

**The Forbidden Secret
Part One – Evolution?
Chapter 3 –
Origin of the Universe**

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(New Zealand)

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Article by Richard Frates
Comments by Laura Lee
(Bismarck, North Dakota)

IRON SHARPENING IRON 18

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Contributors: BibleStudy.org, Brenda Branson, Jeffrey Caldwell, Curtis Dahlgren, Jonathan Gray, Laura Lee, Erick Odhiambo

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1Co 14:26 How is it then, brethren, when ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying.

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Chapter 3 – Origin of the Universe
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How did information evolve? - ORIGIN OF THE UNIVERSE

“Keep it up, boy!” Little Jamie bent down again and tugged on his shoelaces. He pulled and pulled until he was out of breath.

“Why can’t I pull myself off the ground?” he cried in frustration.

Well, you know the answer to that. If you pull up on your bootstraps for ten trillion years you still won’t lift yourself off the ground. The law of gravity stops you.

So here were two questions niggling at my mind:

1. Firstly, were the Laws of the Conservation of Energy and of Matter **suspended** long enough for Empty Space to give birth to a rock?

2. Secondly, would the rock get wet (for no reason), and then give birth to an amoeba?

Er, yeah... sure it would, if you sort of screwed up your eyes and crossed your fingers!?

No one disputes that the origin of the universe involved physical matter **appearing from nothing**. Yet there is no scientific mechanism that could have caused it to occur.

But physical matter has appeared. Because we are here!

Pure lottery. What if a billion, billion, billion black balls were mixed together with one white ball, and I had to reach, blindfolded, and pick out the white one? What if my life depended on it? Pick out that white one or be killed.

If I reached, blindfolded into those zillions of black balls and discovered I had pulled out the one and only white ball... yes, I would rightly suspect that the whole thing was rigged.

I pulled it out by pure accident. What do you think? Wouldn't you call me nuts if I told you I picked it first time by chance!

Origin of life

But that's not all. What about the odds of **life** happening? Mathematically, it was simply impossible. When you consider the **hundreds** of factors required to produce life or even a planet capable of sustaining life as we know it – factors as diverse as the decay rates of elements and the distance of a planet's orbit to its sun – and multiply them by the scientific and mathematical odds of those factors being right, it just doesn't work. **We shouldn't be here.**

That brings to mind something that Sir Fred Hoyle said. That honored British astronomer calculated that the odds of only **one** factor necessary for life coming together by chance – the enzymes needed to perform the chemical functions needed to produce the most simple living creature – were one in $10^{40,000}$. That's mathematical shorthand for 10 followed by 40,000 zeros, enough to fill 20 pages of this book...000000000000 and so on.

(For perspective, mathematicians consider any probability of less than one in 10^{50} to be impossible.)

1. Did DNA just evolve?

Now just consider the **origin** of one living cell.

What were the odds of **the first simple cell** forming? Just ask a statistician.

Produce a simple cell by chance? You are living in a dream world, he'll reply. Do you know what you're asking?

Even the simplest cell you can conceive of would require no less than 100,000 DNA base pairs and a minimum of about 10,000 amino acids, to form the essential protein chain. Not to mention the other things that would also be necessary for the first cell.

Bear in mind that **every** single base pair in the DNA chain has to have the same molecular orientation ("left-hand" or "right hand")? As well as that, virtually **all** the amino acids must have the opposite orientation. And **every one** must be without error. Every single one of the ten thousand.

Now, to randomly obtain those correct orientations, do you know your chances? It would be 1 chance in $2^{110,000}$, or 1 chance in $10^{33,113}$!

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To put it another way, if you attempted a trillion, trillion, trillion combinations every second for 15 billion years, the odds you would achieve all the correct orientations would still only be one chance in a trillion, trillion, trillion, trillion ... and the trillions would continue 2755 times!

It would be like winning more than 4700 state lotteries in a row with only a single ticket purchased for each. In other words...**impossible**. Would you please read that over again carefully and think about it?

2. How is ‘life’ added?

But to orientate the molecules correctly is **just one** of the hurdles to be overcome for life to appear randomly.

Here’s another: **How do you add ‘life’** to non-living matter?

And that’s only for the first, simplest cell. You still have the problem of the developing of more than 1.7 million highly complex species.... With even greater odds against it happening. As a statistician will assure you, random evolution is utterly impossible.

At school we were taught about the “simple cell”... Oh go on!... we have now discovered it to be more complex than New York’s vast transportation network at rush hour. To appear accidentally was **a mathematical absurdity**.

We’ve already noted this, but a brief review is in order here.

The DNA *machinery* inside each cell had to be totally **100 percent intact** with all its interlocking, working parts, **before one living cell** could even exist.

Fascinating, you might say. But just wait till its implications hit you...

Firstly, DNA comes in **intelligently designed sentences**. It is not LIKE a language. It IS a language. Much thought has gone into the design of the DNA code.

