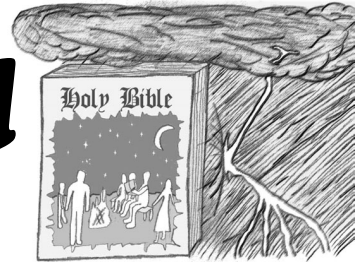


Shelter in the Word

*He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.
You are my refuge and shield: I have put my hope in your Word. —Psalm 91:1; 119:114*



Vol. 6, No. 2

Helping you become self-sufficient in the Word—for a lasting relationship with the Almighty

Mar-Apr 2003

Wars and Rumors of Wars

by Tommy Willis

Concerning the end of the age, Jesus told us:

Matt 24:6 You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come.

7 Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places.

8 All these are the beginning of birth pains.

The wars will increase. And at the present time things are looking very unstable in the world. An article in today's newspaper (March 31) talked about the growing rift between Russia and the United States. The Russian President Putin said: "The U.S.-led war against Iraq poses a serious threat to global stability and urged that political negotiations at the United Nations be resumed." One does not need a lot of insight to see where all of this may lead.

And even some moderate religious clerics in the Middle East are now calling for a jihad against the United States—leaders who before the war didn't have this opinion. There are a huge amount of problems that can come in the after-effects of this war. More wars and conflict could arise because of it. People are concerned that some of the present crises could spawn a hundred bin Ladens. Some are even calling it a clash of civilizations.

Last night I was watching the educational channel, and a teacher whose name I didn't get, said when he saw the twin towers attacked in New York that his first thoughts were: "World War Three has started!" Wars and rumors of wars abound.

Wars and rumors of wars put people under a lot of stress. And the above Scriptures along with others in both the Old and New Testament, show us the time before us will be chaos on a grand scale.

And Luke 21:22 tells us: "For these be the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled." Many of the prophecies of the Bi-

ble will be fulfilled in the time right before us. Some may happen in rapid succession.

As Christians we will have to learn patience. This is why over and over again I have stressed the need to get our foundation down in Jesus Christ. Revelation 3:10 tells us: "Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come upon the whole world to test those who live on the earth." The days ahead will be difficult. It will be a time like no other. We will need the peace of God to endure.

The wars will become more dangerous than they have ever been. Jesus said: "And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened" (Matt 24:22). We can thank God that He will bring it to a close before man destroys himself from the planet.

Many ask why war? James 4:1-2 tells us: "From whence come wars and fighting's among you? Come they not hence, even of your lust that war in your members? You lust, and have not: you kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: you fight and war, yet have not because you ask not." Man's human nature is the big problem. And with the increase of technology, it only makes the world more dangerous. Einstein knew this, he said: "The splitting of the atom has changed everything, save the way men think, and thus we drift towards unparalleled catastrophe." Einstein could see that because we now possess weapons of unparalleled destruction, we are also in more danger than ever before because man's thinking hasn't changed.

As Christians we need to understand that conflict and wars in the Church, are because of the same reason for wars in the world. Our human nature is the

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problem. We should understand that unity by human effort will fail. For us to have unity in the Church it requires the self life to be drastically dealt with. And God has provided a way with the cross of Jesus Christ. The following Scriptures relate to this: (Rom 6:1-6, 2 Cor 4:10, Gal 2:20, 6:14). As the Holy Spirit applies crucifixion to self, we are then free from the nature that causes chaos in our life and in the Church. And we need to keep in mind that the self-life is only held in place of death, not dead yet. This is why we can still sin even after 30-40 years of Christian service. We come off the cross to resume our sinful reign. But that cross must work if we are going to truly serve God.

The days ahead will not be easy; we need to focus on our personal contact with Jesus Christ.

Without enough contact with God we can find ourselves without enough oil in our lamp. And it is no mystery how we are to get more oil. But we can often make a thousand excuses for not getting in our prayer and Bible study. The closer we draw to God the safer we will be. Jesus came to tell us the war is over. Even as we see an increase of wars and rumors of wars, if we draw close to God and put our trust in Him, He will keep us at peace amid the chaos of the world.

We cannot make it on our own strength. We will need God's Spirit to endure. One of the fruits of the Holy Spirit is patience (Gal 5:22). We will need His patience inside of us.

Remember Jesus words, "In your patience possess ye your souls." Endure delay—pray. 

Blessings to Behold

If you have food in the refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof overhead and a place to sleep ...

you are richer than 75% of this world.

If you have money in the bank, in your wallet, and spare change in a dish someplace...

you are among the top 8% of the world's wealthy.

If you woke up this morning with more health than illness ...

you are more blessed than the million who will not survive this week.

If you have never experienced the danger of battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture, or the pangs of starvation...

you are ahead of 500 million people in the world.

If you can attend a church meeting without fear of harassment, arrest, torture, or death...

you are more blessed than three billion people in the world.

ple in the world.

If your parents are still alive and still married

... you are very rare, even in the United States.

If you hold up your head with a smile on your face and are truly thankful...

you are blessed because the majority can, but most do not.


If you can hold someone's hand, hug them or even touch them on the shoulder...

you are blessed because you can offer healing touch.

If you can read this message...

you are more blessed than over two billion people in the world that cannot read at all.

Have a good day, count your blessings, and remember to help or pray for someone less fortunate than you are.

— author unknown 

Shelter in the Word is designed to help people become self-sufficient in their Bible study, so that they may be able to serve the Almighty Creator, and receive salvation through His Son. *Shelter* is not affiliated with any denomination, and teaches that eternal life is available to **individuals** who live by the Bible, regardless of their belonging to a church organization.

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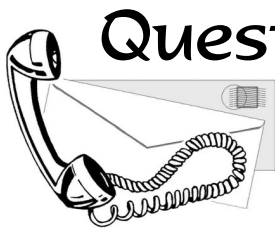
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Questions & Comments

from Our Readers

Should We War with Iraq?



These are some of the many e-mails received in answer to my e-mail message, The Hypocrisy of Attacking Iraq

March 11, 2003

Norman,

Well said. Why people cannot recognize that **"two wrongs never make a right"** is simply baffling to me. Have a great day.

Respectfully,
Joseph Cummins

March 11, 2003

Norm,

You bring up some very valid points.

I said many years ago that our problems and persecution would come from the "right."

