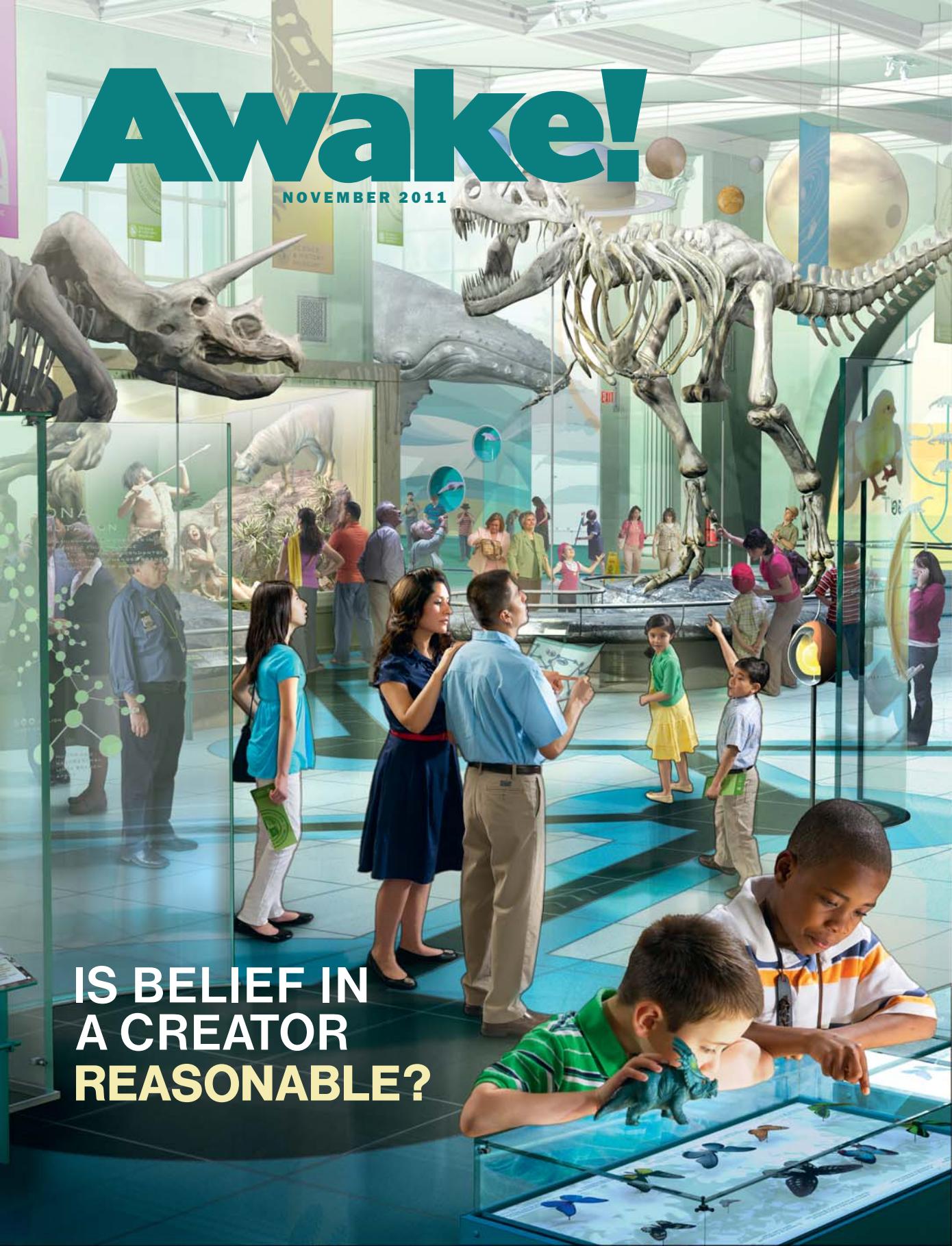


Awake!

NOVEMBER 2011

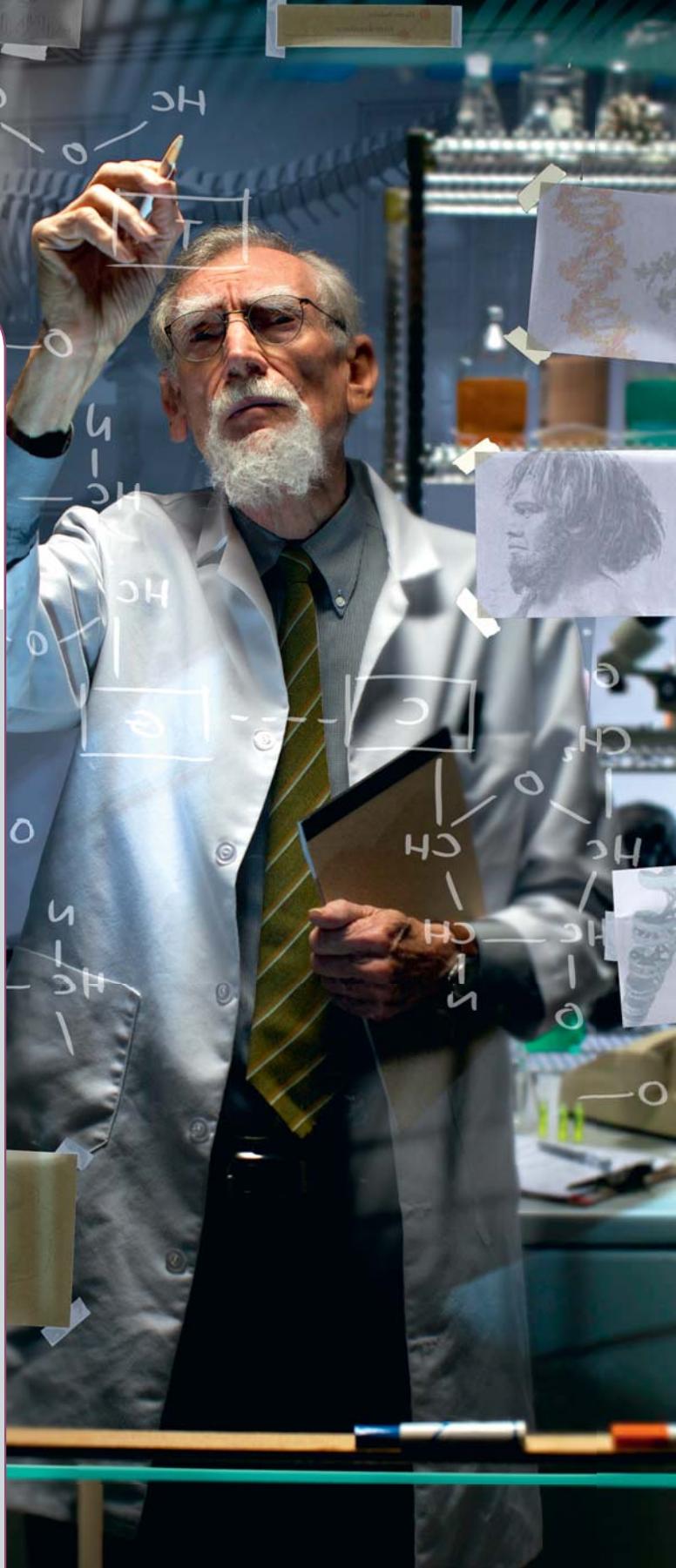
IS BELIEF IN
A CREATOR
REASONABLE?



IS BELIEF IN A CREATOR REASONABLE?

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THE MOST IMPORTANT QUESTION OF ALL

“COULD there be a more important question in all of human existence than ‘Is there a God?’” asked geneticist Francis S. Collins. He makes a powerful point. If there is no God, then there is no life beyond the present one, no higher authority on moral issues.

The reason some people doubt that God exists is because many scientists do not believe in him. However, popular views can sometimes be *very* wrong, as the next article will show.

Regrettably, many of the world’s religions have added to the confusion by teaching things that contradict well-established scientific knowledge. A notable example is the unbiblical notion that God created the world in six 24-hour days a few thousand years ago.

Faced with conflicting theories and philosophies, many give up their search for the truth about God’s existence. But what could be more worthwhile—and of greater consequence—than finding a trustworthy answer to such a fundamental question? Of course, none of us have seen God, nor were we present when the universe and life came into existence. So whether we believe in God or not, our views involve a degree of faith. But what kind of faith?

True Faith Rests on Solid Evidence

Faith—at least in some measure—is an important part of our lives. We accept employment, expecting that we will get paid. We plant crops with the assurance that the seeds will sprout. We trust our friends. And we have confidence in the laws that govern the universe. This is an informed faith, for it is based on evidence. Likewise, faith that God exists rests on evidence.

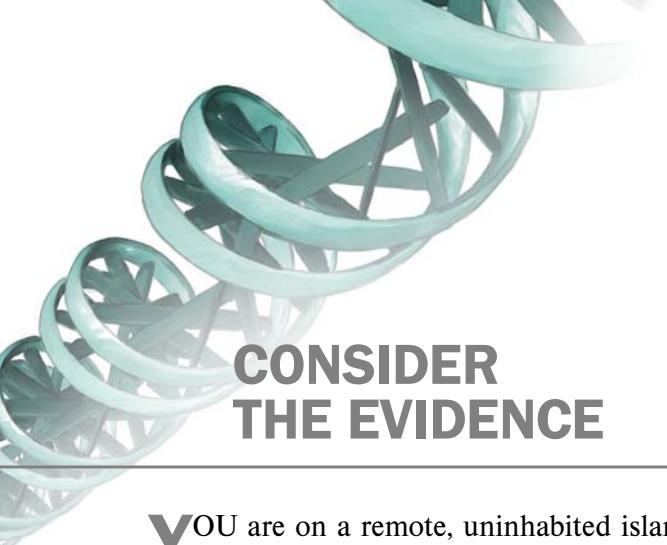
At Hebrews 11:1, the Bible says: “Faith is . . . the *evident demonstration* of realities though not beheld.” Another version says: “Faith . . . makes us certain of realities we do not see.” (*The New English Bible*) To illustrate: You are walking along a beach when, suddenly, you feel the ground quake. Then you see the water rush out to sea. You recognize the significance of these phenomena and that they warn of a tsunami. In this case, the quake and the vanishing water together form an “evident demonstration” of the yet unseen reality, the approaching waves. Your informed faith, in turn, moves you to flee to high ground and safety.

Faith in God too should be an informed faith, a response to convincing evidence. Only then can God become an ‘unseen reality’ to you. Must you be a scientist to examine and weigh such evidence? Nobel laureate Vladimir Prelog acknowledged that even “winners of the Nobel Prize are not more competent about God, religion, and life after death than other people.”