Secondly, this molecular machine has the **ability to make functional copies of itself**. And to do this it would **have** to be extremely complex.

Thirdly, the DNA molecule which tells every part of the cell “city” which different job to do, is the most complex storage system in the known universe.

Fourthly, in every cell, microscopic-sized factories endlessly retrieve, process and store food. And highly efficient power plants burn the food to produce and store energy – all without over-heating the delicate temperature-sensitive machinery.

3. How did the first information evolve?

Each of these things needs to receive information on how to do its job. That’s a gigantic hurdle...

information.

How did genetic information evolve? And where did it come from, in the first place? From dead matter? That was the very question that would finally stump me.

I ask you, how on earth could this complex coded information evolve, **instantly perfect**? Do you have the answer to that?

A world leader in the field of “information science” was Dr Werner Gitt, a director and professor at the German Federal Institute of Physics and Technology. According to Dr Gitt, science makes one fact absolutely certain: information cannot emerge from disorder by chance. It **always takes a greater source** of information

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to produce information. And ultimately, information is the result of intelligence. (“How Would You Answer?” <www.answersingenesis.org/docs/3270.asp#r16>, March 13, 2003)

A code system is always the result of a mental process (it requires an intelligent origin or inventor)... It should be emphasized that matter as such is unable to generate any code. All experiences indicate that a **thinking being** voluntarily exercising his own free will, cognition, and creativity, is required. (Werner Gitt, *In the Beginning Was Information*. Bielenfeld, Germany: Christliche Literatur-Verbreitung, pp. 64-67. Emphasis mine)

There is no known natural law through which matter can give rise to information, neither is any physical process or material phenomenon known that can do this. (*Ibid.*, p. 79)

Bad news for evolution?

As if that wasn't enough... Just factor this in. Simultaneously, you would need a totally functional system able and ready to **write, read and use** that information. In other words,

- the writing mechanism,
- the reading mechanism, and
- the mechanism to use it,

these **must all be present at the same very first moment** that the information appears. If one of these components is missing, the whole system will fail to work. Here was a case of “irreducible complexity”.

Could this just happen? Could mere chemicals just on their own change into living systems? Not a snowflake's chance.

How much information?

Do you have any idea as to how much information is continuously programming, constructing and reproducing your body?

For starters, your body contains 75 trillion or more cells. Just suppose that you could stretch out and join up all the DNA in those cells end to end, do you know how far that would reach? Get this: 94 billion (not million, but billion) miles. Or 150 billion kilometers. That's a thousand times the distance from the earth to the sun. Or 3½ million times around our earth's equator! It would take a beam of light 5½ days to travel that far.

Does that make your head spin? If all the DNA in just your body was placed end to end, that's how far it would reach! No kidding. Read the last paragraph again.

Okay, then, what is the probability of **just one – just one – just one – of those DNA molecules** forming by chance? The late astrophysicist Sir Fred Hoyle put it this way:

Now imagine 10^{50} blind persons [that's 100,000 billion billion billion billion billion people – standing shoulder to shoulder, they would more than fill our entire solar system] each with a scrambled Rubik cube and try to conceive of the chance of them all simultaneously arriving at the solved form. You then have the chance of arriving by random shuffling [random variation] at just one of the many biopolymers on which life depends. The notion that not only the biopolymers but the operating program of a living cell could be arrived at by chance in a primordial soup here on Earth is evidently nonsense of a high order. (Fred Hoyle, “The Big Bang in Astronomy,” *New Scientist*, vol. 92, no. 1280, November 19, 1981, p. 527)

It has been estimated that the 3 billion letters of information in just one human cell of DNA are equivalent to 1,000 encyclopedia-sized books of information. (“Human/Chimp DNA Similarity,” <www.answersingenesis.org/docs/2453.asp#f6>, March 13, 2003)

Optimum design perfection

Oh, something else. The DNA code for information storage and translation contains the ideal number of genetic letters.

This threw me. You see, the copying mechanism of DNA, to meet maximum effectiveness, requires the number of letters in each word to be an **even number**. Of all possible mathematical combinations, the ideal number for storage and transcription has been calculated to be **four** letters.

And this is exactly what has been found in the genes of every living thing on earth – a four-letter digital code. “The coding system used for living human beings is **optimal from an engineering standpoint**. This suggests it is a case of purposeful design rather than a [lucky] chance.” (Dr Werner Gitt, *In the Beginning Was Information*, p. 95. Emphasis mine)

Here, then, is what I have found myself needing to face:

1. Scientists have **never** observed chemicals forming themselves into complex DNA molecules.
2. Life **cannot** arise spontaneously from non-life.
3. The simplest living organisms show **irreducible complexity**.
4. DNA molecules **do not** produce new genetic information. They only reproduce it.

The bottom line is this: There are **no natural processes** that could account for it... **no scientific mechanism** that could have caused it to occur.

