered moths may 'evolve' into black peppered moths due to industrial pollution - but they are still peppered moths. The ability to vary is built into their genes and no new information has been added. Nevertheless the grand design was for humankind to develop from non-humankind, an imagined ape variety which was ancestral to all modern apes and humans equally. Man was to be seen as just a superior animal and no more, and definitely not created specially by God.

But then, if true, humans too must be evolving, and Darwin drew a tree of upwardly evolving creatures with man at the top. However, if some animals were more advanced than others, so too must some humans be also. Which were at the top of the tree and which were lower down, just a shade above the apes from whence they supposedly came? The Bible tells us that we all come from Adam and Eve, and Paul told the people of Athens: "*The God who made the world and everything in it... gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, that they should seek God, in the hope that they might feel their way toward him and find him.*" (Ac 17:24-27, emphasis added). (The ESV, used above, says 'one man' but other versions like the AV (KJV) say 'one blood'; it's the same thing.) Therefore if there are differences - and there are - they must originate not in the blood but from genetic variation. This accounts for skin colour and other physical features, but social development is the product largely of life after the separation at Babel, when some people groups advanced rapidly into great civilisations and others retreated into primitive caveman type tribes.

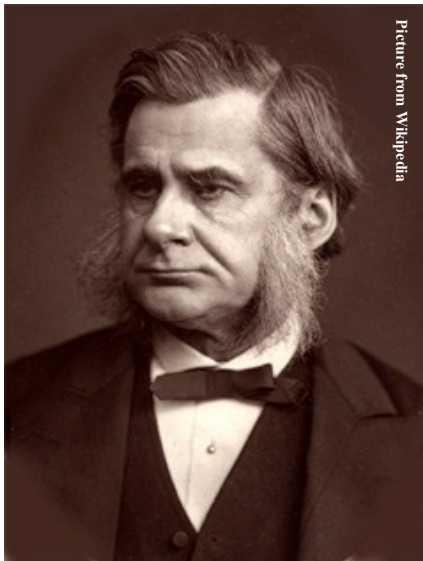
The Darwinists saw the more socially primitive, as judged by Western standards, as being lower down the evolutionary tree and at the top they placed the much more advanced societies of the white, Protestant, West. Thus bushmen and pygmies from Africa, Fuegians from Tierra del Fuego and the Aborigines from Australia were right down at the bottom and the Nordic Caucasians were obviously at the top. The American Indians too were very low down on their scale.

In 1906 the Bronx Zoo in New York

mounted an exhibition to demonstrate evolution and placed a pygmy, Ota Benga, into a cage along with an orang-utan named Dohung. Over 40,000 came to the exhibition and they asked questions like, 'Is he a monkey or a man?' The zookeeper answered that 'he was a transitional form between man and monkey, the missing link'. One supporter of the exhibition, Henry Fairfield Osborn, one of America's leading anthropologists, could not bring himself to consider Ota as a member of the human race. Ota's story is sad and can be read on Wikipedia. The only effective protest about the exhibit came from African-American Baptist pastors, who did not subscribe to evolution anyway, and thought it was degrading. In 1916, unable to return home to the Belgian Congo, as it was then called, Benga took a gun and shot himself. He was aged 32. Was he the first known 'victim' of evolutionary thought? That's debatable but what is not debatable is that he definitely wasn't the last - as millions and millions of people were murdered by both Communist and Nazi political regimes in the 20th century.

Atheism and Communism

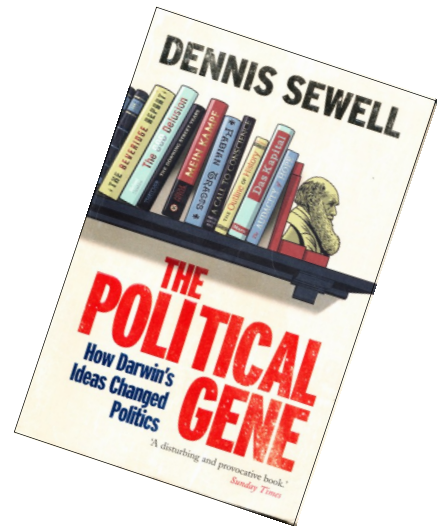
Darwin's Theory of Evolution was just what atheists wanted and needed to further their cause. Prior to it they had no creative mechanism which could act independently of the Creator. Darwin gave



**Thomas Henry Huxley:
(Darwin's Bulldog)**

them an apparently scientific mechanism which didn't require God as its driving force. Consequently it wasn't long before the Theory was being promoted by men like Thomas Huxley, who was dubbed 'Darwin's Bulldog'. He coined the term 'agnostic', which is actually just a gentle disguise for an atheist.