An honest heart and a thirst for truth should move you to examine the evidence fairly and let that evidence lead you in the right direction. What evidence is available for examination?

A farmer has faith that seeds will germinate and grow





CONSIDER THE EVIDENCE

YOU are on a remote, uninhabited island. While walking along the beach, you see "John 1800" engraved on a boulder. Do you assume that because the island is isolated and uninhabited, the marks must be the result of wind or water erosion? Of course not! You rightly conclude that someone made that inscription. Why? For one thing, a string of well-defined letters and numbers—even if they are in a foreign language—does not occur naturally. Second, the statement contains meaningful information, indicating an intelligent source.

In everyday life, we encounter information encoded in many forms—such as Braille or letters of the alphabet, as well as diagrams,

musical notes, spoken words, hand signs, radio signals, and computer programs involving the binary code, using zeros and ones. The information-conveying medium can be virtually anything, from light to radio waves to paper and ink. Whatever the case, people always associate meaningful information with an intelligent mind—unless such information is contained in a living cell. That information, say evolutionists, just happened or wrote itself somehow. But did it? Consider the evidence.

Can Complex Information Write Itself?

Safely stored in the nucleus of nearly every living cell in your body is an amazing code called deoxyribonucleic acid, abbreviated DNA. It is carried by a long, double-stranded molecule that looks like a twisted ladder. Your DNA is like a recipe, or program, that directs the formation, growth, maintenance, and reproduction of the trillions of cells that make up your body. The basic units that make up DNA are called nucleotides. These units are called A, C, G, and T, depending on which chemical base they contain.* Like letters of the alphabet, these four characters can be combined in many ways to form "sentences"—instructions that direct replication and other processes within the cell.

The entire package of information stored in your DNA is called your genome. Some sequences of letters in your DNA are unique to

* Each nucleotide contains one of four chemical bases: (A) adenine, (C) cytosine, (G) guanine, and (T) thymine.



Awake!®

THIS JOURNAL IS PUBLISHED for the enlightenment of the entire family. It shows how to cope with today's problems. It reports the news, tells about people in many lands, examines religion and science. But it does more. It probes beneath the surface and points to the real meaning behind current events, yet it always stays politically neutral and does not exalt one race above another. Most important, this magazine builds confidence in the Creator's promise of a peaceful and secure new world that is about to replace the present wicked, lawless system of things.

This publication is not for sale. It is provided as part of a worldwide Bible educational work supported by voluntary donations. Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the modern-language *New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures—With References*.

Awake! (ISSN 0005-237X) is published monthly by Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, Inc., M. H. Larson, President; G. F. Simonis, Secretary-Treasurer; 25 Columbia Heights, Brooklyn, NY 11201-2483, and by Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Canada, PO Box 4100, Georgetown, ON L7G 4Y4. Periodicals Postage Paid at Brooklyn, N.Y., and at additional mailing offices. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to *Awake!*, 1000 Red Mills Road, Wallkill, NY 12589-3299. © 2011 Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania. All rights reserved. Printed in Canada.

you, for DNA contains your hereditary information—your eye color, skin color, the shape of your nose, and so on. Simply put, your genome can be compared to a vast library of recipes for every part of your body, and the end product is *you*.

How large is this “library”? It is about three billion “letters,” or nucleotides (bases), long. If it were transcribed onto paper, the book would fill 200 volumes the size of a 1,000-page telephone book, according to the Human Genome Project.

These facts call to mind an amazing prayer recorded some 3,000 years ago. Found in the Bible at Psalm 139:16, it reads: “Your eyes saw even the embryo of me, and in your book all its parts were *down in writing*.” Of course, the writer did not have science in mind, but in simple language he conveyed an amazingly accurate concept to illustrate God’s awesome wisdom and power. How unlike other ancient religious writings, which were filled with mythology and superstition!

Who Assembled the “Library”?

If reason tells us that “John 1800” engraved into a rock must have an intelligent mind as its source, should not also the infinitely more complex and meaningful information found in DNA? After all, information is information no matter where it is found or what the medium may be. Computer and information scientist Donald E. Johnson said that the laws of chemistry and physics are unable to create complex information or systems that process that information. And it stands to reason that

the more complex a package of information, the greater the intelligence needed to write it. A child could write “John 1800.” But only a superhuman mind could write the code of life. What is more, “the complexity of biology has seemed to grow by orders of magnitude” with every new discovery, says the journal *Nature*.

To attribute the complex library of information in DNA to blind, unguided processes conflicts with both reason and human experience.* Such belief also stretches faith to the breaking point.

In their efforts to remove God from the picture, evolutionists have, at times, drawn conclusions that were later found to be wrong.

* Evolution allegedly occurs as a result of mutations, which are briefly explained in the following article.

HOW LONG IS YOUR DNA?

Stretched out, the DNA in one cell of your body is about six feet (2 m) long. If you were to extract the DNA from all your body’s trillions of cells and put the strands end to end, the total length according to some estimates would be nearly 670 times the distance from the earth to the sun and back. To travel that distance at the speed of light would take about 185 hours.

Languages: Afrikaans, Albanian, Amharic, Arabic, Armenian, Bislama, Bulgarian, Cebuano, Chichewa, Chinese (Simplified), Chinese (Traditional)⁺ (audio Mandarin only), Chitonga, Ciembwa, Croatian, Czech,⁺ Danish,⁺ Dutch,⁺ English,⁺ Estonian, Ewe, Fijian, Finnish,⁺ French,⁺ Georgian, German,⁺ Greek, Gujarati, Hebrew, Hiligaynon, Hindi, Hungarian, Icelandic, Igbo, Iloko, Indonesian, Italian,⁺ Japanese,⁺ Kannada, Kinyarwanda, Kirghiz, Kirundi, Korean,⁺ Latvian, Lingala, Lithuanian, Macedonian, Malagasy, Malayalam, Maltese, Myanmar, Norwegian,⁺ Polish,⁺ Portuguese,⁺ Punjabi, Rarotongan, Romanian, Russian,⁺ Samoan, Sepedi, Serbian, Sesotho, Shona, Silozi, Sinhala, Slovak, Slovenian, Spanish,⁺ Swahili, Swedish,⁺ Tagalog,⁺ Tamil, Thai, Tok Pisin, Tongan, Tsonga, Tswana, Turkish, Ukrainian, Urdu, Vietnamese, Xhosa, Yoruba, Zulu

⁺ CD also available.

⁺ MP3 CD-ROM also available.

⁺ Audio recordings also available at www.jw.org.

Would you welcome more information or a free home Bible study? Please send your request to Jehovah’s Witnesses, using one of the addresses below. For a complete list of addresses, see www.watchtower.org/address. **America, United States of:** 25 Columbia Heights, Brooklyn, NY 11201-2483. **Australia:** PO Box 280, Ingleburn, NSW 1890. **Britain:** The Ridgeway, London NW7 1RN. **Canada:** PO Box 4100, Georgetown, ON L7G 4Y4. **Germany:** 65617 Selters. **Guam:** 143 Jehovah St, Barrigada, GU 96913. **Jamaica:** PO Box 103, Old Harbour, St. Catherine. **Japan:** 4-7-1 Nakashinden, Ebina City, Kanagawa-Pref, 243-0496. **Puerto Rico:** PO Box 3980, Guayanabo, PR 00970. **South Africa:** Private Bag X2067, Krugersdorp, 1740. **Trinidad and Tobago:** Lower Rapsey Street & Laxmi Lane, Curepe.

Consider, for example, the view that some 98 percent of our genome is “junk”—a library of recipes with billions of useless words.

Is It Really “Junk”?

Biologists have long held that DNA is a recipe for the manufacture of proteins and nothing else. However, in time, it became evident that only about 2 percent of the genome consists of code for proteins. What is the purpose of the other 98 percent of DNA? This mystery DNA was “immediately assumed to be evolutionary junk,” observed John S. Mattick, professor of Molecular Biology at the University of Queensland in Brisbane, Australia.

The scientist who is credited with coining the term “‘junk’ DNA” was evolutionist Susumu Ohno. In his paper “So Much ‘Junk’ DNA in Our Genome,” he wrote that the remaining sequences of DNA “are the remains of nature’s experiments which failed. The earth is strewn with fossil remains of extinct species; is it a wonder that our genome too is filled with the remains of extinct genes?”

How did the concept of “junk” DNA affect the study of genetics? Molecular biologist Wojciech Makalowski says that such thinking “repelled mainstream researchers from studying noncoding [junk] DNA,” with the exception of a small number of scientists, who, “at the risk of being ridiculed, explore unpopular territories. Because of them, the view of junk DNA . . . began to change in the early 1990s.” Now, he adds, biologists generally regard what was called junk “as a genomic treasure.”

In Mattick’s opinion, the junk-DNA theory is a classic example of scientific tradition “derailing objective analysis of the facts.” “The failure to recognize the full implications of this,” he says, “may well go down as one of the biggest mistakes in the history of molecular biology.” Clearly, truth in science needs to be determined on the basis of evidence, not by popular vote. That being the case, what

does recent evidence reveal about the role of “junk” DNA?

What the “Junk” Does

A factory that makes cars uses machines to manufacture the parts. We can liken the parts to the proteins in a cell. The factory also needs devices and systems that assemble those parts step-by-step and others that serve as controls, or regulators, in the assembly line. The same is true of the activities inside the cell. And that, say researchers, is where “junk” DNA comes in. Much of it contains the recipe for a class of complex molecules called regulatory RNA (ribonucleic acid), which play a key role in how the cell develops, matures, and functions.* “The sheer existence of these exotic regulators,” says mathematical biologist Joshua Plotkin in *Nature* magazine, “suggests that our understanding about the most basic things . . . is incredibly naive.”

An efficient factory additionally needs effective communication systems. The same is true of the cell. Tony Pawson, a cell biologist at the University of Toronto in Ontario, explains: “The signalling information in cells is organized through networks of information rather than simple discrete pathways,” making the whole process “infinitely more complex” than previously thought. Indeed, as a geneticist at Princeton University said, “many of the mechanisms and principles governing inter- and intracellular behaviour are still a mystery.”

Each new discovery about the cell points to ever higher levels of order and sophistication. So why do so many people still cling to the notion that life and the most sophisticated information system known to man are products of a random evolutionary process?

* Recent research indicates that long noncoding RNAs are quite complex and that they are actually required for normal development. Researchers have found that malfunctions in long noncoding RNAs are associated with many diseases, such as various cancers, psoriasis, and even Alzheimer’s disease. What was previously labeled as “junk” may hold the key to diagnosing and treating various diseases!