It appeared to me then that the "left" would destroy us morally if they maintain control. The more I observe and read, the more blurry the line becomes. I fear our leaders "right and left" have become equally corrupt on all fronts.

Faithfully,

— Steven & Suzanne Kieler

Dear Steven & Suzanne Kieler,

God says "righteousness exalts a nation", not Democratism or Republicanism. Neither party tries to live by the Bible, so we should expect sin in both.

— Norman Edwards

March 11, 2003

On your position about Iraq I beg to differ. You do not have the background and intelligence sources to make that decision, If you would take the effort there are dozens of such sources of analysis including www.cheniere.org and www.debka.com. These are publicly available to anyone. Now imagine the sources available to our President and his administration.

The facts are these in my opinion: The various enemies of ours have long ago inserted sleeper cells and weapons, including weapons of mass destruction. Our borders are not secure even now. The weapons and teams are **already here**.

Have you read Tom Clancy's books? He seems to have inside info and is almost prophetic. Read *Sum of All Fears*, which proposes a nuclear device stolen and in-

serted here. That is exactly the case, as supported by many available analyses. All these efforts actually stem from Russia and China, but especially from the criminal elements in Russia. But all such nations as Iran, Iraq and Korea are clients of those major states and are rapidly proliferating these weapons to the terrorists. We have little choice other than to try to stop these supporting states and Iraq is the most dangerous at this time as it has already donated such weapons to the terrorists, whom they have supported and trained. We can't war with the majors as yet but in time you know that will come at **their** choice, as God has so predicted it in Revelation. The very best we can do is buy some time and I personally believe that is why Bush is there. Another Reagan put there to buy us some more time. If not then the tribulation begins soon and events and personnel seem not yet to be on the scene.

It is obvious that this attack has been going on for decades, starting even under Eisenhower with the Marines in Lebanon. Remember that? And on through the years? This is a historic renewal of the Muslim attacks on the western Christian nations. It is against Christianity and Judaism and is King of South vs. North. They are against us because we support Israel. If we stopped that not only would Israel fall but God would punish us without doubt. God is not a pacifist and he wants loyalty. Under this President, Israel has never had a stronger supporter. I scorn and despise the Euro. Israelite brothers [America and Northwestern Europe] who have been the main builders and traders with Iraq. How they hate us, as they hated Joseph. I can't imagine how God will deal with that other than they will be wiped out and forced to repent of their sins of family disloyalty in the millennium.

Forget the "it's for oil". That is a minor interest, but we are in fact protecting **their** oil sources. If we win there then we are in position to secure oil supplies for the whole west, and mainly Europe and Japan, all supposedly allies. Our presence would stop Chinese control which is close to fruition by them and we do this by intimidating Saudi Arabia and Iran with great forces next door. Iran has a democratic youth movement which given support, may overthrow the mullahs. All this UN action is against Joseph [America and British Commonwealth] and also to protect their business interests. We have our faults but this war is a necessity, in my opinion. It also is to protect Israel from the eventual

attack by an Arab multi-nation alliance.

If we are successful, this action may buy us 10-15 years before all out World War Three and the Great Tribulation time. I hope we succeed.

We attacked and this time by a movement not based in a geographical area but one based on a religion which is widespread. We are very vulnerable to terror, as is everyone. Look at what Israel has suffered. I think they may solve their Palestinian problem with this war, as well as reduce the Hezbollah and Hamas problem and cause Syria to cower or be defeated.

Do you think that deserting Israel will cause the acts against us to cease? In no way! Thank God for Bush. He sees the real problem, one which we must face and can reduce for some years but not forever. We are doomed to utter war and perhaps a decade of horror and economic depression. Is that not better than sitting idle and being blown apart bit by bit. Iraq has those weapons and it will become obvious when the war starts. They will be proven liars and the French as hypocrites, protecting their business clients. We probably will be hit in some areas with weapons of mass destruction as well. That will also prove they are here. Do you think that sitting idle will stop this from happening. **No way!** They are out to destroy us and our economy. But the Fed has already started us down that path anyway.

I am afraid that your letter shows great naiveté and ignorance of what is taking place. It is a surprise to me as of all ministries I know yours has been the most logical and realistic of them all.

I don't usually respond and argue with any position as such is usually useless. We all tend to have our minds made up and are sure of our beliefs. In this case I must disagree and state I think you are wrong. You are being naive about world events and are a pacifist, separated from reality in this case. I could point you to a dozen sources if you wish, but it takes great effort which you can not spare from your service to others which is great and more important. But you need depth and facts when you try to judge worldly actions and events.

Finally, God has predicted this ending and there is no way out. I doubt he wants us to sit idly by and twiddle our thumbs while Israel dies. Israel is near the core of this. This is war against Christ and his way and against God's Holy City and coming throne located there. This war is against Christ, Joseph and Judah. Which side would you want to be on?

In any case, we are under protection as stated in Psalm 91, that is our refuge and assurance. But with all of that, I would not want to appear before God and JC with a record of disloyalty against our brother Judah. That is what our Euro brothers are doing and that is where I think your arguments lead us.

So, I disagree with your letter and find it useless and naive. That said; forgive me my disagreement with a

brother whom I greatly appreciate.

— Floyd Wilson

Twelve days later **Floyd Wilson** sent another message entitled "**This War is About Oil: France' Oil Deals**". It included an article from *Business World*, entitled *A War for France's Oil: The Real Reason Chirac Backed Saddam* by Homan W. Jenkins, Jr., a member of *The Wall Street Journal's* editorial board. The first few paragraphs appear below:

Sunday, March 23, 2003 12:01 a.m. EST

Those who think the Iraq war is about oil ought to consider a different possibility—that the war might have been avoided if France and Russia, lured by the promise of Iraqi petroleum deals, had not steadily fed Saddam Hussein's belief that he could outlast the U.S. in the sanctions war. Consider a little history and geology to light the way: Iraq is the least explored, least developed of the Mideast oil states.

Not since the 1970s, using now-antiquated techniques, has an inventory of its oil reserves even been taken. Even so, Iraq is reckoned to possess 120 billion barrels in proven reserves, second only to Saudi Arabia's 250 billion barrels.

Baathist nationalization in the 1970s, Saddam's destructive wars and the sanctions he brought down on his country's head have kept Iraq from acquiring technology to exploit these discoveries and to chart new ones, especially in unexplored western Iraq and in deep Jurassic and Triassic layers throughout the country. Had it been otherwise, **Iraq today would likely be sitting on proven reserves of 300 billion barrels or more**, according to various estimates, including those of the U.S. government.