Sorry, skeptics. That leaves you and me with only one rational alternative... that **the first life** must have been designed, then created.

1. Such organisms were **fully formed from the first moment** they appeared.
2. The first life must have been **programmed**, like a computer chip, with the original code (or life-information) loaded into it by the designer.

So, life was **deliberately created**?

Well, then, after life was created, did evolution follow? Did an original living organism evolve upward into the many varieties we have today?

Let’s investigate...

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The Forbidden Secret **Part One – Evolution?** **Chapter 4 – Mutations**

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Mutations, natural selection, and variations - MAKING EVOLUTION POSSIBLE?

Jack’s business was selling raincoats. He bought them for \$69, then sold them for \$62.50

“If I sell enough of them, I’ll be able to upgrade to a new car,” he said.

What was wrong with Jack’s plan? Of course you know! A business can’t make money by losing a little at a time.

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And what has this to do with our subject? You’ll see...

The thought arises, perhaps DNA **was** created, but then after that evolution took over?

How? By mutations, dummy! Isn’t that what we were taught in school?

Mutations do not add information needed for evolution

Okay, stop right there. Mutations? What are they, anyway? If you didn’t know, mutations are genetic **copying mistakes!**

Mistakes? That’s right. Copying mistakes. Now, please help me here, if I’m missing something. Do you honestly think that **mistakes** would **produce** the intelligent **organized information** required for evolution?

You want it straight? There’s no need to guess. There is **observational evidence**. And it says **no**.

OBSERVED FACT ABOUT MUTATIONS: In every case known to science, there has been a **loss of genetic information**.

Wake up, Suzie! We now know that DNA molecules **do not produce** new genetic information. They only **reproduce** it.

Confirmed? Yes. As Dr Lee Spetner, a former biophysicist and professor, information theory specialist, at John Hopkins University, reveals:

All point mutations that have been studied on the molecular level turn out to reduce the genetic information and not to increase it. (Lee Spetner, *Not by Chance*. Brooklyn, NY.: The Judaica Press Inc., 1997, p. 138)

Information cannot be built up by mutations that lose it. A business **can’t make money by losing a little at a time**. (*Ibid.*, p. 143. Emphasis added)

Well, who could argue with that?

Inherited back-up template can correct mutations

As I was mulling over this, there came the shocking news of a discovery made by plant scientists at Purdue University.

Well, what had the scientists discovered? It was a plant containing a template – that is, a master genetic blueprint – that **can correct defective genes inherited from its parents**.

What!

Yes, it’s true. They examined the offspring of two mutant plants which had a malfunctioning gene. And they found that 10 percent of their offspring don’t have this malformation but rather are like the normal (non-mutant) grandparents. As *New York Times* science reporter Nicholas Wade announced:

The discovery also raises interesting biological questions – including whether it gets in the way of evolution, which depends on mutations changing an organism rather than being put right by a backup system.... The finding poses a puzzle for evolutionary theory because it corrects mutations which evolution depends on as generators of novelty [new features]. (“Startling Scientists, Plant Fixes Its Flawed Genes,” *New York Times*, March 23, 2005)

Even Robert Pruitt, the discoverer of the phenomenon, was puzzled. As he admitted:

This challenges everything we believe...

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It seems that these [mutant gene]-containing plants keep a cryptic copy of everything that was in the previous generation, even though it doesn't show up in the DNA, it's not in the chromosome. Some other type of gene sequence information that we don't really understand yet is modifying the inherited traits. (Quoted by Susan Steeves, “Plants Defy Mendel's Inheritance Laws, May Prompt Textbook Changes”, *Purdue News Services*)

Scientists do not yet know how many living organisms contain this master back-up copy. But the search has begun.

I can tell you this. One will be hard pressed to explain how such a mechanism could have been created in a Darwinian step-by-step fashion – and inherited not from parents, but from grandparents or distant ancestors!

We noted earlier that there is a complex mechanism within the DNA of every cell that corrects mutations. Remember the flies that lost eyes and got them back again after several generations?

Mutation only within the species

And, in any case, when a mutation occurs, the change is still within the DNA of the species. The change is *within* the basic type of organism, **not transferred from one basic type into another.**

If half developed: no survival value

You know as well as I. Of the many thousands of living things, **every one** is today **perfectly designed** for its environment. There is a happy state of dependability and workability throughout nature. And it is persistently so.

Does anyone want to quibble over that? So, do you mind me asking, if evolution is occurring now, where is it? I've looked high and low. There should be thousands of partly evolved features. There are none! Not one life form has a half developed organ, or an organ superfluous to its needs. Nothing is unfitted, or out of place.

Instead, what do we see? Thousands of amazing creatures doing highly specialized jobs that **demonstrate intelligence** – which they **don't have**. Not only that, they also possess highly specialized organs which are vital to their survival – organs which could **not** possibly be the outcome of long and gradual ‘chance mutations’.