Karl Marx too saw Darwin's Theory as 'manna from heaven', to apply a religious metaphor to a very non-religious theory like Communism. The notion of the 'survival of the fittest' in a world of dog-



eat-dog was tailor-made to provide the scientific impetus for his political theory. The notion of the struggle for supremacy and the elimination of the weak fuelled the extreme socialism espoused by Marx and Engels. *The Communist Manifesto* was published in 1848, after the revolutions of that year on the continent, but while it predated Darwin's work by 11 years, *Das Kapital*, Marx's major work, was published in 1867, some eight years after *Origins* appeared. There is some serious evidence around that Marx wanted to dedicate this to Darwin but Darwin graciously declined the offer - though the claim concerning the offer of dedication to Darwin is also disputed. If it is true, it is to Darwin's credit that he refused, though he was well aware of the sorts of results his Theory could well have and some of them made him very uneasy - many believe this is why he held off publishing for so long, as we mentioned earlier.

Racism and genocide

Darwin was a racist! He had to be. Evolution as he developed it placed different races - Creationists now prefer to call them 'people groups' because there really is only one race: the Human Race - into evolutionary categories. There is a wonderful book by Dennis Sewell, published in 2009 by Picador (pictured above), called *The Political Gene*. If the title does not sound captivating, the contents most certainly are and they provided much of the impetus for this article. In it, Sewell, a positive non-Creationist, has this to say about Darwin on pages 134-5: 'Those who see some value in exploring the connections between Darwinism and Nazism do not do so to discredit the scientific discoveries of Darwin, and certainly not to indulge in some childish blame game that casts Charles Darwin, that gentle and amiable soul pottering about his garden at Down House, as either amoral or immoral. But it seems more than likely that some of Darwin's followers have misinterpreted his work, have taken his ideas into areas where they do not belong, have claimed for them implications that cannot legitimately be claimed, or have applied them

without morality. It is also possible that in some areas beyond the scope of his meticulous accumulation of empirical evidence, Darwin himself got some things wrong' (emphasis added). In Darwin's ideas as relating to the human condition, there is no room for applying them with morality, for the animal rise to the top of the tree was a cynical battle for survival. The Atheistic/Humanist actually has no logical basis for any act of altruism, since it prevents the less fit from going under. One wonders if Richard Dawkins ever uses the services of a doctor or a hospital since a pure Darwinist logically shouldn't!

In the same chapter of his book, Sewell says on page 141, while discussing the Holocaust: 'Charles Darwin made genocide a fact of life, a law of nature, or, at least, left it open to being interpreted that way. In his published writings, he coldly envisaged the extermination of the Australian aborigines and in his private correspondence took an equally sanguine view of the destruction of other races. "I could show fight on natural selection having done and doing more for the progress of civilisation than you seem inclined to admit," Darwin wrote to William Gresham in 1881... "Looking at the world at no very distant date, what an endless number of the lower races will have been eliminated by the higher civilised races throughout the world"' (emphasis ours). This is 'the gentle and amiable soul' who potted in his garden and who couldn't possibly be thought of as amoral or immoral. It certainly is not indulging 'in some childish blame game' when considering Darwin's culpability in these areas. He knew full well what his ideas could result in and he saw clearly where they could lead in the field of genocide and mass murder. He may have presented himself as an avuncular soul with a nice white beard and a delicate disposition but what was it Paul wrote about Satan disguising himself as an angel of light (2 Cor. 11:14)? He hit the all-time jackpot with Charles Darwin. (Okay, so it could

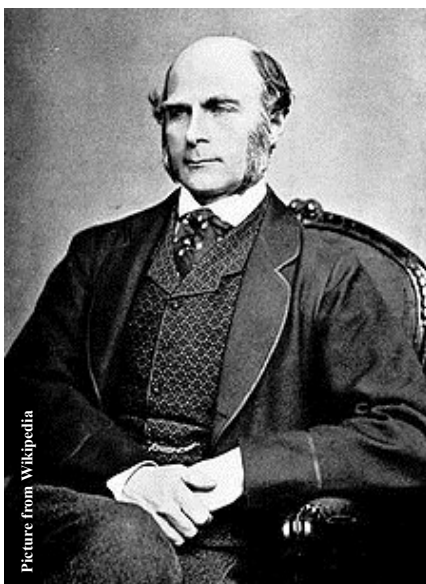


Alfred Russell Wallace

well have been Alfred Russell Wallace who took the credits, and the brickbats, and he was another avuncular soul.)