The irony is that Saddam would have had an economic power, perfectly legitimate in the eyes of the world, far greater than any he gets from terror weapons.

Dear Floyd Wilson,

Thank you for providing numerous information sources, though I do not think they are 100% reliable either. I realize that it is very possible that Iraq or other Muslim nations may have weapons of mass destruction, even in our country, and that they are willing to use them. I also realize that governments have sources not available to us. But when our government supplies reason after reason for war to us that turns out to be false, and when they give little priority to doing things that would be effective, then I suspect that they have hidden motives in going to war. This article shows that Iraq's oil is a much bigger prize than I previously thought.

— Norman Edwards

March 11, 2003

Hi Norm,

I hope this note finds you and Marleen and the kids well. I just had to write and tell you how very proud I am at your courage and fortitude in making your statement of opposition to the anticipated war against Iraq on the part of the Bush administration.

I suspect that your post you will arouse anger and some who have been with you may choose not to do so anymore. Your emphasizing the hypocrisy of our government's position will not be any more popular with today's establishment than it was in the days of Jesus Christ. I do so to assure you that you are not alone in your sentiments about this whole matter, but you are in a distinct and shrinking minority. I wrote the following on the subject to someone else:

America is at its best when it lives up to its own ideals. Those ideals do not include the starting of a war (and the "tar baby" of occupation that continues for years and years and billions and billions of dollars indefinitely into the future) because of speculation of what some other nation "might do with what they might possess".

By the logic of the President (Iraq has weapons of mass destruction which they will ultimately use or distribute to others for their use against the US), **the whole rest of the world has more than enough excuse to collectively declare war on America!** We have made and sold more weapons of all types to all sides of most of the wars that have been fought over the last 50+ years. Will they do it tomorrow or next week, or maybe even in your or my life time? Probably not, for the present and foreseeable future we hold the whip hand in this game of international poker.

But that's a really rotten inheritance and legacy to leave our descendents. Look at modern day Britain, France, Spain, Portugal, Poland, Sweden, or the Netherlands. Realize as you do that not too many centuries ago they had the whip hand in international meddling and manipulation and today these countries and their peoples are mere shadows of what they once were. Neither did the subsequent world of colonial exploitation and manipulation that resulted from their meddling show any diminishing of problems, as a result of such meddling.

All those other powers managed to do was deplete both their national wealth and their unique culture by trying to impose it on vast sections of the rest of the world. The life of those nations was bled to insignificance by the political, military, and mercantile classes for the sake of the advancement of their own professional interests.

They had catchy slogans, carefully reasoned rationales, and even God and Jesus on their sides! Nations as well as individuals are at their best when they devote most of their moral energy and passion to reforming themselves rather than others. They then become that "city on a hill whose light cannot be hidden" and as the shine of that light

beckons, it earns the respect and admiration of all who behold it.

— Tim McCaulley, Jacksonville FL

Dear Tim McCaulley,

Your point about America making, selling and giving away weapons is very good. Your question of occupation is also good. It is hard to imagine how a war in Iraq would end simply with a new Iraqi government in power. Virtually every government official there now, great and small, has been an open supporter of Saddam for many years.

I think some of the European countries, especially Britain, initially did good things for their colonies, but as time went on, noble leaders were replaced by bureaucrats with selfish interests. Some made an awful mess of things. In most cases, when one country invades another, it claims to have a "good reason" to do it. The question is, "Are they telling the truth?" The answer is, "God knows." In a country such as the USA, where the leaders still require the support of the people, it is important that Christians "do not follow the crowd in doing wrong" (Ex 23:2).

— Norman Edwards

March 11, 2003

Hi Norm,

I just wanted to make a few comments about your letter. I have always enjoyed reading your articles and do think they are usually very good. I don't believe, however, that GWB is a "Christian". There is so much documentation out there that verifies that he is a generational member of Skull & Bones from Yale who are initiated by bowing to the "god of this world" and participating in a blood covenant ritual. I have a video showing him and his father participating in the Masonic handshake right in a "church". I think that Satan is the real "god" he is serving, so I don't believe he really gives a hoot about what is "right".

I have read that his father is the major stockholder in Litton Biometrics, the lab in Houston will stand to profit greatly when we are forced to take the smallpox vaccines.

I'm going to send you a copy of what Ron Paul wrote. He is probably one of the **few** congressmen who will dare speak up.

The rabbit hole goes really-really-**really** deep!

— Jr

Dear Jr,

The only reason I wrote to President Bush as if he were a Christian is because he claims to be a Christian. Obviously, I cannot know his heart. Is he a good man surrounded by clever evil men? Or is he a mastermind of deception? I cannot be sure.

March 12, 2003

I have read that he is a member of Skull & Bones, and never found anything from him denying it. I have read several good sources on Skull & Bones and they certainly have many of the trappings of Satanism in their rituals. I have not done any research on Litton Biometrics, but there are certainly many past examples of lawmakers passing laws to increase the profit of their business interests. All of these things would require more research to be sure.

One of the problems with trying to expose secret societies and business deals is that they are fundamentally secret. Even if one were to obtain proof of their evil plans, those involved usually deny them and then change their plans. The skeptic will still not believe in secret societies. Nevertheless, both the Bible and history confirm that there are conspiracies. Certainly, Satan the Devil is the master conspirator and those who serve him will do his bidding.

However, it is often easier to judge a man out of his own mouth (Luke 19:22)—to show he is not even doing what he himself has claimed to be right.

— Norman Edwards

March 12, 2003

Mr. Edwards,

I have read your letter to President Bush. I do not support many of your arguments and supporting logic. It is "good" that you continue to be extremely honest "I do not have any revelation from the Eternal on this".

My prayer is that God blesses the USA and it allies on the war effort. I believe that this is a "just" war. While the USA has many faults that need repentance, it still is the most "one Nation" under the only, true God on the planet. Certainly, after the fall of Saddam, it will be difficult, but it will not be as in Afghanistan.

Sincerely,

— John Stickel

Dear John Stickel,

I agree that the USA is probably more God-fearing than other nations, more so among the people—less so among the leadership. However, I do not believe that the general condition of the USA determines whether or not it is all right to go to war or not. Bush has never claimed "God told him to attack", but he gives numerous physical reason why we should attack. It is these reasons that appear to be lacking.