WHICH APPROACH IS MORE REASONABLE?

NO HUMAN witnessed the beginning of life on earth. Nor has anyone seen one kind of life evolve into another kind—a reptile into a mammal, for example.* Therefore, we must rely on the available evidence to draw conclusions about the origin of life. And we need to let the evidence speak for itself rather than force it to say what we want it to say.

Many atheists, however, view science through the lens of materialism—a philosophy that assumes purely material causes for the origin of life. “We have a prior commitment . . . to materialism,” wrote evolutionist Richard C. Lewontin. “That materialism is absolute, for we cannot allow a Divine Foot in the door.” Hence, materialists embrace the only alternative they have—evolution.

Religious people too may have preconceptions that distort their attitude toward science. For instance, as mentioned earlier, some creationists cling to the erroneous notion that God formed the world in six literal days a few thousand years ago. Having made that prior commitment, they try to force the evidence to fit their extremely literal interpretation of the Bible. (See the box “How Long Is a ‘Day?’” on page 9.) People who have such extreme interpretations of both the Bible and science are left without satisfying answers when they try to seek evidence for their faith.

Which View Fits All the Facts?

With regard to the origin of the complex molecules that make up living organisms, some evolutionists believe the following:

1. Key elements somehow combined to form basic molecules.

* Although he firmly believed in evolution, biologist Ernst Mayr admitted that “the fossil record is one of discontinuities,” in that new types of organisms appear suddenly.



ARE HUMANS EVOLVING OR DETERIORATING?

Some scientists are expressing serious concern that the human genome is actually deteriorating as a result of accumulating mutations, or imperfections. If true, this fact would undermine the view that we are evolving, or improving. But if God created the human genome, why does it have flaws? The Bible tells us what science cannot—that human imperfection stems from sin, or disobedience to God. “Through one man [Adam] sin entered into the world and death through sin,” says Romans 5:12. A deteriorating genome, therefore, argues against evolution but in support of the Bible. Does this mean that the genome will continue to deteriorate indefinitely? No! God has promised to intervene in human affairs and undo all the harm caused by our original parents. Yes, our Creator, not mindless evolution, will perfect our genome.—Revelation 21:3, 4.



If not maintained,
things tend to
deteriorate

2. Those molecules then linked together in the exact sequences required to form DNA, RNA, or protein with the capacity to store the information needed to carry out tasks essential to life.

3. The molecules somehow formed the specific sequences required to replicate themselves. Without replication, there can be neither evolutionary development nor, indeed, life itself.

How did the molecules of life form and acquire their amazing abilities without an intelligent designer? Evolutionary research fails to provide adequate explanations or satisfying answers to questions about the origin of life. In effect, those who deny the purposeful intervention of a Creator attribute godlike powers to mindless molecules and natural forces.

What, though, do the facts indicate? The available evidence shows that instead of molecules developing into complex life-forms, the opposite is true: Physical laws dictate that complex things—machines, houses, and even living cells—in time break down.* Yet, evolutionists say the opposite can happen. For example, the book *Evolution for Dummies* says that evolution occurred because the earth “gets loads of energy from the sun, and that energy is what powers the increase in complexity.”

To be sure, energy is needed to turn disorder into order—for example, to assemble bricks, wood, and nails into a house. That energy, however, has to be carefully controlled and precisely directed because uncontrolled energy is more likely to speed up decay, just as the energy from the sun and the weather can hasten the deterioration of a building.[#] Those who believe in evolution cannot satisfactorily explain how energy is creatively directed.

* Such decay is a result of what scientists call the second law of thermodynamics. Put simply, this law states that the natural tendency is for order to degenerate into disorder.

[#] DNA can be altered by mutations, which can be caused by such things as radiation and certain chemicals. But these do not lead to new species.—See the article “Is Evolution a Fact?” in the September 2006 issue of *Awake!*

On the other hand, when we view life and the universe as the work of a wise Creator who possesses an “abundance of dynamic energy,” we can explain not only the complexity of life’s information systems but also the finely tuned forces that govern matter itself, from vast galaxies to tiny atoms.*—Isaiah 40:26.

Belief in a Creator also harmonizes with the now generally accepted view that the physical universe had a beginning. “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth,” says Genesis 1:1.

Invariably, new discoveries tend to make the philosophy of materialism increasingly hard to defend, a fact that has moved some atheists to revise their views.* Yes, some former atheists have come to the conclusion that the wonders of the universe are visible evidence of the “invisible qualities” and “eternal power” of our Creator, Jehovah God. (Romans 1:20) Would you consider giving the matter further thought? No subject could be more important or of greater consequence.[△]

* See the book *Is There a Creator Who Cares About You?* published by Jehovah’s Witnesses.

[#] See the article “I Was Raised an Atheist,” in the November 2010 issue of *Awake!*

[△] For additional information on the question of creation versus evolution, please see the brochures *Was Life Created?* and *The Origin of Life—Five Questions Worth Asking*, published by Jehovah’s Witnesses.

HOW LONG IS A “DAY”?

In the Bible, the word “day” can refer to various periods of time. At Genesis 2:4, for example, the entire creative period of six “days” is spoken of as “the day that Jehovah God made earth and heaven.” Each day evidently involved a considerable length of time. Interestingly, while the Bible specifically mentions the end of each of the first six “days,” it makes no mention of the end of the seventh day. Why? That day is still in progress.—Genesis 2:3; Hebrews 4:4–6, 11.



God’s power and his other qualities are manifest in the universe

How to Make a Marriage Succeed



"He who created them from the beginning made them male and female and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and his mother and will stick to his wife, and the two will be one flesh' . . . Therefore, what God has yoked together let no man put apart."—Jesus Christ, as recorded at Matthew 19:4-6.

IN OUR world of changing standards, marriage is no longer held in high esteem. Many couples stay together until their physical attraction wanes or problems arise—sometimes not even serious problems—and then they separate or divorce. Sadly, traumatized children are often left in the wake.

To students of the Bible, this state of affairs is no surprise. Regarding “the last days,” the time in which we now live, the Bible foretold that people in general would lack the qualities that bind families together—namely, loyalty, genuine love, and natural affection. (2 Timothy 3:1-5) Does this erosion of values and its effect on family life concern you? Do you hold marriage in high esteem?

If so, you can take comfort from the Bible, for its tried-and-tested advice continues to help many couples. Consider, for example, just five principles that can make a world of difference in a marriage.*

Five Keys to Success in Marriage

(1) Recognize marriage as a sacred union. As shown by the words of Jesus quoted at the left, both he and the Creator, Jehovah God, view marriage as a sacred union. This is underscored by God’s firm counsel to certain men of old who divorced their wives in order to marry younger women. “You have broken your promise to the wife you married when you were young,” God said. “She was your partner, and you have broken your promise to her, although you promised before God that

* For additional information on marriage, see the February 1, 2011, issue of our companion magazine *The Watchtower*.

you would be faithful to her.” Then Jehovah made this powerful statement: “I hate it when one of you does such a cruel thing to his wife.” (Malachi 2:14-16, *Today’s English Version*) Clearly, God does not take a casual view of marriage; he takes note of how husbands and wives treat each other.

(2) Be a responsible husband. When important family matters arise, someone has to make the final decision. The Bible assigns that role to the husband. “A husband is head of his wife,” says Ephesians 5:23. But headship is no license for tyranny. The husband should remember that he is “one flesh” with his wife, and he should honor her and consult her on family matters. (1 Peter 3:7) The Bible’s admonition is that “husbands ought to be loving their wives as their own bodies.” —Ephesians 5:28.

(3) Be a supportive wife. The Bible describes the wife as “a complement” of her husband. (Genesis 2:18) As such, she supplies important qualities to the marriage. And as his complement, she does not compete with him but gives him loving support, thus promoting peace within the family. “Let wives be in subjection to their husbands,” says Ephesians 5:22. What, though, if she disagrees with him on a matter? In that case, she should feel free to express her opinions in a dignified, respectful manner, just as she would like her husband to speak to her.

(4) Be realistic, and expect challenges. A marriage may be put to the test by thoughtless or unkind words, financial problems, serious illness, or the stresses of raising children. Hence, the Bible frankly states that those who marry “will have tribulation in their flesh.” (1 Corinthians 7:28) But tribulations, or trials, need not weaken a marriage. In fact, when two people love each other *and* possess godly wisdom, they have the means to resolve potentially divisive issues.

Do you have the necessary wisdom to deal with problems that may arise in your family? “If any one of you is lacking in wisdom,” the Bible says, “let him keep on asking God, for he gives generously to all and without reproaching.”—James 1:5.

(5) Be faithful to each other. Few things do more to undermine a marriage than fornication, or sex outside the marriage, which is the only basis for divorce that is acceptable to God. (Matthew 19:9) The Bible says: “Let marriage be honorable among all, and the marriage bed be without defilement, for God will judge fornicators and adulterers.” (Hebrews 13:4) What can couples do to help them avoid being tempted to look outside the marriage for sexual satisfaction? The Bible states: “Let the husband render to his wife her due; but let the wife also do likewise to her husband.”—1 Corinthians 7:3, 4.

Some might consider these five points quaint or old-fashioned. But the results say otherwise. In fact, they are similar to the results that come to a person who looks to God for guidance in all aspects of life: “He will certainly become like a tree planted by streams of water, that gives its own fruit in its season and the foliage of which does not wither, and *everything he does will succeed*.” (Psalm 1:2, 3) “Everything” includes success in marriage.

HAVE YOU WONDERED?

- What is God’s view of divorce?
—**Malachi 2:14-16.**
- How should a husband treat his wife?
—**Ephesians 5:23, 28.**
- Whose wisdom spells success in marriage?—**Psalm 1:2, 3.**



Climate Summits Just Talk?



"The world must come together to confront climate change. There is little scientific dispute that if we do nothing, we will face more drought, famine and mass displacement that will fuel more conflict for decades."—U.S. President Barack Obama.

IN THE view of some scientists, planet Earth is ill. It is running a fever. According to them, the global temperature may be approaching the so-called tipping point—that delicate threshold where a slight rise in temperature may “cause a dramatic change in the environment that itself triggers a far greater increase in global temperatures,” says the British newspaper *The Guardian*.

How did we get into this situation? Can it be reversed? Indeed, is it even within mankind’s ability to solve the problem of global warming—not to mention the many other major challenges confronting the human race?