Common sense tells us that these millions of ‘specialized organs’ are so highly complex that to be useful and functional, every one of their interlocking parts had to **all** come into existence at once.

You don't need to be smart to realize that numerous precision components **had to work perfectly from the very start** of any organism's existence. No process of gradual change from generation to generation could ever create any apparatus with all its **inter-dependent working parts.**

Not until the **entire** mechanism was complete would the arrangement have any practical value to an animal or plant. Meanwhile, mutations which led to the useless intermediate stages, having **no survival value**, would be **removed** by the so-called “natural selection” process. And the final, complete mechanism would never have been able to appear.

We've already referred to the term “**irreducible complexity**” – which means that systems needed to appear in an organism already **complete** if they were to function at all.

When you think about it, there's nothing really simple. Even the simple mousetrap is a combination of several different things – a block of wood, the spring latch and the hammer. If one is missing, the mousetrap is useless.

Evolution theory would require that each element of the mousetrap developed on its own, separately. But how could that make sense? Because the trap wouldn't work **without all** three parts there at the **start.**

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Have you ever studied the human **eye**? It's not simple like that mousetrap. The eye is made up of **millions of parts** – the pupil, lens, muscles, optic nerve, and millions of rods and cones. All parts were needed at once. So how did that come about? Could evolution answer this? Yeah. And pigs will fly.

To design something like an eye you'd need a clever-minded engineer.

Again, Michael Behe, a biochemist at Pennsylvania's Lehigh University, explained that information is primarily an **instruction manual**:

Consider a step-by-step list of [genetic] instructions. A mutation is a change in **one** of the lines of instructions. So instead of saying, 'Take a ¼ inch nut,' a mutation might say, 'Take a 3/8 inch nut.' Or instead of 'Place the round peg in the round hole,' we might get 'Place the round peg in the square hole'... What a mutation **cannot** do is change all the instructions in one step – say, [providing instructions] to build a fax machine instead of a radio. (Michael Behe, *Darwin's Black Box*, 1996, p. 41)

What about “punctuated equilibrium”?

The theory goes like this. Perhaps the major evolutionary changes occurred quite rapidly, while the population levels were low. So, the gaps might be due to such periods of 'explosive evolution', which occurred so rapidly they left no trace in the fossils.

In other words, extremely fast evolution occurred in small, isolated communities. So, it was NOT recorded in the fossil strata.

In that case, evidence should not even be expected. Um, okay.

Great theory. But evidence? Can't find a shred of physical evidence for it. Frankly, it's an argument from silence. You just have to trust it by faith.

You are probably going to tell me that a theory which predicts it will have no evidence hardly qualifies as a scientific theory. And I must agree with you.

Punctuated equilibrium doesn't even have a mechanism. Even the promoters themselves admit that.

You mean experiments have not been able to show any means by which evolutionary jumps can occur? Not one.

So, it's **not scientific observation**. We're asked to believe that evolution occurs so slowly today that we cannot detect it, and so rapidly in the past that we cannot detect it!

Then I came upon a copy of *Science News*. The report mentioned how the AIDS virus was shown to mutate up to a million times faster than the DNA for other organisms. So, in one year the virus went through the equivalent of 1 million years of mutation at the usual rate. (*Science News*, June 28, 1986, p. 410)

Great! Here's a good way to test the “punctuated equilibrium” theory. Here's an example of what would actually happen if very fast development **did** occur in a small, isolated community, as some have suggested.

Hopefully this helps the theory? Oh, bother! Even with the mutation process speeded up a million times, the AIDS virus only 'evolved' into another form of AIDS virus and nothing else. (*Ibid.*)

Now you know. This observed evidence actually **refutes** the idea of **punctuated equilibrium**.

Darn it! Fossil evidence shows the same for other creatures that experience numerous mutations in a short period. The first spiders mutated and selected into the forms they have today. They remain spiders. And the same with everything else.

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Here is no joy for “punctuated equilibrium” as a means of evolution. Punctuated equilibrium? That’s the kind of evolution you have when you don’t actually have any evolution!

Does that leave you with a kind of empty feeling inside?

My final question on punctuated equilibrium is this: Just how could these big jumps occur genetically? How could the **genetic code for fully functioning organs** suddenly appear out of nowhere?

What about natural selection?

We all know that variation exists among living forms. Variations are the result of what we call **natural selection**. What is natural selection? It is the process by which heritable traits are **selected from** the parent gene pool, that make it more likely for an organism to survive in a particular circumstance.

There’s an oft-recited myth that natural selection is “the mechanism by which evolution occurs.”

Why a myth? Because of...INFORMATION. Since information **cannot be added**, then at the very **start**, the parents must have possessed **enough variety of information** so their descendants could **select** what was needed to help them adapt to a wide variety of environments. For example, antibiotic resistance, or long beaks may become dominant features in generations that follow. But, bad luck... **the gene pool has been reduced**.