I am not convinced that Iraq will end any better than Afghanistan. It will be very difficult to find a government that is acceptable both to the Iraqis and to the USA. Muslim values are not Christian values!

— Norman Edwards

Dear Norman,

Thank you for sending this message to president Bush and for letting us read it also.

I totally agree with your points that you eloquently made. I hope it will get through the president's aids and into his own hands.

There are so many issues and so many evils that we should point out in chorus, but our voices will not likely be heard and would turn out as a cry to the wind. I hope your voice will be heard.

With great regards.

— Adriano

Dear Adriano,

Thanks for your encouragement. We still have the freedom to write our government and to attempt to reach others—we should use it.

— Norman Edwards

March 14, 2003

Simply superb letter. Rare to see an American writing letters like this. I salute you from the UK where I am receiving death threats for having brown skin.

God bless you!

Dear UK friend,

It is amazing how people, in their efforts to fight senseless killing, can threaten more senseless killing. The world needs to see God as the ultimate judge. We need to clean up our own sins, do what we can to stop evil against us, and then pray to God for protection. Threatening, or actually killing someone because they look middle-eastern will only cause more retaliation. When people are "brought to justice", where evidence is presented at a fair trial, and nearly everyone is convinced of the person's guilt, then it is sometimes possible to end the cycle of retaliation. But "killing some of them" because "they killed some of us" is the stuff that thousand-year warfare is made of—like we see in the Middle East.

— Norman Edwards

March 17, 2003

Dear Norman,

Your letter to President Bush was forwarded to me. It sure would be great if he would read it and be stricken in heart. We all know that it is physically impossible for the President to read the thousands of letters that come to him, but if God wants him to read it, He will work it out so that he will. We can only guess at how long it will take for the letter to be read by the one who first opens it. What will they do

with it then? What do they do with all similar letters? No doubt someone will send you a response, but will President Bush ever see it?

Don't get discouraged while waiting for the President to read it. Send him others. Maybe one will get through to him.

Keep up the good work.

Very sincerely,

— Phyllis Daniel

Dear Phyllis,

As I understand it, presidents (and other major political leaders) have a whole department to process their mail. The people who first open the mail screen out greeting cards and things of little substance and send them a thank-you letter. Duplicate letters that are mass-mailed are consolidated, since they do not represent separate opinions. Statistics are taken; each letter is classified as “anti-war” or “pro-war”, “anti-abortion” or any one of numerous other categories. In many cases, there are form reply letters that are sent.

Letters that are really good or from “important” people may be sent to a higher level where they may receive a reply by a staff member and/or where some of their content is placed in a report that goes to yet higher levels. At some point, one of the president’s advisors probably reads a daily mail summary which includes statistics and some comments from the mail. At other times, when the President is making decisions, he may ask for information on how his mail is running on a given issue.

While these people are supposed to be honest with the President, the very nature of carnal politics is to “tell the boss what he wants to hear”. So it is not likely that someone would choose to send my letter, or even parts of my letter to the President, unless he asked to know what people are saying against him.

I think the greatest value of my writing was helping myself and others to understand the issue from a Biblical perspective. If I reached a middle or upper level aide to the president, and made them think about what they are doing in light of what God says, so much the better.

— Norman Edwards

March 28, 2003

Mr. Edwards,

Thank you for such straightforward statements on the sheer hypocrisy of the war **on** (not **with**) **Iraq**.

This nation (my country) is becoming more evil and hypocritical by the day. However the propaganda is winning over the hearts and minds of the mob. God and Christ have got to be shedding tears for the misery and mayhem

we are causing.

I have worked for the government for 44 years and been in pain for as many. I have sent letters to the editor which are refused and the people at work think I am treasonous because they say I “am not backing the troops”, which has nothing to do with the premise that we as a nation are wrong and are no better than Saddam.

Remember this: Under our new Gestapo (Homeland Security) you may be incarcerated without charge as you have no rights anymore. The wonderful Patriot Act has given government unlimited power.

I have been unable to ask God to bless America. Your closing has provided what I needed “God bless America as we seek Him”

May God protect you from the growing monster.

— John Guffey

Dear John Guffey,

I agree—being against the war is not being against the troops. Many of the troops signed up with the armed services to help defend their country. Others signed up because it offered better pay and benefits than any other job they could get. But once in the services, they have little choice as to where or who they will fight. Historically it has been a common technique for military leaders, even this country, to tell their troops all sorts of evil lies about their enemies so they will fight harder. So I have nothing against troops that are doing what they feel is right.

My letter, and my complaint is against those who are commanding the troops and who may know that the war is being waged for reasons other than what they are openly stating. The greatest support of troops is to get them out of a war that does not need to be fought.

In regard to the Patriot Act, I have seen a couple of reports about obscure political leaders in the USA who have disappeared, apparently classified as “domestic terrorists”. It is hard to tell if what happened to them because there is no way to get information about them once they are held. Nevertheless, I would have to do more research to be sure that is what happened. Unfortunately, there are people who are willing to simply make something up in order to have an exciting story.

— Norman Edwards

March 28, 2003

Dear Friend:

Thank you for contacting me about the price of gasoline. I believe it is important to ensure that consumers receive a fair shake at the gas pump.

Gasoline prices have been extremely variable over

the past few years. I have long been concerned with these fluctuations because gasoline prices can have a dramatic effect on not only the average consumer's wallet, but also the economy as a whole.

In the Spring of 2001, as Chairman of the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, I initiated an investigation into how gas prices are set in the U.S. and why we have been experiencing growing fluctuations in prices. Oil companies typically contend that gas prices are set by supply and demand, but the sudden spikes in gas prices raise serious questions about the accuracy of that explanation. In fact, the Subcommittee investigation found that in some markets oil companies seek to limit the supply of gasoline in order to increase prices.

As part of this investigation, my staff talked to the various participants in the gasoline industry, including refiners, wholesalers, pipeline owners and retail gas stations. The Subcommittee subpoenaed documents from eight oil companies and one pipeline company regarding their marketing and pricing practices. In addition, we reviewed the materials that the Federal Trade Commission collected during their review of the recent gas price spikes in the Midwest and on the West Coast. Our report regarding the findings was issued April 29, 2002, and I held two days of hearings that week.

Our analysis of the U.S. oil industry found that it is highly concentrated in a number of markets, including Michigan, and that **in these highly concentrated markets, major oil companies take actions that limit supply in order to keep prices high.** Because of industry consolidation over the past decade, oil companies in these markets have an easier time keeping prices elevated.

