

THE SPLENDOR OF EXPLORATION

I recently read about the Lewis and Clark exploration of Washington State 200 years ago. Traveling by foot, horseback and canoe the western two thirds of the United States was explored and the route through eleven States was mapped. It was a test of rugged human endurance and innovation covering about 4,000 miles in approximately 18 months. The word exploration may bring to mind Marco Polo, Christopher Columbus or any number of historic men who plotted and pioneered world travel. In more recent years we follow the drama of space exploration into the mysterious and limitless universe; and we benefit from scientific and medical exploration into the invisible world of the molecule. And in a so-called enlightened age when many relegate the Bible to fantasy, archeological exploration is turning up some amazing historical artifacts to confirm the Bible record.

Probing the universe and beyond When I was a boy no scientist envisioned travel to the moon, much less unmanned probes deep into space; that was the stuff for fantasies like Buck Rogers and Flash Gordon. But today fantasy has become reality. We once thought our universe was the sum total of outer space, but powerful telescopes have discovered other universes and unknown numbers of distant galaxies. An earth-like planet with the mass of Neptune was recently discovered 9000 light years away. Water geysers and vapor have been spotted on Pluto moons. A gigantic lightning storm was observed on Saturn. Two new solar systems have been identified. A small planet was just discovered about 20,000 light years away. Heat fused minerals have been discovered in comet dust at the edge of our solar system. Space discoveries like these have the scientific world agog as mortals witness majesty, precision and beauty beyond human imagination.

Penetrating the molecular world When I was in high school the atom was the smallest known particle of matter. But in 1945 the atom was split and devastating power was released. With better microscopes and continued research a world of activity was discovered within the invisible atom. We call this diminutive world of highly active and powerful electrons, protons, neutrons, quarks and neutrinos sub-atomic science. We are talking about the invisible atomic and subatomic realm of matter where relative space is huge. For example the hydrogen atom is 100,000 times bigger than its nucleus. If this atom was the size of a stadium, its nucleus would be the size of a marble.

In the post WWII era scientific exploration in the molecular field has led to almost unbelievable discoveries in medicine and energy. The human genome has been mapped. DNA has replaced fingerprinting as the primary means of personal identification. Among other amazing developments comes a report that "European researchers have developed "neuron-chips" in which living brain cells and silicon circuits are coupled together. The achievement could one day enable the creation of sophisticated neural prostheses to treat neurological disorders and/or the development of organic computers that crunch numbers using living neurons. To create the neuron-chip, researchers squeezed more than 16,000 electronic transistors and hundreds of capacitors onto a silicon chip just 1 millimeter square in size.

Whether we explore inner or outer space, the design of matter and life stands out boldly for all who have eyes to see and the willingness to acknowledge what they see. One scientist said it like this—and I paraphrase—*"As scientists discover more about matter and life forms they arrive at the conclusion that our world and universe are the product of intelligent design, but they do not yet have the courage to say it publicly."* Thankfully, more scientists and researchers are admitting that intelligent design compels them to study Bible truth and many have become believers. For those who refuse to admit the significance of the bold design they observe, God will have the last word: *"He Who sits in the Heavens shall laugh; the Lord shall hold them in derision."* (Ps. 2:4)

Facts that prove the Genesis account of creation

We are living in a time when America is rejecting anything related to our Creator God; and the educational institutions are rewriting our Christian beginning as a nation—and/or rejecting Christian morals and principles entirely. Young people and new Christians may have had more knowledge of so-called evolution than Bible Christianity—and find it hard to believe the Bible account found in the **Book of Genesis**. To support and strengthen our confidence that all we see and know about the earth and universe, and about humanity and its purpose, let us consider the basic truths and laws that govern life on this planet which defy evolution.

For example: *the earth is perfectly positioned in the universe to have a climate that supports human, animal and creature life systems. *The temperature range suits living entities including people. *The atmosphere is perfectly suited to sustain life with the right amount of oxygen and other vital elements. *Every life form has its own suitable reproductive system to sustain its kind. It has its own digestive system to feed upon existing

(created) food forms; and instinctively knows what that food form is and how to harvest and ingest it. *The balance of rain and sunshine enables the continuous growth of plants and vegetation; which produce seed which matures into its own kind and thus the cycle sustains each and every plant. *These are undeniable facts supporting creation. *There is also evidence of creative design in the earth's form, composition, terrain and landscape. *The emblem of the cross is found in so many places both on earth and in the heavens—and it is found in the chromosome diagram.

In addition—consider the variety of life forms that have been cataloged and studied. *The human body for example has distinct systems like the *nerve system, *arterial system, *digestive system, *muscular system, the *bone structure and the *reproductive system. Consider the formation of the *hearing apparatus; the *heart, lung, artery and breathing complex; *the profound complexity of the eye with thousands of cones and rods within the small orb which enables vision. Do you understand the wonder of how *functions of the brain, nerves and muscles coordinate with vision, hearing and touch sensations to enable humans to interact in all of the complex ways they do? *Among the animals, birds, fish and insects you find the same carefully planned means of survival and reproduction which supports Bible creation over the unprovable theory of evolution.

Then there are *both huge and microscopic life forms, and recent studies have surprisingly shown *DNA similarities between all of these forms in spite of the varied complexity. *If single celled entities evolved into multi-celled life you would think there would be *simple DNA structure and *varied DNA complexity as higher life forms evolved—but not so. And in all of the recent studies of microscopic and visible life forms—not one evidence of change from one form to another has been found to support the theory of evolution.

Is all this evidence coincidental? A reasonable person will say no; *the exactness of the universe—and *the intricacy of created beings—is not possible without a master-planner. Furthermore, *no human can change the persistent, precise movement of time; and *no human can escape death and judgement. Therefore, understanding human limitations and divine omnipotence, the best thing humans can do is accept the facts of life—and pursue the knowledge of God so how they live and what they do pleases Him. And humans have something other life forms do not have—**they have an eternal spirit.**

Preparing for the world to come While we can learn from the past and contemplate the future we must live in the present. Knowledge and understanding of both the past and future will help us fulfill our purpose in the present as we prepare for the future: **eternity!** How then shall we live? With turmoil in dozens of countries, political struggle every where, impoverished masses perishing daily, thousands dying from accidents in industrialized nations, rioting lawless crowds burning and looting major cities—much that is good and important never makes the headlines.

For example, wonderful discoveries are being made through archeological exploration. Some discoveries are accidental, that is, they occur while excavating as cities grow and expand or as old buildings make way for new, multiple storied structures. So in the process of bold, new, futuristic societal growth, we often discover connections to past civilizations, and the pieces of long-forgotten history come together again. Consider the following recent finding: **Jehoash inscription.** This is a rectangular sandstone tablet, with about a dozen lines of text in ancient Hebrew. The inscription discusses repairs to King Solomon's temple. There is some question about its authenticity, but if it turns out to be genuine, it will be a unique piece of physical evidence confirming the accuracy of Hebrew/Old Testament Scriptures. It will also have profound political implications, because it will verify that the temple of Solomon was located on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem—a fact Islam denies.

The NT writers clearly instruct us to pursue righteousness in character, relationship with our redeemer-Lord, and to fulfill our calling in life. The Great Commission has not yet been fulfilled. All around us there are lost souls who need an invitation to the Kingdom of God, an example to follow, and simple acts of kindness which demonstrate the love of God in us. I have heard it said that we who believe should plan our work as though we have another hundred years to live, but keep our hearts in readiness should the next moment be our last on earth. **Mighty Man or Woman**—God has His hand upon your life. Listen for His voice and follow His call.

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