Eugenics

It was not long after declaring that human beings were not the special creation of a Divine being but merely the current end product of a long, purposeless chain of chance, and therefore simply a superior animal, that scientists who believed this to be true were looking at ways in which they could assist the process further. Obviously evolution had been an extraordinarily long process, and humans were still not evolutionarily perfect, so why not give it a nudge in the right direction? After all, we had been breeding higher mammals, like horses, cattle and dogs, selectively for better strains and different purposes, so what could be done with one kind of animal certainly could be done with another. This is 'eugenics', which means 'well born'. And the man who coined the term was Francis Galton.



Francis Galton

Wikipedia introduces him thus: 'English Victorian polymath: anthropologist, eugenicist, tropical explorer, geographer, inventor, meteorologist, proto-geneticist, psychometrician, and statistician. He was knighted in 1909. Galton had a prolific intellect, and produced over 340 papers and books throughout his lifetime...' He invented the isobar, used on weather maps to delineate lines of equal pressure, pioneered the use of fingerprints in forensic investigations, explored further some of the routes followed by David Livingstone in Africa and truly was a most remarkable man. He was also a first cousin to Charles Darwin!

Needless to say, he was 'taken' by Darwin's Theory, when he read it at age 37 in 1860, and was very interested in concepts of intelligence and using selective breeding to produce more intelligent leaders. The Eugenics Society, of which

he was a founder member, has now morphed into the Galton Institute in order to give the impression it has shed its associations with the Holocaust and mass murder, but the old ideas are still prevalent and are alive and well even today. We may not readily recognize its insidious influence but it's there.

Galton seems primarily to have been interested in promoting the cause of the intelligent and breeding leaders. This was taken to its natural conclusion under Hitler and the Nazis who were trying to create an Aryan/Nordic super race by selecting suitable young men and women and pairing them off, just as you would with animals in a laboratory.

If Galton pushed seriously for what one might think of as 'good' eugenics, by encouraging fit, intelligent people to marry fit, intelligent people and thereby produce healthy intelligent children for the benefit of society as a whole, it wasn't long before its concepts were being considered, and later used, for 'bad' eugenics, or 'dysgenics', which sought to eliminate 'degenerates' or 'moral defectives' like homosexuals, prostitutes, unmarried mothers and such, 'imbeciles' and the 'feeble-minded', as well as those born with serious physical defects, and so on. The definition of 'moral defectives' and 'feeble-mindedness' can easily be stretched by oppressive politicians to include those who disagree with them and their views. We can see such loose definitions being employed by Richard Dawkins when he speaks about Creationist scientists as if they are scientific cretins. If so-called rational, atheistic Humanists ever get into power to the point of serious domination, we would need to keep a very serious eye out in areas like these. The seeds of both Communist and Nazi genocide programmes, however, are clearly present amongst these ideas.

Darwin's family and eugenics

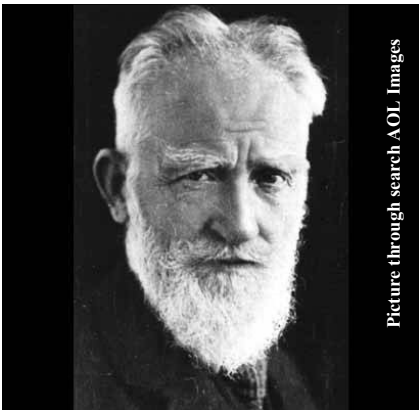
That the Darwin family as such were leading proponents of such things can be seen in the following extract from Dennis Sewell's book *The Political Gene*. 'In the years leading up to the First World War, the eugenics movement looked like a Darwin family business. Charles Darwin's son Leonard replaced his cousin Galton as chairman of the Eugenics Society in 1911. In the same year an offshoot of the society was formed in Cambridge. Among its leading members were three more of Darwin's sons, Horace, Francis and George. The group's treasurer was a young Economics lecturer at the university, John Maynard Keynes, whose younger brother Geoffrey would later marry Darwin's granddaughter Margaret. Meanwhile Keynes's mother, Florence and Horace Darwin's daughter Ruth, sat together on the committee of the Cambridge Association for the Care of the Feeble-Minded,

which we might nowadays regard as nothing less than a front organization for eugenics.'