Many scientists believe that human activity is a major factor, beginning with the industrial revolution and the subsequent increase in the use of fossil fuels, such as coal and oil. Another factor involves rampant deforestation. Forests serve as lungs for our environ-

ment. Trees absorb some of the greenhouse gases that produce global warming. However, the cutting away of large amounts of forest results in leaving increasing amounts of these gases in our atmosphere. In order to address these problems, world leaders have convened climate summits.

The Kyoto Protocol

The 1997 Kyoto Protocol, or agreement, set new goals for carbon dioxide emissions. By signing the protocol, the countries of the European Union and 37 other industrialized countries committed themselves to reducing their emissions by an average of 5 percent against 1990 levels, and this over the five-year period from 2008 to 2012.

The Kyoto Protocol, however, had some serious weaknesses. For example, the United States never ratified it. Also, larger developing countries, such as China and India, did not commit themselves to specific limits on their emissions. Yet, the United States and China alone contribute about 40 percent of the global carbon dioxide emissions.

The Copenhagen Summit

The objective of the Copenhagen summit, called COP 15, was to replace the Kyoto Protocol and set new, binding goals for 2012 and beyond.* To confront climate change, representatives from 192 nations, including 119 heads of State, gathered in Copenhagen, Denmark, in December 2009 to attend the event. COP 15 was faced with the following three primary challenges:

* The Conference of the Parties, COP, is arranged on a regular basis by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

1. Reaching legally binding agreements.

Would developed countries accept the necessary emission caps or limits, and would the major developing countries limit the growth of their emissions?

2. Financing a perpetual solution. The developing countries would need billions of dollars for many years in order to cope with the accelerating consequences of global warming and to generate environmentally clean technology.

3. Agreeing on a model for monitoring emissions. Such a model would help individual countries stay within their emission limits. It would also help to ensure that developing countries use donated funds properly.

Were these three challenges met? Negotiations ran into such serious problems that even a much less ambitious consensus seemed out of reach. Within the final hours of the conference, leaders from 28 countries hammered out a final document called the Copenhagen Accord. This accord was formally accepted with these rather bland words: "The conference . . . takes note of the Copenhagen Accord," says Reuters news service. In other words, it was up to the individual countries to act on it.

What Next?

More conferences have been held or are planned, but skepticism runs high. "The planet will continue to cook," said *New York Times* columnist Paul Krugman. All too often, short-term political and economic benefits outweigh long-term environmental factors, encouraging a business-as-usual approach. "If you want to understand opposition to climate action, follow the money," says Krugman. He also wrote that the action on climate change in his country was essentially killed by "the usual suspects: greed and [political] cowardice."

Global warming seems to be much like a hurricane. Meteorologists can measure the

force of a hurricane and chart its possible course with reasonable accuracy—much to the benefit of those in its path. But all the scientists, politicians, and business leaders in the world cannot stop a hurricane. It seems that the same may be true of global warming. This fact calls to mind the words found in the Bible at Jeremiah 10:23: "To earthling man his way does not belong. It does not belong to man who is walking even to direct his step."

Global Warming Will End—God's Way

The Bible tells us that "the Former of the earth and the Maker of it . . . did not create it simply for nothing." (Isaiah 45:18) The Bible also says: "The earth endures for ever."—Ecclesiastes 1:4, *The New English Bible*.

Yes, God will not allow the earth to be rendered uninhabitable. Rather, he will intervene in human affairs and bring an end to failed human rule and those who have no regard for the earth. At the same time, he will preserve alive all who lead morally upright lives and sincerely want to please him. Says Proverbs 2:21, 22: "The upright are the ones that will reside in the earth, and the blameless are the ones that will be left over in it. As regards the wicked, they will be cut off from the very earth; and as for the treacherous, they will be torn away from it."

A greenhouse gas is a component of the atmosphere that absorbs radiation emanating from the earth's surface. Many of the gases emitted into the atmosphere by modern industrial processes are greenhouse gases. They include carbon dioxide, chlorofluorocarbons, methane, and nitrous oxide. More than 25 billion tons of carbon dioxide alone is now released into our atmosphere every year. Reports indicate that since the start of the industrial age, atmospheric carbon dioxide levels have risen by 40 percent.



Tingatinga Art That Makes You Smile

“TINGATINGA shows us how to see the world with our inner child. Funny, happy and colorful,” writes Daniel Augusta, manager of the Tingatinga Arts Co-operative Society. Tingatinga art is about Africa—its wildlife and culture, especially that of Tanzania, the birthplace of the art form.

The Tingatinga style is named after its originator, Edward Said Tingatinga, born in 1932. As Edward grew up, the countryside and wild animals around his village in southern Tanzania evidently made a deep impression on him. When he was in his mid-20's, he left home in search of work and a higher standard of living. Later he moved to the capital city of Tanzania, Dar es Salaam, and obtained work as a gardener. In the evenings, his artistic talent found expression in music and dance; he even made a name for himself as a performer.

The year 1968 was a turning point in Edward's life. He got a government job as a

ward attendant in the Muhimbili public hospital in Dar es Salaam. While there, he found time to put his vivid childhood memories and impressions into his own art form. As a result, Tingatinga art was born. Edward did not have access to art shops with their specialized brushes, paints, pigments, and other items. So he used materials that anyone could buy in a local hardware store. His paint, for example, was enamel bicycle paint, and his “canvases” were pieces of compressed fiberboard that had a smooth, shiny finish on one side, making it ideal for painting glossy images.

Edward's painting style was simple. He used one or two colors for the background and then filled the frame with only one object—a brightly colored and somewhat stylized African animal. He added no scenery or other details.

Edward allowed a handful of close associates and relatives to observe while he





painted. Soon, several of these became his “students,” and his style began to grow in popularity.

From the very first painting, Tingatinga art has used strong colors and simplified figures with distinguished contours. Over the years, however, the style has developed, becoming more elaborate and featuring several figures in each work. Indeed, some artists fill their paintings with people, animals, and various objects.

Sources of Inspiration

Tingatinga art has an inexhaustible source of inspiration—African fauna and flora in all its forms: antelope, buffalo, elephants, giraffes, hippos, lions, monkeys, zebras, and other animals, as well as flowers, trees, birds, and fish—especially those with striking colors. A popular background is Africa’s highest mountain, Kilimanjaro, located in northeastern Tanzania.

Modern Tingatinga art also tries to capture the people of Africa and their culture. A work may portray a day at a busy market, a visit to a local hospital, or just daily village life.

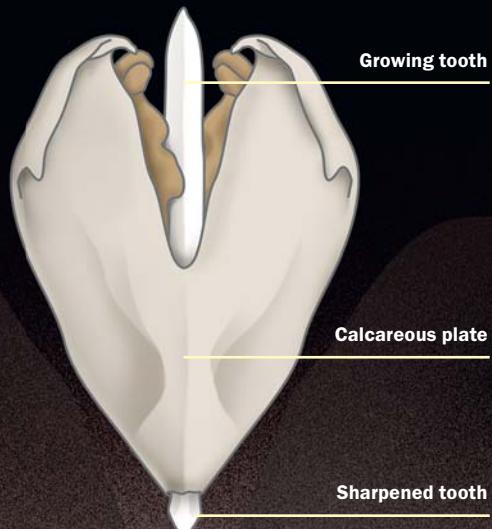
Since its inception, Tingatinga art has given artistically talented Africans a means to express themselves, while at the same time providing a most welcome supplement to their income. Indeed, the Tingatinga artists have grown into a cooperative of painters based in Dar es Salaam. Some even adhere to the tradition of painting with bicycle enamel. If Edward Tingatinga were alive today (he died in 1972), the popularity of his art form would no doubt bring a big smile to his face.

7. 290,000. 8. C.
4. 4 matches C. 5. 5 matches E. 6. 6 matches D.
1. 1 matches F. 2. 2 matches E. 3. 3 matches A.

ANSWERS TO PAGES 30 AND 31

WAS IT DESIGNED?

The Sea Urchin's Self-Sharpening Tooth



● Using its five teeth, the sea urchin bores through rock to carve out a niche in which to hide. Despite the grinding and scraping, the urchin's teeth stay sharp. "That's far more than we can say about any cutting or grinding tool we know and use," says Pupa Gilbert, professor of physics at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in the United States. What is the sea urchin's secret?

Consider: A sea urchin's tooth is composed of crystals that are cemented together. However, "there are breaking points at predetermined locations built into the teeth," notes Gilbert. The weaker organic material at these locations—like perforations on a sheet of paper—make

it easy for the tooth's worn layers to shear off, exposing a new, sharp edge. Since the tooth keeps growing at one end and self-sharpens at the other end, it never gets dull. Gilbert calls the urchin's tooth "one of the very few structures in nature that self-sharpen."

Knowing how the sea urchin's self-sharpening tooth works has exciting implications for toolmakers. In theory, it could lead to the development of tools that self-sharpen with use. "The mechanism used by the urchin is the key," says Gilbert.

What do you think? Did the sea urchin's self-sharpening tooth come about by chance? Or was it designed?

Where can I find good entertainment?



Below, put a ✓ next to your favorite film genre.

- Comedy
- Drama
- Action/Adventure
- Science fiction
- Other

Ask yourself,
'Do the movies I watch make it easier—or harder—for me to obey God's commands regarding sex, violence, and spiritism?'

If you're a Christian, you're selective about your entertainment. You don't just settle for what others say you should watch, read, or listen to. Why not? Because much of today's entertainment glorifies illicit sex, violence, and spiritism—things you need to avoid. Nevertheless, there *is* good entertainment out there. Let's see how you can find it.*

MOVIES

BOOKS

MUSIC

Did you know . . . ? India often produces more than a thousand films a year—many more than any other country.

What to avoid. Many movies promote values that are contrary to Bible standards. Some feature graphic sex and violence, while others include supernatural themes. But the Bible says: “Put them all away from you, wrath, anger, badness, abusive speech, and obscene talk.” (Colossians 3:8) Furthermore, God condemns any acts that are associated with spiritism.—Deuteronomy 18:10-13.

How to be selective. “If the trailer doesn’t seem appropriate, I won’t watch the movie.”—Jerrine.*

“I never take someone’s recommendation unless I know for a fact that the person has the same values as I have.”—Caitlyn.