Why? Because it is a selecting of only **some** of the parents’ gene pool. Thus, the original information is thereby reduced, and **that is the opposite of evolution**.

But let facts get in the way? Never. This evolution theory has become an institution. (And some say that’s where it belongs.)

Variations = evolution? No!

In every case, the descendants, despite all their variations, continue to be of the same basic type. The DNA ensures that. All today’s dog breeds came from an original dog. And that original dog possessed all of the genetic information required to produce the varieties of dogs we now see. But all its descendants, no matter what their appearance, are still – every one of them – dogs. No amount of variation will mutate a dog into a horse, or anything else.

So, is **variation** evolution? Another disappointment. It’s not evolution, but adaptation.

What about when some varieties become extinct and others survive? Sorry, **extinction is not evolution**. The bottom line is that the information has been **reduced**. The gene pool has been **reduced**. And that is the **opposite of evolution**.

Total re-design needed

For one creature to change into the other (for example, a reptile into a winged bird) is not a modification, it is a **cancelling** of one perfect design and **starting** with another. And if only **part** of the new design system is complete, then the total organism will fail to function. In that single lifetime it would become extinct. **Inter-dependence** of every part – we cannot shrug this away.

Do similarities prove evolution?

But what about similar design of body parts shared by different creatures? Isn’t this a hint of a common evolutionary ancestor?

As an intelligent person, just think it through. Again, the answer is: OF COURSE NOT! Common sense tells us that similar parts more likely had **a common designer**. And an efficient design will be used constantly. If a wheel is useful for a motor car, a wheel will also be useful for a skateboard, or a bicycle. The skateboard did not beget the car.

Quick summary

DON'T VARIATIONS PROVE EVOLUTION? No. Whether mutations or natural selection, they only reduce the information to each new variety. They do not add information for upward evolution to occur.

DON'T SIMILARITIES PROVE EVOLUTION? No. Parts similarity only indicates an efficient design – and very likely a common designer.

In any case, for evolution to happen, you need two essentials:

1. a CODE to direct evolution, and
2. an ENABLING MECHANISM.

But neither of these has been discovered.

Theories... but not evidence

As you can see, there is no shortage of theories... nothing more than a bundle of changing guesses! Isn't there something wrong with a theory – any theory - if one needs to *invent unknown* and *never-seen* mechanisms to support it?

Okay then. But what about fossils? Don't we hear so often that they prove evolution?

Ah, that's a good question...

Why Did Noah Curse Canaan?

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What vile sin did Canaan perform on righteous Noah that earned him being cursed?

The curse took place sometime after the flood when Noah took up farming. After harvesting the grapes from his vineyard, he made wine and got drunk. His inebriated condition led him to remove all his clothes and take a nap on his tent floor (Genesis 9:20 - 21).

Ham, the youngest son who was at least 100 years old (see Genesis 5:32), then discovers his father Noah sleeping naked. He informs his two brothers who then discreetly cover him with a garment (Genesis 9:22 - 23).

The patriarch then awakes, discovers what had been done to him by Canaan, and curses him for what he did!

And Noah awoke from his wine and learned what his youngest grandson (Ham's son Canaan) had done to him. And he said, "Cursed be Canaan. He shall be a servant of servants to his brothers." (Genesis 9:24 - 25, HBFV throughout).

The Bible does not directly state what sin Canaan committed against Noah that earned him being cursed. It does offer, however, a few clues on what it might be.

Curse Clues

Genesis 5 reveals how old eight of the nine patriarchs before Noah were at the time their firstborn son came into the world (verses 6 - 31). The Bible then takes great pains to inform us the nine patriarchs, from Adam to Lamech, had many more sons and daughters after their firstborn.

Noah had three sons around the time he turned 500 (Genesis 5:32, 11:10). Unlike all the other patriarchs, however, it does not state he produced any more children. This seems especially odd as he would have had plenty of time to procreate as he lived another 350 years after the flood (Genesis 9:28)!

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Adding to the mystery of Noah's lack of a large family is the fact that both he and his sons were blessed by God after they left the ark. The Lord clearly wanted all four men to reproduce, not just Japheth, Shem, and Ham. The Eternal, in fact, underlined his desire to have them procreate by admonishing them TWICE, unlike the single time he commanded Adam and Eve (Genesis 1:28), to reproduce!

And God blessed Noah and his sons, and He said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and replenish the earth . . . And you, be fruitful and multiply. Bring forth abundantly in the earth, and increase in it (Genesis 9:1, 7).

Noah was considered one of the most righteous humans to have ever lived (Ezekiel 14:14, 20). What could have stopped him from fulfilling God's command to have more children? What did Canaan do to him?

The Vile Act

Some believe that Noah's curse was caused by being sodomized by either Ham, Canaan, or both. This, however, is unlikely, as this admittedly vile act would not have prohibited him from producing children.