Things move on apace

Galton's desire to improve the species by selective breeding would improve the 'breeding stock' but it soon became obvious that steps needed to be taken to tackle the problem of the degeneration of the breeding stock, and by force if necessary. The Industrial Revolution, wars and things like the Irish potato famine brought demographic changes in population distribution and swelled the notion of the underclass. Marie Stopes, a totally committed eugenicist, introduced birth control to further their aims and ends. Her idea was to encourage the underclass to practise birth control and thereby let the intelligent classes out-breed them. The irony of her plan is that the exact reverse of the intention was what happened. It was the educated minority who went in more for planned families!

'It is in the sterilization of failures and not in the selection of successes for breeding that the possibility of an improvement of the human stock lies,' said H. G. Wells.



George Bernard Shaw

But George Bernard Shaw went even further in a totally frightening statement when he addressed the Eugenics Society in 1910. There he said, 'A part of eugenic politics would finally land us in an extensive use of the lethal chamber. A great many people would have to be put out of existence simply because it wastes other people's time to look after them'. How many realise that G.B.S. proposed using a 'lethal chamber' to get shut of undesirables long before Herr Hitler ever got around to the Final Solution? Though we may not now wish to suggest that a 'lethal chamber' solution is a good idea, there is no doubt that many eugenicists are currently promoting the idea of euthanasia for those for whom it is obviously a 'waste of time [and money] to look after them'.

IQ tests

Intelligence testing was introduced as a means of quantifying superior and inferior races, or rather of sorting out the fit

from the unfit. An extensive survey of soldiers in the U.S. Army were tested and it was revealed that there are differences among the ethnic types. These results are still consistently being thrown up even when allowing for all the social and political reasons behind them. It is unfortunate for Hitler and the anti-Semitic believers but both East Asians and Jews score consistently higher than whites. They are still employed as a statistical reference-point for social programmes to help those disadvantaged groups.

Sterilization

The British eugenicists tended to be more talk than action but this was not so in America where positive sterilization legislation was enacted to deal with the 'feeble-minded' and less fit. No more so was this true than in the state of Virginia, but thirty-three states passed sterilization laws and the common estimate for those undergoing the procedure is 60-65,000 - but the figure is actually much higher because there are documented cases of sterilization operations being performed under the guise of other operations such as appendectomies. Depending on the state, sterilization laws were used against different ethnic groups and at different times. In the early part of the century they were used against the Indian populations. In the South it was more often than not the African-American groups and in California the Latinos tended to be the targets. Many states did not repeal these laws until the late 1970s and Oregon didn't do so until 1983.

Germany

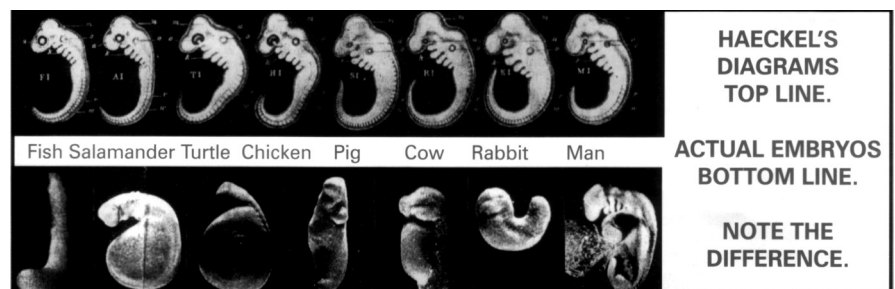
German acceptance of Darwin's Theory was largely down to the influence of Ernst Haeckel. He was a physician and Darwin came to rely on him when it came to the field of embryology, about which Darwin knew very little. But Haeckel was a fraud. He famously proposed a Recapitulation Theory in which he showed that certain mammals as embryos went through similar stages and which followed the stages of evolutionary development from fish, through amphibians, reptiles and finally to mammals. The diagrams below show his faked evidence, which was known about in the 1890s, but his Theory was still appearing in Biology text-books some one hundred years later. Well, if you've got a good story, why spoil it with the facts? He also was a reference-point for Darwin on race. In his 1868 book, *Natural History of Creation*, Haeckel in-