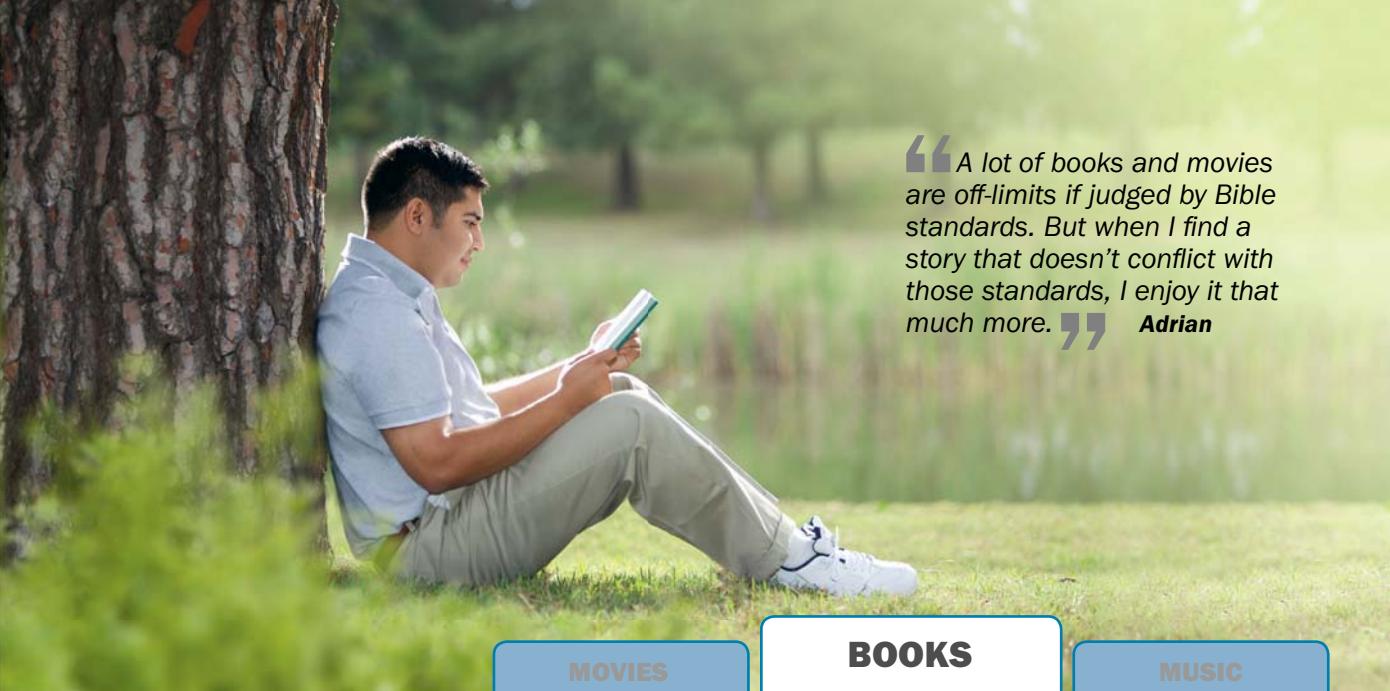
“If I’m watching a movie in the theater and I start to feel uncomfortable with the content, I will walk out.”—Marina.

“To help me know more about content, I use an Internet site that reports the level of sex, violence, and profanity in each movie.”—Natasha.

Tip: Look for films that are *less likely* to contain objectionable material. “I thoroughly enjoy period pieces—movies based on classic literature,” says a teen named Masami.

* *Awake!* neither endorses nor condemns any particular commercial film, book, or song by name. The purpose of this article is to help you to develop and follow a Bible-trained conscience that is sensitive to God's standards.—Psalm 119:104; Romans 12:9.

* Some names in this article have been changed.



“A lot of books and movies are off-limits if judged by Bible standards. But when I find a story that doesn’t conflict with those standards, I enjoy it that much more.” **Adrian**

MOVIES

BOOKS

MUSIC

Below, put a ✓ next to your favorite type of reading material.

- Fiction
- Nonfiction
- Classic literature
- Other

Did you know . . . ? More than a thousand books are published each week in the United States alone.

What to avoid. Similar to movies, many books promote values that are contrary to Bible standards. For example, some are sexually graphic or have spiritistic themes. But the Bible says: “Let fornication and uncleanness of every sort or greediness not even be mentioned among you.” (Ephesians 5:3) It also says that spiritistic acts are “bad in the eyes of Jehovah.”—2 Kings 17:17.

How to be selective. “When looking for a good book, I read the back cover and browse through the chapters. If I see anything objectionable, I don’t buy it.”—Marie.

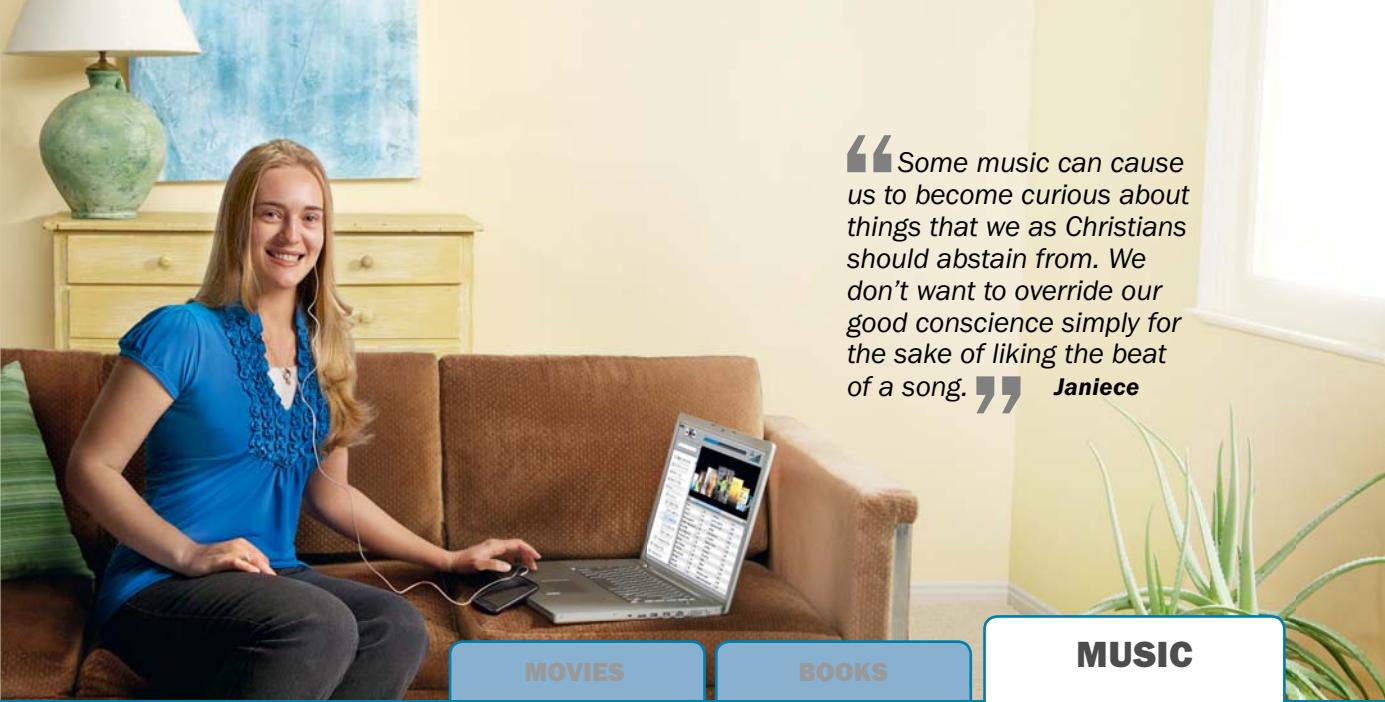
“As I grew up and began thinking for myself, I realized the importance of listening to my conscience. If I determined that a book was bad, I would stop reading it. I realized that it didn’t harmonize with God’s thinking.”—Corinne.

Tip: Broaden your taste. “I find that I can get much more engrossed in classic literature than modern fiction,” says Lara, 17. “The wording, the character development, the plots—they’re just fantastic!”

Ask yourself,
*‘Do the books that
I read entertain me
with conduct that God
disapproves of?’*

WHY NOT ASK YOUR PARENTS?

What has changed with regard to entertainment since you were my age? What changes did your parents tell you took place between their adolescence and yours?



“Some music can cause us to become curious about things that we as Christians should abstain from. We don’t want to override our good conscience simply for the sake of *liking* the beat of a song.” —Janiece

MOVIES

BOOKS

MUSIC

Below, put a ✓ next to your favorite type of music.

- Rock
- Classical
- Jazz
- R&B
- Hip-hop
- Other

Ask yourself,

‘Does the music I listen to make it easier—or harder—for me to control my sexual desires?’

READ MORE ABOUT IT!

See the book *Questions Young People Ask—Answers That Work*, Volume 2, Chapters 31 and 32, published by Jehovah’s Witnesses.

More articles from the “Young People Ask” series can be found at the Web site www.watchtower.org/ype

Did you know . . . ? Four major music labels combined release some 30,000 albums a year.

What to avoid. Similar to movies and books, much music today is morally degrading. Explicit lyrics and graphic music videos can make it even more difficult for you to control your sexual urges. (1 Corinthians 6:18) “Much of today’s music encourages behavior that is against Bible standards,” says 21-year-old Leigh, “and the beat makes people want to dance—and not the polka.”

How to be selective. “I ask myself, ‘If I were to let adult Christians scroll through my music list, would I be embarrassed by what they’d find?’ That helps to give me some perspective on the kind of music I should be listening to.” —Leanne.

Tip. Be willing to try different genres. “My dad enjoys classical music, so I heard quite a bit of it as I was growing up,” says a teen named Roberto. “Learning about classical music—while also learning to play the piano—opened up a new world to me!”

The entertainment industry has nothing to lose—and much to gain—if you ignore your Bible-trained conscience and simply watch, read, or listen to whatever is popular.



Mexico's LIQUID AMBASSADOR

● When the Spanish conquistadores arrived in Mexico in the early 16th century, they sampled a local drink called pulque, made from the fermented juice of the agave plant. Much like beer, pulque has a low alcohol content. It also contains vegetable proteins, carbohydrates, vitamins, and minerals, so it is used in many areas as a nutritional supplement.

Accustomed to having alcoholic beverages with their meals, the Spaniards soon began to distill agave juice into something stronger, called mescal. It, in turn, became the precursor of today's tequila. Nowadays, there are dozens of tequila distillers in Mexico, and they produce over 50 million gallons a year (189 million L), 40 percent of which is exported.

Orchards of blue agave, a succulent related to the lily family, are cultivated in the arid highlands of west-central Mexico, principally in the state of Jalisco near the town of Tequila, after

which the drink was named.* Agave plants take up to 12 years to mature, absorbing a lot of minerals in the process. When the plant is harvested, its spiky leaves are cut away, leaving the pineapple-shaped heart called *piña*. On average, it weighs 110 pounds (50 kg) and contains the rich juice. About 15 pounds (7 kg) of agave *piñas* are needed to produce one quart (1 L) of tequila.