I believe there are a number of steps that should be taken which could reduce the volatility of gasoline prices. First, the Federal Trade Commission should **be more cautious about approving future mergers between oil companies.** Any additional mergers should be subject to strict scrutiny, and the presumption should be against further consolidation in areas with high concentration. Additionally, I believe Congress should revisit the laws regarding parallel pricing, the practice by which different oil companies increase and decrease their prices at the same time. **Presently, bringing an anti-trust case with respect to parallel pricing requires additional proof of a conspiracy.** I believe Congress should change the law to allow juries to consider parallel pricing cases even if there is no clear evidence of a conspiracy.

I also think Congress should consider the possibility of creating incentives for oil companies to maintain a certain level of inventory of gasoline to avoid price spikes and price fluctuations. The oil companies have reduced their inventory levels dramatically over the past few years so that now we have only three days cushion at our current consumption rate.

In February 2003, the Subcommittee released a report regarding transfers of oil to the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. In this report, the Subcommittee found that the US Department of Energy's recent program to fill the US Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) has increased crude oil prices and hurt US consumers and taxpayers, without increasing overall U.S. oil supplies. While I support efforts to fill this facility to capacity, I believe it is a

mistake to take oil off the market and put in the reserve when the supply of oil is constrained because it tends to drive prices up. The full report can be found at:

<http://levin.senate.gov/issues/crudeoilreport.htm>.

I will continue to fight to ensure that consumers are protected and that the gasoline market functions in an equitable manner. Best wishes.

Sincerely,

— Carl Levin, (USA Senator, D-Michigan)

Dear Carl Levin,

It is nice to know that somebody in government agrees that oil prices are artificially high.

— Norman Edwards

April 3, 2003

[This letter begins with two quotes:]

"I came to the conclusion that all the values that made me admire the American people were being eroded by the covert operations of the CIA and kindred secret bodies... Time after time the United States has generously aided other countries threatened by famine or disaster. The survival of this great tradition is of importance, not only to Americans, but also to all freedom loving people in the world. But in my view, the survival of this great is now being gravely threatened by the covert criminal actions of the Central Intelligence Agency and its associated services. If the United States is to be protected from this grave danger, it is essential that the activities of this secret agency should be fully exposed to the people of the United States. ...I am a fierce believer in the democratic system of governments. Among the democracies, the constitution of the United States can be, and has proved to be, a bastion of civil liberty. However, democracy and the rule of law could not survive side by side with a state agency that engages in covert operations ranging from assassinations to levying mercenary armies. Even if there is, now, an attempt being made by some to check the activities of the CIA and the other United States intelligence agencies, the whole concept of a secret government and army within a government is a menace to the democratic system." (Sean MacBride, former Foreign Minister of Ireland, and 1974 Nobel Peace Prize recipient; died 1988)

"This is not a military defense of Iraq against an invading army. This is the creation of another layer in this mythology of victimhood, which has been developed in the Arab world for at least the last three generations.... The view is that everything evil comes from outside, from somewhere else." (Gwyn Prins in an interview March/April 2003)


While our fellow citizens fight in Iraq for the good, a consistent but accelerating danger lurks in the shadow, ready to overtake and turn upside down our values: **Corporate Fascism!**

Regards,

— Patty Crazon

Dear Patty Crazon,

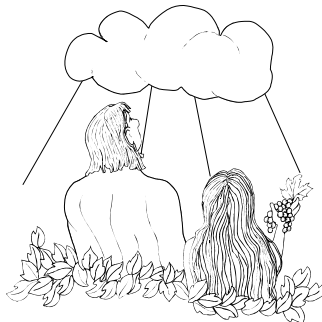
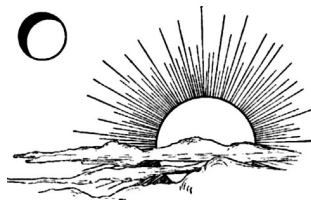
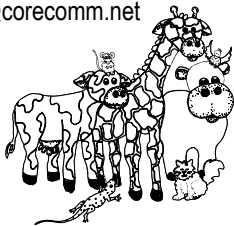
Americans have done little to stop the size and corruption of our national government over the years—maybe thinking that it was benefiting us. Now, many are trusting it to deliver us from an enemy that it has largely created. What we need is deliverance from our own government!

— Norman Edwards 

Creation Corner

*For I am fearfully
and wonderfully made.
Marvelous are thy works
(Psm 139:14)*

by C. Frazier Spencer
frazier@corecomm.net



Introduction

Logically, we are either:

- 1) The result of accidental evolution, or
- 2) The result of some kind of a creator God.

On the one hand is **Evolution** that says a particle of matter sprang into life, grew, divided, and after millions of years *evolved* through a series of mindless accidents to finally result in the millions of species, including humans, that are alive today. Evolution is now taught in our schools and media as established fact and has itself taken on many religious aspects.

On the other hand is a **Being** writing in the Bible who claims *He* created humans; as well as the wood, stone, metals, the sun and stars, the very materials that make up other gods. (Psm 95: 3-5; 115:3-8; 135: 5, 15-18; Isa 44:all; Jer 10:2-15.) This Being further claims *He* is the giver of life. (Job 33:4.; Pro 4:4; 7:2; Rom 6:23; Jn 1:3-4.) Strong claims indeed! This Being, however, assures in Rom 1:20 that the invisible things of Him are *clearly seen*, being understood by the things that are *made*.

Proving this Creator seems fundamental for those interested in Christianity. Notice Paul used the Creator as a starting place (Acts 17:24-25) when revealing God to the pagan philosophers at Athens. And again at Lycaonia. (Acts 14:15) Moreover in the last days an angel is scheduled to preach the creation message to *all* nations and peoples (Rev 14:7).

The goal of this column is to counter evolution doctrine by presenting some of the things that have been *made* so the Creator God can be *seen*. A secondary goal is to help reinforce the faith of those who are believers. (Italics or underlining are added to many quotes that follow.)

The Material World, Non-Matter and Information

We are physical beings living in a material world.

The idea of creation implies that there is an unseen, eternal *spiritual* world in *addition* to the physical that created the physical.

One of the objections evolutionists raise against a creator being is the question: "Where is he? Since we can't see this being he doesn't exist."