cluded 12 illustrations of facial profiles: six human and six simian and he ranked them on an evolutionary scale. This too was completely false because he had absolutely no evidence to do this. He put the Tasmanian just above the top ape and the white Nordic is, naturally, at the very top!

The Germans had already been softened up by their penchant for liberal theological theories which sought to undermine the authenticity of Moses and Genesis. They naturally found it very much easier then to jettison any notions of the special creation of man, and with all the eugenicists of Britain and America providing them with ammunition on race, intelligence and fitness to survive, it was made easy for Hitler to cash in on the disappointments from Versailles and the defeat of the First World War. Hitler, as we said at the start, did not just drop out of the sky from nowhere, - it was largely from Britain and America that he drew his inspiration. Darwin was an Englishman after all. Hitler's anti-Semitism prevented him from joining in with the Communists whom he declared to be the products of Bolshevik Jews, but the undergirding philosophy of Nazism and Communism was positively Darwinism.

Today

The fruit spawned by Darwin's Theory of Evolution has been an unmitigated disaster area. Eugenics is still with us and can be studied on the World Wide Web. It's a deep and much broader subject than we have space to cover here, but Darwin's influence is ubiquitous in Western society. We have hinted at some of the current issues in the body of the article and it is very easy to recognize in the debates about abortion and infanticide, assisted suicide and euthanasia, Darwinian thinking and values as espoused by the eugenics movement - now hiding under the umbrella of 'The Galton Institute'. In 1973 some scientists were proposing that a baby should not be declared fully human until three days after it has been born in order to kill it if it is found to have previously undetected abnormalities - a view echoed by Baroness Warnock, who since 2008 has been advocating euthanasia for all dementia sufferers. She also wants to remove Christianity from public life. Abortion, infanticide, suicide and euthanasia today, plus genocide on a massive scale in the past under Communism and Nazism; this is **Darwin's Fruit!**



Satan Can't Read Minds

The Book of Job is something of an enigma to most Christian believers. His patience in suffering and the firmness of his will in not denying and denouncing his trust and reliance on God is legendary. Consequently many, if not most, think of the Book of Job as being a treatise on the question of evil, pain and suffering and would turn to it if they wanted to study more on this subject. Then having got to the end there is a great sense of anti-climax because they get absolutely no answers at all to these problems. Yes, they learn wonderful lessons about patience and trust in God but there are no answers to the whys and wherefores of suffering; yet it is true to say that the problems posed by it for the believer are possibly Satan's greatest weapon in turning hearts away from loving God and moving over to him.

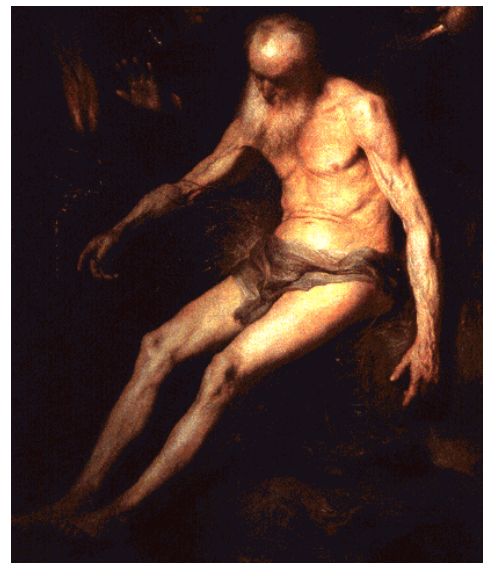
So what's the reason?