Many Mexicans enjoy tequila straight, accompanied by salt and a slice of lime. Foreigners are more familiar with the margarita, a cocktail of tequila mixed with lime juice and an orange-flavored liqueur, served with crushed ice in a goblet rimmed with salt.[#] Marketed in some 90 countries, tequila has rightly been called Mexico's ambassador abroad.

* Of the 136 species of agave in Mexico, several are used for pulque and other alcoholic beverages. But only the blue agave is used for tequila.

[#] The moderate consumption of alcohol is not condemned in the Bible. (Psalm 104:15; 1 Timothy 5:23) The Bible does, however, condemn immoderate drinking and drunkenness.
—1 Corinthians 6:9, 10; Titus 2:3.



How I Found the Answer to Injustice

AS TOLD BY URSULA MENNE

For as long as I can remember, I have had a burning desire to see everyone treated fairly and justly. This desire even resulted in my being sent to prison in Communist East Germany. And there, of all places, is where I found the answer to injustice. Let me explain.

I WAS born in 1922 in the German town of Halle, which has a recorded history of more than 1,200 years. Situated about 120 miles (200 km) southwest of Berlin, Halle was one of the earliest strongholds of Protestantism. My sister, Käthe, was born in 1923. Father served in the military. Mother sang in the theater.

It was from Father that I gained a strong desire to correct injustice. When he left the army, Father purchased a store. Since his customers were mostly poor people, he compassionately extended them credit. This noble gesture, however, forced him into bankruptcy. Father's experience should have taught me that fighting inequality and injustice is much harder and more complicated than meets the eye. But youthful idealism is a hard flame to snuff out.

From Mother, I inherited artistic talent, and she introduced Käthe and me to music, song, and dance. I was a lively child, and Käthe and I had a wonderful life—that is, until the year 1939.

A Nightmare Begins

After finishing my basic education, I attended ballet school, where I also learned the



Ausdruckstanz (expressive dance), as taught by Mary Wigman. She was a pioneer of Expressionist dancing, which requires the artist to express his or her feelings in the form of a dance. I also began painting. Thus, my teen years were initially happy and filled with excitement and learning. But then came 1939 and World War II. Another blow occurred in 1941, when Father died of tuberculosis.

War is a nightmare. Although I was only 17 years of age when the war began, I thought that the world had gone mad. I saw throngs of hitherto normal citizens get caught up in Nazi hysteria. Then came deprivation, death, and destruction. Our house was badly damaged in a bomb attack, and in the course of the war, several of my family members were killed.

When hostilities ceased in 1945, Mother, Käthe, and I were still in Halle. By this time, however, I had a husband and a baby daughter, but my marriage was strained. We separated, and since I had to support myself and my daughter, I worked as a dancer and a painter.

Post-war Germany was divided into four sectors, and our town was in the sector governed by the Soviet Union. Hence, we all had to get accustomed to being under a Communist regime. In 1949, our part of Germany, often called East Germany, became the German Democratic Republic (GDR).

Life Under Communism

In those years, Mother became ill, and I had to care for her. I took an office job with the local government. Meanwhile, I came into contact with student dissidents who tried to draw attention to some of the injustices being perpetrated. For instance, one youth was denied a university education because his father had been a member of the Nazi party. I knew the student well, since we often played music together. ‘Why,’ I thought, ‘should he suffer because of what his father had done?’ My involvement with the dissidents increased, and I decided to get involved in public protests. On one occasion I even attached leaflets to the outside staircase of the local court building.

My sense of justice was further offended by some of the letters I had to type as a secretary to the Regional Peace Committee. In another instance, for political reasons, the Committee planned to send Communist propaganda material to an elderly man living in West Germany in order to arouse suspicion against him. I felt so indignant at the dishonest treatment of that man that I hid the parcels in the office. As a result, they were never mailed.

“The Worst Person in the Room” Gave Me Hope

In June 1951, two men came into my office and announced: “You are under arrest.” They took me to the prison known as the *Roter Ochse*, or Red Ox. One year later I was charged with subversion against the State. A student had betrayed me to the Stasi, the secret police, informing them of my earlier pro-

test with the leaflets. The trial was a farce because no one took any notice of what I said in my defense. I was sentenced to six years in prison. During that time, I became ill and was placed in the prison hospital dormitory with about 40 other women. After seeing all those extremely unhappy people, I began to panic. I ran to the door and struck it with my fists.

“What do you want?” the guard asked.

“I must get out of here,” I shouted. “Put me in solitary if you have to, but just get me out of here!” Of course, he ignored my plea. Shortly thereafter, I noticed a woman who was different from the others. Her eyes reflected an inner tranquillity. So I sat beside her.

“If you sit near me, you had better be careful,” she said, much to my surprise. Then she added, “Others think I am the worst person in the room because I am one of Jehovah’s Witnesses.”

At the time, I did not know that Jehovah’s Witnesses were viewed as enemies of the Communist State. But what I did know about them was that two Bible Students (as the Witnesses were formerly called) had visited Father regularly when I was a child. In fact, I recalled Father saying, “The Bible Students are right!”

I wept with relief to meet this dear woman, whose name was Berta Brüggemeier. “Please, tell me about Jehovah,” I said. From then on, we spent a lot of time together and often discussed the Bible. Among other things, I learned that the true God, Jehovah, is a God of love, justice, and peace. I also learned that he will undo all the harm caused by wicked and tyrannical humans. “Just a little while longer, and the wicked one will be no more . . . But the meek ones themselves will possess the earth, and they will indeed find their exquisite delight in the abundance of peace,” says Psalm 37:10, 11.

My Release and Flight to the West

I was released in 1956, having spent just over five years in prison. Five days after my release, I fled the GDR to live in West Germany. By then I had two daughters, Hannelore and Sabine, whom I took with me. There, my husband and I got divorced and I met up with the Witnesses again. As I studied the Bible, I realized that I had to make a number of changes in order to align my life with Jehovah's standards. I made these changes and got baptized in 1958.

Later, I remarried, this time to one of Jehovah's Witnesses—Klaus Menne. Klaus and I had a wonderful marriage and had two children together, Benjamin and Tabia. Tragically, Klaus died about 20 years ago in an accident, and I have been a widow ever since. But I take much comfort in the hope of the resurrection, knowing that the dead will be raised to life in Paradise on earth. (Luke 23:43; Acts 24:15) I am also greatly comforted by the knowledge that my four children all serve Jehovah.

Thanks to my study of the Bible, I have learned that only Jehovah can provide true justice. Unlike humans, he takes account of all of our circumstances, as well as our background—details that are often hidden from the eyes of others. This precious knowledge has given me peace even now, especially when I see or experience injustice. Says Ecclesiastes 5:8: “If in some province you witness the oppression of the poor and the denial of right and justice, do not be surprised at what goes on, for every official has a higher one set over him, and the highest keeps watch over them all.” (*The Revised English Bible*) “The highest,” of course, is our Creator. “All things are naked and openly exposed to the eyes of him with whom we have an accounting,” says Hebrews 4:13.

Looking Back Over Nearly 90 Years

People sometimes ask me what it was like living under both Nazi and Communist rule.

Life under neither was easy. And both forms of government, as with all forms of human government, simply confirmed that humans cannot govern themselves. The Bible frankly and truthfully says: “Man has dominated man to his injury.”—Ecclesiastes 8:9.

When I was young and naive, I looked to humans for rulership that was just. Now I know better. Only our Creator can bring about a truly just world, and he will do so by getting rid of all the wicked and putting the rulership of the earth into the hands of his Son, Jesus Christ, who always put the interests of others ahead of his own. Concerning Jesus, the Bible says: “You loved righteousness, and you hated lawlessness.” (Hebrews 1:9) I am so thankful that God drew me to this wonderful and just King, under whose rulership I hope to live forever!



◀ **With my daughters Hannelore and Sabine after we arrived in West Germany**

Today, with my son, Benjamin, and his wife, Sandra



DENGUE

A GROWING MENACE

"The Health Services of Morelos . . . , in coordination with the Board of Health of the Emiliano Zapata Town Council, grant the present precertificate to the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses . . . for [the Witnesses'] teamwork in achieving clean spaces free of breeding grounds for dengue-bearing mosquitoes."



Source: Courtesy Marcos Teixeira de Freitas

AUTHORITIES in Mexico have good reason to be concerned about disease-bearing mosquitoes. The pesky little insects can transmit a dangerous virus that causes dengue, a potentially life-threatening disease that afflicted over 57,000 people in Mexico in 2010. Mexico is just one of more than 100 countries where dengue is now endemic. In fact, the World Health Organization (WHO) currently estimates that there may be 50 million cases of dengue worldwide every year and that about two fifths of the world's population are at risk of contracting the disease. Accordingly, health authorities have initiated programs to eradicate the white-spotted *Aedes aegypti* mosquito, one of the insects that transmits the dengue virus.*

Dengue is most prevalent in tropical and subtropical climates, especially during the rainy season and after a natural disaster such as a hurricane or flooding. This is because the female *Aedes* mosquito lays its eggs wherever it can find standing water.[#] Since people throughout Latin America and the Caribbean collect and store household water in con-

crete tanks, health experts urge them to keep their tanks covered. This prevents the tanks from becoming breeding grounds for mosquitoes. People also restrict the spread of these mosquitoes when they keep their yard clean of old tires, cans, flowerpots, plastic containers—anything that might hold stagnant water.

Identifying and Coping With Dengue

Dengue is commonly misdiagnosed because of its flulike symptoms. But according to WHO, you should suspect dengue whenever a fever is accompanied by skin rashes, pain behind the eyes, and pain in the muscles as well as severe joint pains, which is the reason why it is called breakbone fever. The fever lasts from five to seven days.

Doctors do not yet have a cure for dengue, but in most cases it can be treated at home with rest and plenty of fluids. Patients, however, need to be closely monitored in case dengue hemorrhagic fever or dengue shock syndrome develops. These potentially deadly complications can occur after the initial fever subsides and the patient appears to be recovering. What are some of the symptoms of these more serious conditions? Severe abdominal pain, persistent vomiting, nosebleeds and bleeding gums, black stools,

* In some lands, other mosquitoes, such as the *Aedes albopictus*, may also carry the dengue virus.

[#] *Aedes* mosquitoes usually travel no more than a few hundred yards from where they hatch.

and reddish-purple blisters under the skin. Additionally, symptoms of dengue shock syndrome may include restlessness, excessive thirst, pale and cold skin, and very low blood pressure.