Yet wind, gravity, electricity, and magnetism, come to mind as non-material forces that are not *seen*. Nevertheless, because their *results* are evident, all acknowledge that these forces in fact exist.

Information is Non-matter

Likewise with information. It is non-matter, yet its results are seen everywhere. I am typing this on a computer that is material. My words are printed on a physical piece of paper. What the words *tell us*, however, is not matter. The computer, the ink and piece of paper are the *medium* by which my thoughts or *information* are shown, but they are *not* the thoughts. The actual thoughts originated in my mind and no scientist has ever *seen* the thoughts of any human being. Yet, we don't doubt that our thoughts are very *real*.

Let's consider what an evolution author says about information being non-matter. George C. Williams is quoted by Philip E. Johnson⁽¹⁾, Evolutionary biologists have failed to realize that they work with two or more incommensurable domains: that of *information* and that of *matter*..... Just the fact that fifteen years ago I started to use a computer may have something to do with my ideas here.

The constant process of transferring information from one physical medium to another and then being able to recover the same information in the original medium brings home the separability of *information* and *matter*."

Author⁽²⁾ James Perloff puts it very well, "Matter is not intrinsically *informative*. To say that a human cell was built by its chemicals is like saying a book was written by its paper and ink, or that a typewriter was constructed by the iron in its frame."

In the book, "Quantum Healing"⁽³⁾ it is expressed this way, "English neurologist and Nobel Prize winner Sir John Eccles was asked to address a conference

of parapsychologists... who were discussing psychokinesis ... the ability to move physical objects with the mind. If you want to see real psychokinesis, he told his audience, then consider the feats of mind-over-matter performed in the *brain*. It is quite astonishing that with every *thought*, the mind manages to *move* the atoms of hydrogen, carbon, oxygen, and the other particles in the brain's cells."

"It would appear that nothing is further apart than an *insubstantial* thought and the *solid* gray matter of the brain. The whole trick is somehow done without any apparent link."

So there you have it. A description of *thought*, which cannot be seen or handled, something "*non-material*", yet somehow these thoughts *move matter*, things that are *physical*. Does that seem remarkable to you? It does to me.

We have to wonder, if thoughts, which are non-matter, are able to make physical objects move and function, can there be a realm other than the strictly material one? If so, isn't this more along the lines that creationists and the Bible propose?

Even right this minute my thoughts (unseen, non-matter) are directing my fingers (seen, matter) to type. Thus through the material mediums of keyboard, computer, ink and paper, my *non-matter* thoughts can be *seen*.

In "Defeating Darwinism"⁽¹⁾ it is expressed this way, "First, life consists not just of matter (chemicals) but of matter *and information*. Second, information is not reducible to matter, but is a different kind of "stuff" altogether."

How Important is Information?

Very important indeed. As we will learn the difference between living matter and dead matter is *organization, information, and intelligence*. Upon death, the *information* which has kept the creature *alive*, ceases; the creature's atoms immediately stop functioning together and start to revert to their natural state of **dis**-organization, which we recognize as death. What then keeps living creatures alive? Intelligently organized atoms and molecules driven by *information*.

"In "Quantum Healing" it is explained like this, "...that intelligence is more important than the actual matter of the body, since without it, that matter would be undirected, formless, and chaotic. Intelligence makes the difference between a house designed by an architect and a pile of bricks."

Widely acclaimed evolutionist Richard Dawkins⁽⁶⁾ eloquently explains, "Living things are collections of molecules, like everything else. What is special is that these molecules are put together in much more

complicated patterns than the molecules of non-living things, and this putting together is done by following *programs*, sets of *instructions* of how to develop, which the organisms carry around inside themselves.

"...What lies at the heart of every living thing is not a fire, not warm breath, not a "spark of life".

"It is *information, words, instructions*."

"...If you want to understand life,... think about **information technology**."

The author sees *words* involved in keeping living things alive.

Regardless, the information present in living things are much more than mere words are they not? They are words that have serious **meaning**, they are **information and instructions**. We have to wonder, could words of information and instructions have evolved by themselves—from nothing?

Beyond Matter

As scientists advanced into micro-biology, the study of smaller and smaller into the tiniest beginnings of matter, they studied atoms, then molecules, to quarks, finally, as one scientist put it, it seems as if matter comes from pure **energy**.

Christians have no problem with this, because their creator God is a *consuming fire* (Deut 4:24, Heb 12:29). Could "consuming fire" be a description of a being who is composed of pure energy? We also know Revelation 4:5 says *lightnings*, proceed out of the throne of God. Couldn't *lightnings* be a good way to describe pure **energy** as it pulsates and issues from a source?

"Quantum Healing"⁽³⁾ explains the very beginnings of matter like this, "When you get beyond atoms and start subdividing DNA into electrons, protons, and smaller particles, a quantum event must take place. Otherwise, you are left in the embarrassing position of claiming that life is made out of **nothingness** [we might call it spirit]—empty space devoid of matter and energy—which is all you get if you divide solid particles beyond a certain point."

The author adds more about this subject, "... modern physics has turned to somewhat more tangible alternatives, such as invisible matter called "virtual" particles, as well as energy fields. Einstein's famous equation, $E=mc^2$ explained how matter can be transformed into energy."

"No one can confidently say what builds a quark, but it is certainly not a piece of matter in solid form—the quark is already outside the limit that anyone can "see" or "touch", even using scientific instruments to extend our senses; its building block may very well be merely a *vibration* that has the potential to turn into matter."

The above quote points out one of the newer ideas in science; that smaller than atoms and quarks, the real building “blocks” of matter may be...*vibrations*.

What happens when *words* are spoken? They make *vibrations* don't they? In fact, isn't the method by which we hear those *vibrations* resounding on our ear drums? So another interesting speculation is this. If *vibrations* are the source of matter, aren't we told in Jhn 1:1-3 that all things were created by the **Word**? Could this be describing a creation where matter was created by speaking *words*—words that caused *vibrations*?

The Universe Is More than Just Matter

An article in “Discover”⁽⁴⁾ magazine tells us “All of the matter we can find accounts for only about 4% of the universe. We know this by calculating how much mass would be needed to hold galaxies together and cause them to move about the way they do when they gather in large clusters. Another way is to weigh the unseen matter is to look at how gravity bends the light from distant objects. Every measure tells astronomers that *most of the universe is invisible*.”