The reason why the Book of Job offers no solutions is simple: it was never intended to be a treatise on evil, pain and suffering. That's not at all what the Book is about. In fact nowhere in the Bible does God address this question directly; it is left to us to try to make sense out of it. The origin of evil, pain and suffering is amply covered by the account of the Fall

in Genesis chapter 3 and there, essentially, it stays. It was Adam's sin which ruined the perfect world which God had created and from then on the effects of the curse have been felt by human beings throughout time. If we are suffering it is because of sin - Adam's sin, not necessarily our own directly - and we have to learn to deal with it on this basis. In Jesus's day people thought that suffering came because of either the sin of the person or of his/her parents, so somehow they must be responsible for it. In Job's day too, this notion prevailed and was the theme taken up by Job's 'comforters' - who were not much comfort at all to him. But the Book denies this scenario, as did Jesus in John 9, where we read of the man who had been born blind, whom He healed. *'As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. And his disciples asked him, Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?'* Jesus answered, *'It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him.'*" (Jn 9:1-3). We all know that frequently the things we suffer can be caused by our own fault, or that of parents or friends, so it is legitimate to look carefully at ourselves when assessing such matters, but, as the song intones, 'It ain't necessarily so.'

So what is the Book of Job about?

The key lies in the opening chapters, as it does so often in the Bible. There we read of God holding up 'My servant' Job as a man of great faith, to Satan (1:8). *'And the LORD said to Satan, Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil?'* This man was guilty of no sin which could remotely have caused the calamities about to fall on his head to happen. Satan then issues a challenge to the Lord by declaring that Job only loved God because God was blessing him, but remove those blessings and watch him crumble - I paraphrase, of course. Then when Job



Job inflicted with boils contemplates his suffering

Jan Lievens 1607-74

held up under the onslaught Satan challenged the Lord to allow him to inflict physical suffering on to Job, then he'd fall (2:4-6). *'Then Satan answered the LORD and said, Skin for skin! All that a man has he will give for his life. But stretch out your hand and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse you to your face.'* And the LORD said to Satan, *'Behold, he is in your hand; only spare his life.'*"

The war with Satan

We have no idea how long after Creation Week that it was before the Fall. We have noted in a previous issue of *Genesis Accepted* (Number 7, September 2006, 'Angels as created beings', page 7) that the Fall of Adam and Eve was at precisely the same time that Satan fell too - it was a fall in the heavenly as well as the earthly realms. The only challenge Satan could ever give to God was the challenge of the allegiance of the hearts and souls of free human beings either to him or to God. Indeed some free beings in the spirit world also turned to follow Satan and away from God but Satan can't create beings to follow him, he can only divert those whom God has created for His own glory away from God and into his camp. And he's not doing a bad job of it at the moment! It's war and Satan will stop at nothing to take as many down with him as he can (cf. Rev. 12:7-12).

Satan's challenge to the Lord over Job therefore was about whether a free human being could love God because He is God. He was saying in effect nobody could love You naturally and freely unless You give them everything, but take it all away and watch that love evaporate like the early morning mist and You'll be left with noth-



The walls of the home collapse from the strong desert winds killing Job's children

Illustrated by Gustave Doré

ing. And God said that Job was one at least who can prove your theory wrong. No matter what you do to him, he will not curse Me nor deny Me but will continue to love and trust Me. Then the Lord gave Satan permission to test Job to the full and naturally he decided to use his most potent weapon against the poor patriarch. Evil, pain and suffering have always been the most effective weapon Satan can use when fighting for souls and he unleashed the full force of it against Job. Job was loyal despite it all, almost in spite of not getting answers. God made His point and won the victory. Job's blessings were restored in abundance and never again could Satan say that a free-willed human being would not choose to love God simply because He is God. So the suffering presented in the Book of Job is not there so we can examine the problems presented by it in our lives. It is there because it was simply Satan's best means of winning the battle for the souls, hearts and minds of men. So we don't get any answers about why suffering is there but we do get answers, and encouragement, to remain faithful no matter what is thrown at us to turn us away from the Lord.

The Book of Job in our scheme of things

The Book of Job, though it is not Genesis and therefore could be legitimately said to be outside our remit, is nevertheless a 'Genesis-type' Book. Clearly it is set in the time-frame of Genesis and many scholars believe it predates Genesis in its authorship. It is replete with creation imagery and its themes are definitely Abramic rather than Mosaic. Job, the Job of the Book, is not named in Genesis, though he could be lurking there under a different name which we today don't recognize. There is a 'Job' (Iob (RSV), Yob (ESV)) named as a son of Issachar (Genesis 46:13) but 'our' Job seems to be earlier than this and the 'Job' in the genealogy of Jacob was probably named after him and in honour of him. From time-to-time we will use the Book of Job as if it were within our remit because of its obvious associations with our theme.