Sadly, antibiotics are ineffective in treating dengue because it is a viral infection and not bacterial. Also, a patient is wise to avoid anti-inflammatory medications, such as aspirin and ibuprofen, as they can increase the risk of bleeding. There are four strains of dengue virus, and it is possible to get dengue more than once.

If you contract dengue, get plenty of rest and drink lots of fluids. Also, remain under a mosquito net as much as possible to prevent mosquitoes from biting you and transmitting the disease to others.

How can you limit exposure to mosquitoes in the first place? Wear long sleeves, long pants or long dresses, and use mosquito repellents. Although mosquitoes can bite at any time of the day, they are most active about two hours after sunrise and before sunset.

Check for Breeding Sites

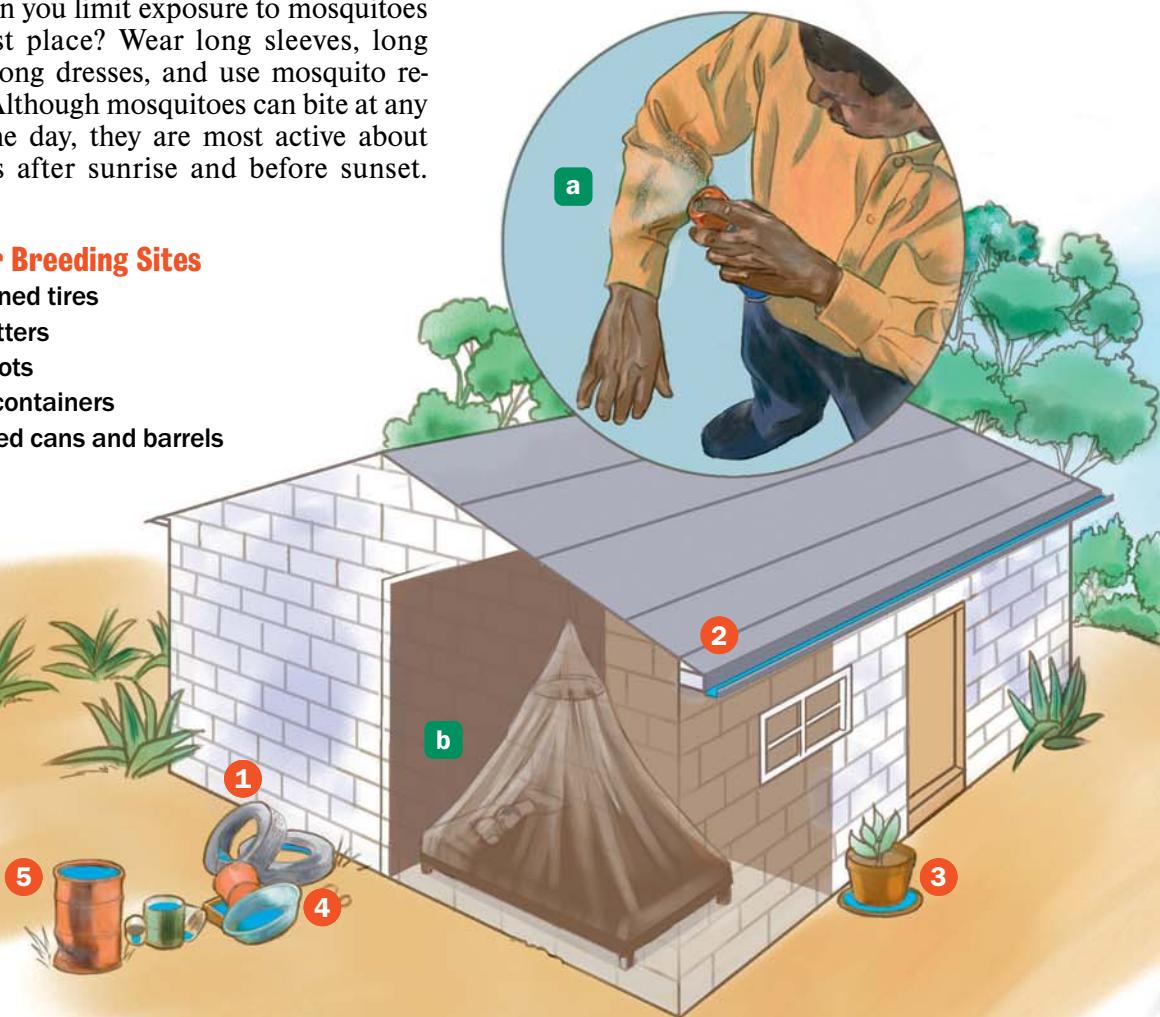
1. Abandoned tires
2. Rain gutters
3. Flowerpots
4. Plastic containers
5. Discarded cans and barrels

Also, sleeping under a mosquito net that has been covered with insect repellent can offer you protection.

Time will tell whether vaccines can provide any relief from dengue. Ultimately, though, God's Kingdom will eradicate all ailments, including this fever. Indeed, the time will come when God "will wipe out every tear from their eyes, and death will be no more, neither will mourning nor outcry nor pain be anymore. The former things have passed away."—Revelation 21:3, 4.

Limit Exposure to Mosquito Bites

- a. Wear long sleeves, long pants, or long dresses. Use mosquito repellent
- b. Sleep under a mosquito net



John Foxe

AND HIS TURBULENT TIMES

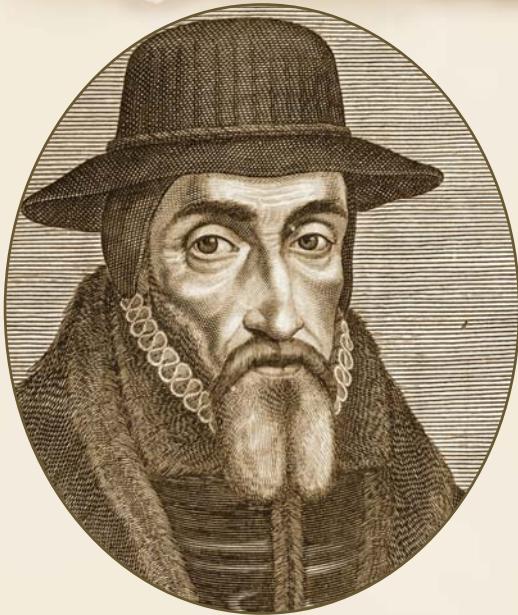
FOES mankind learn from the past, or are history's lessons wasted on us? Think about that question as you consider the life of John Foxe, an Englishman who took to the pen in hopes that his readers would repudiate the unspeakable cruelties that plagued his time.

John Foxe's accounts, recorded during the Reformation, did indeed have a powerful influence on the people of England for centuries. His book, entitled *Acts and Monuments of the Church*, took more than 25 years to complete. And it is said by some to be second only to the vernacular Bible as a formative influence on the English language and culture.

Turbulent Years

John Foxe was born in Boston, England, in 1516 or 1517, about the same time that, as tradition has it, Martin Luther nailed his 95 theses, or protests, to a church door in Wittenberg, Germany. So Foxe, a Roman Catholic by birth, came on the scene as Reformers were challenging the authority and teachings of the Catholic Church.

Foxe enrolled at Oxford University, and his studies included Greek and Hebrew, which enabled him to read the Bible in its original languages. Evidently, his Catholic beliefs suffered as a result. In fact, his colleagues began to think he might be embracing Protestantism—a suspicion that they divulged to the heads of the college. Thereafter, Foxe was closely watched.



After being awarded his master's degree in 1543, Foxe was in line to be ordained as a priest. But he refused the ordination because he disagreed with enforced celibacy. This stand brought things to a head. Under suspicion of heresy—which, if proved, could have meant death—he resigned from the university in 1545. Abandoning a promising academic career, Foxe became a tutor for a family near Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire, where he married a woman named Agnes Randall.

A citizen of nearby Coventry, Agnes told Foxe about a widow named Smith (or Smythe) who had taught her children the Ten Commandments and Jesus' model prayer, often called the Lord's Prayer. Instead of teaching her children in Latin though, she taught them in English. For this "crime" she was burned at the stake, along with six men who were similarly charged. Because this gross injustice angered the people, the local bishop spread the word that the victims were burned for the "greater crime" of eating meat on Fridays and other fast days.

How had the martyrs become familiar with portions of the Bible in English? Some 150

years earlier, despite church opposition, the Bible had been translated from Latin into English by John Wycliffe, who also trained itinerant preachers known as Lollards.* These carried handwritten portions of Scripture, which they read to the people. As a result, Parliament tried to stop that activity. In 1401, it passed a statute giving bishops the power to imprison and torture heretics and burn them at the stake.

Fearing arrest, Foxe moved with his family to London, where he later took a stand for the Protestant cause. There he translated tracts from German Reformers into English and translated other tracts written in Latin as well. He also wrote some tracts of his own.

Additionally, Foxe began to compile a history of the Lollards in England, completing it in 1554. The work was published in Strasbourg, today a city in France, as a small Latin

* See the article "The Lollards, Courageous Bible Preachers," in the August 1, 1980, issue of *The Watchtower*.

volume of 212 leaves. In effect, this was the first of his *Acts and Monuments of the Church*. Five years later, he enlarged the volume to over 750 folio pages.

The Deadly Fruits of Intolerance

The Reformation in Europe saw thousands of men, women, and children slaughtered. In England, in 1553, an ardent Catholic who came to be known as Bloody Mary was crowned. Since the English Parliament had severed all connection with Rome in 1534, she was determined to bring England back under papal authority. During Mary's five-year reign, some 300 men and women, including Protestant church leaders, were burned as heretics. Many others died in prison.

Foxe survived this era because he took his family to Basel, Switzerland, soon after Mary's enthronement. In 1559, one year after Mary's Protestant sister Elizabeth was crowned queen, he returned to England, along with other exiles. That same year,

John Wycliffe sent out itinerant preachers known as Lollards



From the book *The Church of England: A History for the People*, 1905, Vol. II.

Elizabeth reinstated the Act of Supremacy*, which made her the Supreme Governor of the Church. In response, Pope Pius V excommunicated Elizabeth in 1570. Soon, international conspiracies against England were uncovered, including schemes to assassinate the Protestant queen. As a result, hundreds of Catholics were charged with treason and killed on Elizabeth's orders.

* *The Leading Facts of English History*, by D. H. Montgomery, states that in 1534, Parliament passed the Act of Supremacy, "which declared Henry to be without reservation the sole head of the Church, making denial thereof high treason. As he signed the act, the King with one stroke of his pen overturned the traditions of a thousand years, and England stood boldly forth with a National Church independent of the Pope."