It is highly probable that Canaan, who was a teenager or slightly older at the time, castrated his grandfather Noah and thus earned a curse. This act would have made it impossible for Noah to procreate further and obey the Lord. Canaan might have carried out such evil behavior out of spite or a desire to insure, as Ham's youngest son, less competition for blessings and a family inheritance.

Pattern of Sexual Sins

Sexual sins, perversion and idolatry would become some of the hallmark traits of Canaan and his descendants. This proves the curse he received from Noah was justified.

Canaan and his progeny lived in what would become the Promised Land and founded the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 10:15 - 19). The sins of these people became so base and gross that God personally carried out the death penalty upon them (Genesis 18:20 - 19:25). The evil influence of Canaan's descendants would also adversely affect Israel throughout its entire history (Deuteronomy 7:2 - 5, Ezra 9:1).

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The year the lions lay down with the Lamb (Copyright 2015) by Curtis Dahlgren (Stephenson, Michigan)

[MANY YEARS FROM NOW, to coin a phrase, people will still be talking about *these awful times* – not so much awful for the weather (acts of God) but for the awful acts of *men*: mass shootings and children beheaded, kidnappings and sex slavery, executions, and torture, and then, besides that, WAR. Now imagine you're in the year 2525 – after the "Big Gulp" and the big changes.]

Grandpa, tell us again about the bad old days.

Well, Ismail, the 21st century started out really, really sad, but . . .

Did kids really get shot at school?

I'm afraid so, Ismail.

WHY?

Well, to get the context, you have to start at the beginning. Back in those days both the clergy and the Crown had to tell lies to stay in power, and the truth was irrelevant.

Do you mean "relative"?

That too, but the point is we must never tell lies anymore.

Will those terrible times ever come back?

Not a chance, boy. Not since the year a strange thing happened, and our people found out the Truth.

What year was that?

Well, to be exact, it was the year the species *homo sapiens* almost lost the world to a curse.

What was that, Grandpa?

Well, the nations were united, and they wanted to blow this one city off the map.

WHY?

Ha! It just seemed, I guess, a good idea to them at the time. You have to understand, people were different back then, and jealousy and envy were all the "rage"! There was so much hate all over the world . . .

Do you mean "hatred"?

Yes, to be exact, but anyway . . .

What happened?

Well, it was funny, but the obvious solution came from a surprising direction. It was a paradox.

Do you mean "irony"?

Both! The results were unexpected, but they were also ironic, in the sense that we were saved by those we had always hated the most. And we should have known; the word was implied, and . . .

Do you mean "inferred"?

Actually both. There had been hints that something big was coming, and some people GOT IT. Work with me here, Ismail.

Sorry Grandpa. But what year was that?

It was the year all Hell was breaking out all over and this very mysterious thing happened. *And you know the Rest of the Story!*

Yes Grandpa. Thank you.

You're welcome. Is there anything else you want to know?

Yes. Where do babies come from?

Well, I'm starting to get sleepy myself, so you'll have to ask your mother Hagar. [His sister Sarah laughs.]

Okay kids: it's time to say our prayers and go to bed now.

Yea! Show us again Grandpa.

Okay – first you face true North and close your eyes. Try to remember if you've been good all day. If not, you pick up your right foot and kick yourself in the left leg. Then you turn right and face the East say thanks. Then you turn right and face the South pole, the cold South pole, and say thanks. Then you turn right and face the prevailing Westerly wind and say thanks. Remember, thanksgiving is everything, seven times a day.

Then, you face the North star and we call on the God of the Four Winds. You get off that high horse and put four on the floor, your two hands and your two knees, like the prophet Elijah, with your ankles crossed, your face on the floor, your hands on your head and your elbows on your knees. And if you want to look smaller, you just squeeze. Say thanks and now you're ready for a good night's sleep.

Goodnight Grandpa.

Goodnight Ismail. Goodnight Sarah. Goodnight Grandma. And you too, Jon Boy.

Editor's Note:

We do not listen to video links or read print material that is linked to items we print, so we may or may not agree with those links. We only look at print material that is sent to us for print. Laura Lee

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Your Love Defends Me

(Copyright 2017) by Brenda Branson (Hanson, Kentucky)



I will sing about your strength.
In the morning I will sing about your love.
You are my defender, my place of safety in times of trouble.
God, my strength, I will sing praises to you.
God, my defender, you are the God who loves me.
Psalm 59:16-17 NCV

Have you ever heard the lyrics of a song and thought how well they described your life?

I heard a new song this week by Matt Maher called "Your Love Defends me." This song wrecked me! I apologize for all the personal stories, but I'd like to give you a glimpse into some of the ways God's love has defended me. Sometimes it is overwhelming to look back and see all He has done over my lifetime.