Created beings and their limitations

Satan and the other angelic beings, both good and fallen, are created beings and as such can't read minds. Knowing the inner person, what they are thinking



Prostitute washes Jesus' feet at Simon the Pharisee's house
(Jesus knew what Simon was thinking. Luke 7:36-50)

and what makes them tick, is a divine attribute, and incidentally is one of the pointers to the divinity of Jesus because He could read minds and hearts while here on Earth (see Luke 7:38, 9:46, etc.). This is a good thing for us to remember in our spiritual walk.

Having looked initially at the overarching theme of the Book of Job, I want us to look now at this important lesson therefrom. By using the integrity of Job as a field in the battle for love and loyalty between God and Satan, we can see this very important side point thrown up by the encounter and from which we can all take real heart, whether or not we think we could stand loyal and true to the Lord under such an onslaught. We don't need to panic, of course, but take comfort in the knowledge that, *'No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.'* (1 Cor. 10:13). That the Lord allowed Satan to deal with Job as he did shows the amazing faith and character of the man. He was a true spiritual giant and Ezekiel underscores this when selecting three great men of faith as examples for us: Noah, Daniel and Job (Ezek. 14:14, 20).

No matter how close

No matter how close we are to any other human being, we cannot know absolutely just what they are thinking and truly believe in their heart of hearts. Children, parents, brothers, sisters, husbands and wives, and very close friends, no matter who, cannot 'know' what we are thinking, though over time some very close ones can best-guess us with amazing accuracy. We do not have the divine capacity to

know people's thoughts and read the true, inner man.

This is why, with the best will in the world, I cannot say of a certainty just what motivates any one of us in our Christian walk, and you can't certainly assess me either. You can observe my actions. You can see how I react. You can note my devotion to duty, or lack of it, my faithfulness around the Table, or lack of it, and you can draw conclusions about my spirituality. But am I driven because I genuinely love God and the Lord Jesus Christ? Or am I actually simply a creature of

habit who was trained from childhood to say and do the right things; to attend worship every week, outwardly behaving perfectly as a Christian ought, and would feel uncomfortable if I missed the Breaking of Bread, so I don't, but deep down I wish I could. Even I might not know exactly what motivates me because behaving like a Christian in these externals has become a trained reflex action for me, and reflex actions are performed unreflectively. BUT THE LORD KNOWS BECAUSE HE CAN SEE INTO MY SOUL AND THE GROUND OF MY BEING. He knows truly whether I love Him or am going through the motions from unreflective habit, or to please somebody else. And this is the same for us all. I'm not suggesting for one minute that most of us are not genuine and that what people see is unrelated to reality; however it has been known. That is why we sometimes say that there will be surprises in heaven, both ways: those we expected to see there but don't, and those we never expected to see in a million years but do.

Jesus as God with us

Jesus was God with us and when on Earth had the capacity to look into the very being of a person and know exactly what they were thinking and what they were like. He berated the false-front Pharisees and other religious leaders and He loved those whose love for God was genuine, even paradoxically if they were prostitutes or tax collectors. There are many instances of this in the Gospels. One of His first actions was to heal a paralytic who was let down through the roof to reach him. Jesus looked at him and told him that his sins were forgiven. That was his problem, not paralysis. The onlookers said nothing but questioned Him in their hearts. Jesus knew exactly what they were



Paralytic let down through the roof

Paralytic let down through the roof

thinking and why, and He confronted it. He did the same with Simon the Pharisee (Luke 7:36-50) and many others, so that at the end of John's Gospel, Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love You." (John 21:17). This ability to know the hearts of people is one proof that Jesus was divine for it is only God who is able to know us at this level and to this degree, i.e. totally.

Only God knows

Only God truly knows our thoughts and our hearts. This struck me forcibly a few years ago as never before. It is **ONLY GOD** who can do this. Every other created being, human and angelic, including Satan, cannot know what you or I are thinking. Satan cannot, and does not, know my thoughts; they are solely between me and God.

Satan can observe us intimately

Satan is a wonderful observer. He can watch us and make educated guesses about how we will react and what we are thinking, but in the last analysis he cannot know. He can know me even better than my parents did, and Barbara (my wife) does, and Arthur and Sarah (my children) do, because he studies me (if he wants to) and he's shrewd and very good at it, but only God truly knows me; only God truly knows you.