How far the churches of Christendom—Catholic and Protestant—had strayed from the teachings of Jesus Christ! "Continue to love your enemies and to pray for those persecuting you," he taught. (Matthew 5:44) Because both Catholics and Protestants disregarded this very clear directive, they brought much reproach on Christianity—a development foretold in the Bible. "The way of the truth will be spoken of abusively" on account of pretenders to Christianity, wrote the apostle Peter.—2 Peter 2:1, 2.

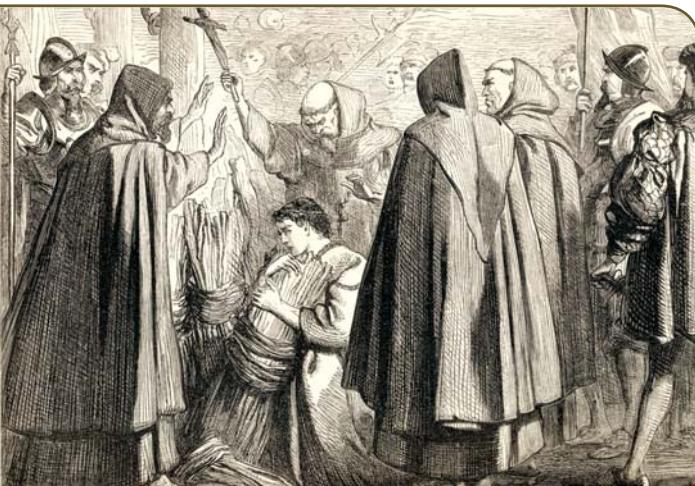
Foxe Completes His Work

Back in England, Foxe embarked on an enlarged edition of his account, details of which may have been witnessed in person by some of his readers. His first English edition—with some 1,800 pages and a number of woodcut illustrations—appeared in 1563 and became an immediate best seller.

The second edition followed seven years later. Its two volumes had over 2,300 pages and 153 illustrations. The following year, the Church of England decreed that a copy of Foxe's book be installed alongside the Bible in all English cathedrals and in the homes of church dignitaries for the benefit of servants and visitors. Parish churches soon followed this example. Even the illiterate could benefit, thanks to the illustrations, which made a deep and lasting impression.

By this time, Foxe had joined the Puritans, Protestants who felt that mere separation from the church of Rome was not enough. They taught that every vestige of Catholicism had to be removed—a stance that, ironically, brought them into conflict with the Protestant Church in England, which retained many Catholic customs and doctrines.

Because his work exposed many of the religious atrocities that took place in his turbulent times, John Foxe shaped the way people viewed religion and politics in England for centuries to come.



FOXE'S BOOK OF MARTYRS

As the Catholic Church continued to fight the Reformation, martyrologists in Europe, such as Jean Crespin, compiled details of persecution and martyrdom in their countries.* As a result, Foxe's *Acts and Monuments of the Church* was dubbed Foxe's *Book of Martyrs*. Later, as revised and abridged editions appeared, the unofficial title superseded the one chosen by Foxe.

* See the article "Jean Crespin's Book of Martyrs" in the March 2011 issue of this magazine.

Natural Disasters of 2010

A leading insurance company recorded 950 natural catastrophes worldwide in 2010, exceeding the last decade's average of 785 events per year. The five worst disasters were earthquakes in Chile, China, and Haiti; floods that inundated Pakistan; and a heat wave in Russia, where tens of thousands died from the effects of heat and air pollution. Over northern Europe, ash from an Icelandic volcano caused little direct damage but nearly paralyzed air traffic. In Australia two severe hailstorms caused in excess of \$2 billion (U.S.) of damage. "Total economic losses, including losses not covered by insurance," says *The Telegraph* of London, "rose to \$130 billion from last year's \$50 billion."

Were Neanderthals Like Us?

"The long-held view that Neanderthals were inferior to *Homo sapiens* is changing as, one by one, capabilities thought unique to us have been linked to them," says *New Scientist*. Recent discoveries indicate that Neanderthals built shelters and hearths, controlled fire, wore clothes, cooked food, made tools, and created glue to attach spear points to their shafts. There is also evidence that they cared for sick individuals, wore symbolic ornaments, and buried their dead. According to Erik Trinkaus, professor of physical anthropology at Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri, U.S.A., "Neanderthals were people, and they probably had the same range of mental abilities we do."



In Germany, 7 out of 10 babies already have an online presence. Parents create profiles and e-mail addresses for them or post their photos or ultrasound images. Experts advise caution, however, as online photos can accompany a child for life.—*BABY UND FAMILIE, GERMANY*.

According to government statistics, **every year in Russia 14,000 women die as a result of domestic violence.**—*RIA NOVOSTI, RUSSIA*.

Snow falling on Mount Everest at altitudes of 22,500 feet (6,858 m) to 25,432 feet (7,752 m) **contains levels of arsenic and cadmium considered dangerous for drinking water.** Man-made pollution is thought to be to blame.—*SOIL SURVEY HORIZONS, U.S.A.*

The only company authorized to print Bibles in China recently produced its 80-millionth copy. The company produces 1 million Bibles per month—a quarter of all those currently being printed worldwide.—*XINHUA, CHINA*.

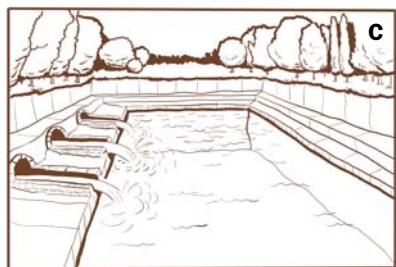
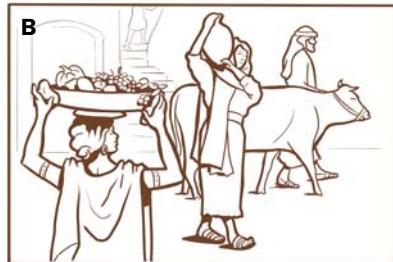
"Slightly more than 10 percent of American adults (10.1 percent) have left the Catholic church after having been raised Catholic."—*NATIONAL CATHOLIC REPORTER, U.S.A.*

Match the Pictures to the Text



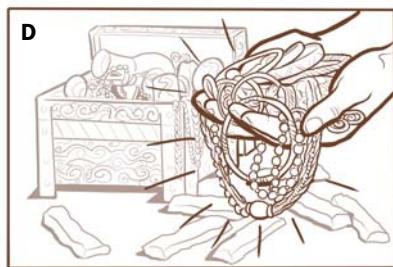
A

1. Verse 3



C

3. Verse 5



4. Verse 6



E

6. Verse 8



● “FOR FAMILY REVIEW”
answers on page 15

FOR DISCUSSION: Was Solomon truly happy with the things he accomplished *for himself*?

CLUE: Read Ecclesiastes 2:11. What does “vanity and a striving after wind” mean? What activities will truly make you happy? **CLUE:** Read Luke 6:38; Acts 20:35.

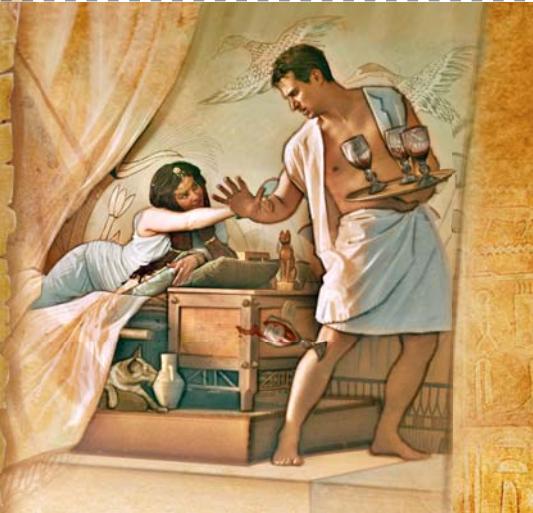
FAMILY ACTIVITY: Read Ecclesiastes 3:1-8. Have each family member write out one of the activities listed in these verses on a separate slip of paper. Place the papers in a box. Then each person should select one paper and, without speaking, act out that activity. See if your family can identify the correct activity.

Collect and Learn

JOSEPH

BIBLE CARD

11



QUESTIONS

- Fill in the blanks. Joseph's half brothers called him "that ___," and sold him into slavery for ___ silver pieces.
- When pressured by Potiphar's wife to have sex, Joseph firmly replied, "How could I commit this great badness and . . ."
- Why did Pharaoh make Joseph the second ruler in Egypt?

98 C.E.
Last Bible book written

1 C.E.

Lived circa
1700's B.C.E.

4026 B.C.E.
Adam created

Cut out, fold in half, and save



JOSEPH

PROFILE The firstborn son of Jacob and Rachel. (Genesis 35:24) His jealous half brothers sold him into slavery in Egypt, where he spent about 13 years as a slave or prisoner. Instead of taking vengeance, Joseph forgave his repentant half brothers. (Genesis 50:15-21) Though far from home, he honored Jehovah and remained chaste, hardworking, and trustworthy.—Genesis 39:1-23.

ANSWERS

- Dreamer, 20.—Genesis 37:19, 28.
- "... actually sin against God?"—Genesis 39:9.
- He knew that God's spirit made Joseph wise and discreet.—Genesis 41:38-41.

Peoples and Lands

- My name is Anietie. I am seven years old, and I live in Nigeria. About how many of Jehovah's Witnesses live in Nigeria? Is it 190,000, 290,000, or 390,000?
- Which dot shows where I live? Circle it, draw a dot where you live, and see how close you are to Nigeria.



Children's Picture Search

Can you find these pictures in this issue? In your own words, describe what is happening in each picture.





His Grandfather Had Just Died

● “I am not one of Jehovah’s Witnesses,” a man wrote to the Mexico branch office of Jehovah’s Witnesses, “but I find your magazines very interesting. One of them mentioned the brochure *When Someone You Love Dies*. This caught my attention. It so happens that my grandfather has just died. I would like eight of these brochures to distribute to my family to comfort them.”

The brochure *When Someone You Love Dies* contains answers to such questions as:

How can I live with my grief? And what hope is there for those who have died? It presents the Bible’s explanation of both what death is and what the Bible says about the condition of the dead. It also discusses God’s promise, through Jesus Christ, of a resurrection to life on a cleansed paradise earth.

You may request a copy by filling in the accompanying coupon and mailing it to an appropriate address on page 5 of this magazine.

Without obligation,
I request a copy of the
brochure shown here.

Indicate which language.

Please contact me
concerning a free home
Bible study.



Name

Address

City

Province/State Postal/ZIP Code