One of the verses of Matt's song says:
Day after day, night after night
I will remember, You're with me in this fight
Although the battle, it rages on

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The war is already won
I know the war is already won

I realize Matt is probably referring to the spiritual battles we face in this life, but it reminded me of a flesh-and-blood battle that raged on for more than 3 years as I fought like a fierce mother lion in court for the safety and well-being of my son. After living in an abusive marriage for 20 years, I decided to end the cycle of abuse to protect myself and my 10-year-old son. In the process of a legal deposition, two young men from two different churches came forward and testified to being sexually abused by my husband when he was their youth leader. This new information made the fight for custody even more critical.

I could write chapters on what happened during that time in court, but the most important thing was how God fought for me and alongside me. Every day as I sat down in the courtroom (for 2 1/2 years with an attorney and the last six months serving as my own attorney), I pulled out an index card with these words:

“The Lord shall fight for you, and you will hold your peace.” Exodus 14:14

Glancing down at those words during the court proceedings gave me courage and strength when a multitude of heinous lies and deception were being perpetrated by the opposing party. Part of the battle was about exposing the lies, but the main battle for me was protecting the life of my son.

During the course of the trial, one of my witnesses and two or three attorneys were threatened and our safety was in jeopardy. At one point, we (my son and I) were advised by counsel to leave town for a while for our own safety. I depended on God to defend me and protect us. He did, in so many ways, so many times. He fought for me, and the victory was His.

Matt Maher writes, “In the Bible, the devil is referred to as the great accuser. I think that’s very fitting because someone like him is going to stand up and constantly try to hold the things that you’ve said or done, that reveal any inconsistency, against you to prevent you from moving forward. However, God is your defender.”

In another difficult situation 10 years ago, I found myself accused by ministry partners of things that were not true. Once again, in the presence of professional mediators, I had to call on God to defend me, and afterward to provide for me when it was time to move on. He did, in so many ways, so many times. His love defended me.

Matt writes, “I’ve realized that the love of God is not my last resort. It’s not my last line of defense. It’s the first one. Maybe the Christian life is more and more about relying on the defense of the love of God. It is God who stands by your side. It is God who declares who you are and who you aren’t. It is God who speaks over your past and heals it and fixes your eyes on Him in the present and towards the future. My prayer for you . . . Is that you would let His love defend you.”

Two lines in Matt’s song say:
And when I feel like I’m all alone
Your love defends me, Your love defends me.

Whether you live alone or with a spouse and/or family, there are probably times when you feel alone, when you don’t feel understood, or when you’re emotionally worn out and discouraged. It’s an amazing thing to know God is there with you, defending you with his love.

Who does he defend you from in your loneliness? Usually, it is from yourself and the thoughts that sneak into your mind that say you are unlovable, incapable, undeserving, not enough, too much . . . and on and on ad nauseam. His love defends you from all the lies you’ve believed about yourself. When he defends you, you’re the judge and jury who decides whether you’ll believe him or not. I’ve found his words to be the most beautiful, life-giving, healing words of truth and love ever spoken.

I hope you will let his love defend you, and I hope you’ll believe it with your whole heart.

AS YOU PRAY:

* Say "I love you, Lord."

* Thank God for all the ways and all the times he has shown you his love.

* Whatever battle you find yourself in today, ask God to go before you and defend you with his love.

Editor's Note: "Your Love Defends Me." by Matt Maher has now been added to our website at:
<https://darwin-laura.com/> It can be found under "Help for Abuse" Laura Lee

Editor's Note:

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About Keeping the Sabbath or Not (Copyright 10-16-2023) by Jeffrey Caldwell (Arkansas)

A current article in World Net Daily

<http://worldnetdaily.com/index.php?fa=PAGE.view&pageId=57978>

notes:

Greg Laurie, a WND columnist and senior pastor of Harvest Christian Fellowship in Riverside, Calif., one of the eight largest Protestant churches in America, maintains it's wrong for Christians to observe Saturday, claiming Jesus and the apostles never taught anyone to keep the Sabbath. He says it's the only one of the Ten Commandments not specifically repeated in the New Testament.

"Of all the New Testament lists of sins, 'breaking the Sabbath' is never mentioned," Laurie said. "That is because it was given to the Jews, not the non-Jews."

Back in Florida, Sunday-keeper Roger Felipe thinks God is not overly concerned with the Sabbath issue.

"Paul is very clear that we Christians don't use [one particular day] as a determining factor if someone is right with God," Felipe said.

Protestants seem to be in habit of telling each other "The Sabbath was given to the Jews" -- not remembering, it seems, that it was established at Creation and given to Adam -- and from him God created every nation of man (Acts 17:26). The commandment given at Sinai was to "remember" the seventh day which was established as blessed and holy at Creation (Exodus 20:8-11).

Even there at Sinai the commandment was given not to the Jews only, but also to all the other tribes of Israel, who considered themselves quite distinct from the Jews (1 Kings 12:16-17) and to people of other nations which joined themselves to Israel in following the LORD. The faithful spy for Judah, "Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite" (Numbers 32:12) is an outstanding example of a faithful non-Israelite among them. That the Sabbath "was given to the Jews, not the non-Jews" are words of men and a teaching of men, not the word of the LORD, nor His teaching.