What a startling statement from scientists, “*most of the universe is invisible*.” The matter that can be seen accounts for only 4% of the universe, the other 96% is *invisible*. Could this possibly be some kind of scientific support for Christianity? Is there an unseen universe along side of the material one we see and inhabit? An interesting speculation indeed.

Maybe Christian spirit or non-matter is closer to our physical world than we realize.

More Questions

As we ponder which makes more sense, evolution or creation, let's consider this question: *Where did information come from?*

Everywhere we look in our physical world we see exhibited “*information*” which is intelligence or knowledge. Yet information of itself is like thoughts, not physical, it cannot be seen or handled.

Take the common example of birds who construct nests from the lowliest of materials. Where did that information come from? If there was in fact a first evolved 100% bird, how did this first bird go about learning to build the first nest? Under evolution, a lot of trial and error had to be involved. And yet there would be only a few days to experiment and learn.

Let's assume that amazingly enough the first bird perfected nest building within her short lifetime. We are then confronted with another question in logic. How was this knowledge passed on to her babies? We know it is not by “show and tell”, so how did the first baby bird, and how do all subsequent birds, get that nest building information? We have to ask the same question for all of nature, spiders who engineer webs, beavers who engineer dams, and on and on.

How Did I Miss Out?

My grandfather built his own house around 1900. It was all done by hand, long before rural electricity. His planning and carpenter skills are evident. None of that was passed down to me. My dad re-built the engine in my 1934 Plymouth. I cannot do anything mechanical like that.

But as evolution author Philip Whitfield⁽⁵⁾ explains how evolution works, “... the fact that the mix of variation in every generation of every living plant and animal is *tested* against the conditions in which those organisms live. They also blur the *crucial* condition that advantageous characteristics must be *inheritable* and inherited for natural selection to occur.”

So we are told that under the evolution scenario advantageous skills and characteristics *should* have been inherited by me. In fact doesn't our author tell us such is a *crucial* condition for evolution? Doesn't evolution in general tell us that all of nature, in bird nests, spider webs, beaver dams, and on and on, those skills are routinely passed on from generation to generation?

If it doesn't work for humans, could it be that the inherent information present in every bird generation, and all other species, was not evolved as we are told happened, but were put there by a creator?

It is also interesting that our evolution author sees *testing* taking place. If so, wouldn't that require *decisions*; some sort of *intelligence* at work? And yet there is no decision making intelligence in the evolution scenario.

Information in Awesome Amounts

A widely acclaimed evolution author⁽⁶⁾ informs us about cells, “Each one can be thought of as a chemical factory which, in the course of delivering its primary product of usable energy, processes more than 700 different chemical substances, in long, interweaving assembly lines strung out along the surface of its intricately folded internal membranes.”

“Quantum Healing”⁽³⁾ informs us, “Of the liver cell's many functions, over five hundred at lat-

est count...”

This all happens in *one* cell, and is repeated all the time in the trillions and trillions of similar cells in the universe. Does it seem to you that there has to be a tremendous amount of knowledge, of *information* involved?

The author (6) tells us more about information in each cell, “Each nucleua...contains a digitally coded database larger, in information content, than all 30 volumes of the *Encyclopedia Britannica* put together. And this figure is for *each* cell, not all the cells put together.... The total number of cells in the body (of a human) is about 10 trillion.”

A database with more information than **30 encyclopedia** volumes? Does this sound like a **massive** amount of information to you? It sure does to me.

But wait a minute. It’s more than just information written in 30 volumes, isn’t it? What our authors have told us about is information *with meaning, with purpose*. More like *instructions*, more like complicated, *purposeful* knowledge.

A Boeing 747, a Skyscraper, and a Fruit Fly

The Encyclopedia of Evolution (5) might sum it up for us as it informs, “A Boeing 747 airliner, a 30 story office block, and a fruit fly are all **complex** structures pieced together from simpler components according to pre-existing plans.... Of these three examples the fruit fly is by far the most complex.”

You might like to ponder that a moment.

What Would Convince Scientists of Other Life in the Universe?

One creation writer makes the point that our government is spending millions of dollars searching the universe for a sign of intelligent life. What would convince them they had found it? A mere radio signal with a nominal pattern to it, say one, two, three, one, two, three, repeated over and over.

On a light note in making the point, the book “Just Six Numbers”(12) tells us, “As Richard Feynman noted, he could tell extraterrestrials that he was ‘*seventeen billion hydrogen atoms high*’ and they should understand him.” [I couldn’t resist that, only Richard Feynman, who is one of my heroes, would think of putting it like that.]

The author further explains the signals scientists are looking for “A manifestly artificial signal—even if it were as boring as lists of prime numbers, or the digits of “pi”—would imply that “intelligence” wasn’t unique to the

Earth and had evolved elsewhere.”

Do you sense an inconsistency here? On the one hand very little of radio signals would be needed to convince scientists of intelligence. On the other hand, evolutionist scientists can see and acknowledge 30 volumes of *information* in every tiny cell, or a chemical factory processing 700 chemicals, or a liver cell performing 500 functions, but those massive amounts of “signals” do not constitute an intelligent life source, they all evolved by themselves from nothing. Does that really make sense to you?

Where did Information Come From?

Previous *Creation Corner* columns have pointed out the classic evolution scenario that life started with a massive lightning bolt striking a blob of algae floating in a seething ocean. The question was then asked, ***Is there information present in lightning, algae, or ocean water?*** A straight answer seems to be “No”. Let’s look at what some evolutionists say was the beginning of life to see if their beginnings might have had information in them.

Evolution author Philip Whitfield(5) writes, “When Earth was formed it was a lifeless planet among other lifeless planets circling our sun. It was not until about one billion years later that there were life forms of sufficient complexity to leave their microfossil traces in rocks of the time. But the real origins of life—the origins of self-replicating **chemical entities**—must have predated these earliest fossils by a considerable period.”

Evolution authors Carl Sagan and Ann Druyan(7) write, “Imagine a period hundreds of millions of years long in which the Earth is awash in the building blocks of life.... There are pools and lakes undergoing wild fluctuations in conditions—now warm, bright, and bathed in ultraviolet light, now frozen and dark. Out of this varied and changeable landscape, and this rich **organic brew**, life arises.”

Evolution author Carl Zimmer(8) writes, “Draw back more and the first multicellular organisms appear, which made the transition from solitary cell to collective. And finally microbes—the archaea and **bacteria**—now loom”.