Satan's ignorance over Job

Think about it. When Satan was involved in the Job incident, all he could do was see what Job did. He saw a man who was devout, who sacrificed not only for himself but for his family just in case they forgot. He saw a man who prayed and praised God, and he saw a man whom God had blessed with wealth and happiness. But he didn't know Job's heart. He misread Job's motivation thinking that Job only loved God because God had given him the best of everything. God looked at Job and knew precisely what his motivation was. He blessed Job not to make Job love Him; he blessed him *because* he loved Him. Satan could not, and did not know this and as a result he completely misjudged Job's character and motivation.

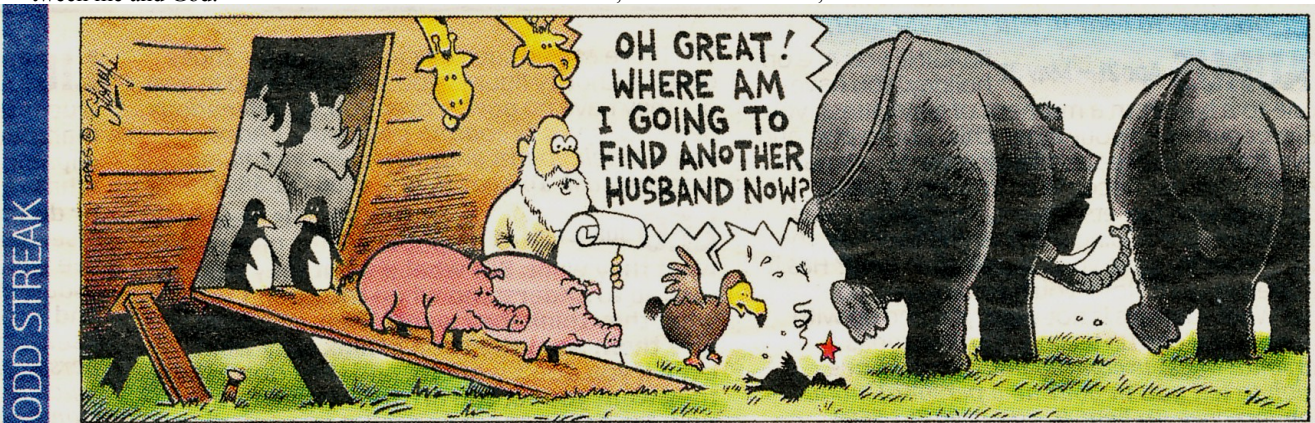
You see, had Satan known Job's thoughts and inner being, he would never have issued such a challenge to God because he would have known that Job would stand up to it. He would have known that Job's love for God was deep and real. God, on the other hand, could

confidently parade Job before Satan as a man who truly loved Him because He knew he did.

This inability to know the man instead of best-guessing tells us that Satan is not party to the things we think, neither the good things nor the bad. He can only look at externals, how we behave, and hope he gets it right when he assesses and tempts us. And, because he does not 'know' us, he will try to tempt us all our lives because he is always hoping that he can pull us away from the love we have for God. Sadly he guesses right on many occasions but if we do slide fully into his court because we think things we shouldn't and our hearts are not motivated by a genuine love of the Lord, it really is our fault all along. We never have to let Satan be party to the real us and drag us away from loving God.

The encouragement and the challenge

Our thoughts and our love for God are between us and God alone, that's why we have a deep and personal relationship with Him. We can hide nothing from Him. He knows that what we do is truly because we love Him, or if what we do is merely a false front to fool both ourselves and the world. Satan is only a created being too and he is on the outside looking at us. We know that we can keep him there if we choose to. He can only come in if we invite him in. This can give us confidence to know we can shut him out and keep him out, and that if we love God, *truly love God*, nothing can separate us from His love because He knows it too.



Daily Mail 26.8.10

Genesis Accepted is published three times a year. All correspondence and cheques to:

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Subscription: £5.00 per year. (£1.70 per copy)

All quotations are from the *English Standard Version* of the Bible (Anglicized version, 2002), unless otherwise indicated.



Cover picture: Kestrel at local show. 2nd June 2007