Evolution authors(9) explain our beginnings this way, “The thrust of that same evolution, from the Big Bang to the emergence of intelligent life, has been a constant movement from the simple to the increasingly complex: the first particles, the atoms, the molecules, the stars, the cells, the organisms of living beings, until we arrive at the curious creatures we call human.... All stages follow one another.... We descend from monkeys and **bacteria**, but also from the stars and galaxies.”

Evolution authors Simon Lamb and David

Sington⁽¹⁰⁾ tell about our beginnings, “The oldest rocks on the planet, found in Greenland and southern Africa, suggest that some 4 billion years ago... Life too already had a foothold, in the form of heat-loving **bacteria** clustered around bubbling mud pools.”

Evolution author Ursula Goodenough⁽¹¹⁾ tells us, “We said that the initial building blocks in the primal soup were produced when pulses of energy from the sun or the Earth’s interior made possible the chemistry of joining **atoms** together into molecules.”

The evolution supporting book, “The Secret Life of Germs” ⁽¹³⁾ tells us, “Over the course of perhaps three billion years, the oxygen produced by algae and the oxygen spewed out by volcanoes changed the atmosphere, creating an oxygen blanket that allowed higher life forms to evolve from **germs**.”

So according to various evolution authors, life had its beginning in—take your choice—algae, chemical entities, organic brew, entities sufficiently simple, bacteria, atoms, or germs. Again, we have to wonder, is information present in any of them? Aren’t they just the tiniest and simplest bits of mere chemicals?

Does Information Come from Matter?

Quantum Healing answers this for us, “You may find it easy to think of DNA, with its billions of genetic bits, as an intelligent molecule; certainly it must be smarter than a simple molecule like sugar. How smart can sugar be? But DNA is really just strings of sugar, amines, and other simple components. If these are not smart to begin with, then DNA couldn’t become smart just by putting more of them together.”

There is more about DNA: “Why does it initially divide on the second day after conception and begin to make a nervous system on day eighteen?... As we saw before, DNA is not made out of anything special. Its strands of strands of genetic material can be subdivided into simpler molecules like sugars and amines, and these into atoms of carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, and so on.

When it is not tied into DNA, a hydrogen or carbon atom doesn’t have anything like timing built into it! In billions of other combinations, hydrogen and carbon simply exist; yet in DNA, they contribute to a *mastery over time*.”

So our author makes the point the physical elements of matter that make up evolutionary beginnings, do not have information inherent in them. Where did the *information/instructions* found in every DNA code come from then? Where did the *timing* apparatus we are told operates in DNA come from?

A fitting cap to this article might be from the

book by Larry A. Witham⁽¹⁴⁾. The author quotes the multi-billionaire and master programmer, Bill Gates,

“DNA is like a computer program, but far, far more advanced than any software we’ve ever created.”

In Summary

We have considered the following:

- Matter and information are separate from each other.
- Saying a cell was built by its chemicals is like saying a book was written by its paper and ink.
- Thoughts, which are not matter, can move atoms which are matter.
- This indicates some kind of connection between non-matter and matter.
- We are told the smallest elements of matter cannot of themselves have information in them.
- The difference between living matter and non-living is intelligence, information and organization.
- According to one source, only 4% of the universe is visible, 96% of the universe is invisible.
- Matter may actually consist of or have been formed from pure energy.
- Matter may actually consist of or have been formed from vibrations.
- Certain knowledge and skills were not passed on to me, as should have happened under evolution.
- Each cell contains over 30 volumes of information.
- Each cell is a chemical factory processing 700 different chemical substances.
- A liver cell performs, at latest count, over 500 functions.
- We are told a fruit fly is more complex than a 747 airliner or a 30-story office block.
- Scientists would accept from outer space a simple pattern signal as evidence of intelligent life.
- Yet they will not acknowledge intelligent information found in nature everywhere we look.
- DNA is just a simple sugar molecule yet contains massive amounts of information.
- DNA is just a simple sugar molecule yet contains some sort of timing apparatus.
- DNA is software far advanced over anything man has done.

A Final Question

So information, instructions, knowledge are to be seen all over in nature. We have to ask, is it all the result of:

evolution, which admittedly is:

mindless,
purposeless,
accidental chance?

or is all of it more logically the result of:

planning,
intelligence—
a Creator God?

Which one makes more sense to you?

Endnotes:

- (1) "Defeating Darwinism by Opening Minds" by Phillip E. Johnson, published 1997 by Intervarsity Press, Downers Grove, IL
- (2) "Tornado in a Junk Yard", published 2001 by Refuge Books, Arlington, Mass.
- (3) "Quantum Healing" by Deepak Chopra, published 1989 by Bantam Books, NY.
- (4) "Discover" magazine, Feb, 2002, page 38.
- (5) "From so Simple a Beginning: the Encyclopedia of Evolution" by Philip Whitfield, published 1993 by Macmillan Publishing Company, NY
- (6) "The Blind Watchmaker", by Richard Dawkins, published 1996 by W.W. Norton & Company, Inc., NY.
- (7) "Shadows of Forgotten Ancestors" by Carl Sagan and Ann Druyan, published 1992 by Random House, Inc. New York.
- (8) "Origins" by Hubert Reeves, Joel De Rosnay, Yves Coppens, and Dominique Simonnet, published 1998 by Arcade Publishing, NY
- (8) "Earth Story" by Simon Lamb and David Sington, TV series and

Share Your Shelter


Our Savior never argued or tried to force someone to believe in Him. We should not do that either. But if *Shelter in the Word* has helped you, you can share it with others who might be interested in it or helped by it. One of these methods might work for you.

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e-mail: info@ShelterInTheWord.com

- 1998 book published by Princeton University Press, Princeton, NJ.
- (9) "Sacred Depths of Nature" by Ursula Goodenough, published in 1998 by Oxford University Press, Oxford, NY.
 - (12) "Just Six Numbers" by Martin Rees, published 2000 by Basic Books, a division of the Perseus Books Group.
 - (13) "The Secret Life of Germs" by Philip M. Tierno, Jr., published 2001 by Pocketbooks division of Simon & Schuster, NY.
 - (14) "Where Darwin Meets the Bible" by Larry A. Witham, published 2002 by Oxford University Press, Oxford and NY. 

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RELIG—What Is Christian Religion? 2 pages. It is living by the Bible & Holy Spirit, not joining a church.