The Scriptures record that Judah was not born until about 2,000 years after God blessed the seventh day and made it holy at Creation (Genesis 2:3) and that all mankind will be observing the Sabbath in the new earth yet to come that is the

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home of righteousness (Isaiah 66:22-23) -- which two salient facts I noted in a comment I left at Harvest Christian Fellowship's web site.

I wrote to Pastor Laurie [Pastor Greg Laurie, Harvest Christian Fellowship, P.O. Box 4000, Riverside, CA 92514-4000] in a card:

Pastor,

Surely, I suppose, you hold with our Teacher, who says with and from Scripture 'Man is ... to live ... on every word that comes from the mouth of God' (Mt. 4:4).

From what I read in World Net Daily it seems that you believe, as most Protestants seem to, that Paul is referring to the Sabbath in Romans 14:5-6.

Please consider, brother, that over and over in this passage (vs. 2,3,6,15,17,20,21,23) what Paul is talking about is eating or not eating, what we are eating and how that eating or not relates to our relationship to each other or the Lord.

In those days some were very much in the habit of days of fasting (Lk. 18:12,5:33) as a regular and continual -- by choice, not God's command -- aspect of their worship. And perhaps inclined to consider themselves more righteous than those who did not go along with their choices.

It is such days of fasting I suppose Paul is referring to -- as for God's commands, surely his position is: "It is the LORD your God you must follow and Him you must fear; you must keep His commandments and obey Him, serve Him and hold fast to Him" (Dt. 13:4).

The LORD made the seventh day blessed and holy at Creation (Genesis 2:3) and it will be observed by those who serve Him in the new earth, the home of righteousness He will yet create (Isaiah 66:22-23).

Peter says "be holy in all your conduct" (1 Peter 1:15) quoting Leviticus (1 Peter 1:16). The holiness code enjoins us to keep God's sabbaths (Lv. 19:3b,23:3,26:2).

May the grace and peace our our Lord Jesus the Christ be with you!
Jeffrey Caldwell

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Letter
(Copyright 10-05-2025) by Erick Odhiambo (Africa)

Hello,

Mama Sarah Ogallo has been in hospital for 8 months and now the doctors said she is much okay to be discharged but with a 10L portable oxygen concentrator. That's why we created a link to help her in purchasing a 10L portable oxygen concentrator. Here is the link: <https://www.mchanga.africa/fundraiser/123763>

You can help in sharing with brethren there who can be of help. The contribution link has a title, story and pictures. Hope this helps.

Yours and blessings,
Erick Odhiambo

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Iron Sharpening Iron In regard to: "Twice Dead" Same Sex Marriage, Supreme Court Judges

Article by Richard Frates
Comments by Laura Lee (Bismarck, North Dakota)

Richard Frates Article:

Unless you supreme court judges who ruled "same sex marriage" constitutional REPENT - Hell is your Destiny. **Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, if she did not repent before her death, is "twice dead."** Her "second death" judgment of both body and spirit condemned to hell, has reached the place of judgment before Judgment Day. **1 Timothy 5:24 - NIV "The sins of some are obvious, reaching the place of Judgment ahead of them" and John 5:24-29.**

Laura Lee in the Article:

Editor's Note:

Though I understand the anger of some and also acknowledge personally that same sex marriage is a sin, it is wrong to condemn people to the second death as that is not our job. That job belongs to God for only He knows the heart. Many of these people we look at today and see their evil actions have never known God in this life so cannot be condemned to the second death. The only people being judged at this point in time are those God has chosen at this point to be the First Fruits. All other people will get their one and only chance at a later point in time. Laura Lee

Richard Frates Wrote:

I did Not condemn anyone to death. I said the same words of Jusus Christ. "Unless you repent you too will all parish." That is the "second death" Luke 13:1-5.

Laura Lee's Response:

The main reason I flagged this in your article was because of the following statement that you made in your article: **Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, if she did not repent before her death, is "twice dead."**

That statement by you is not only condemning someone to a second death, it is also naming the person you are condemning to death. With that said, I am not a fan of Ruth Bader Ginsburg, however it is entirely up to God to name her and condemn her to a second death. Again, that is not your job or my job to condemn anyone to a second death at this point.

The main problem with what you said is that "if she did not repent before her death". More than likely Ruth Bader Ginsburg was never given God's Holy Spirit so therefore she was not being judged for the second death at the time she was alive.

In order for a person to be condemned to a second death at this time, they would have been given God's Holy Spirit and then after a certain point in time of living God's way and then decided they did not want to live God's Way and then totally rejected God and the Holy Spirit of God. Some people may actually do that, but we don't know who those people are, so we should never condemn anyone to a second death.

I know you used a scripture to prove your point, but how you worded your opinion of what the scripture is saying did leave the impression that you were condemning Ruth Bader Ginsburg to the second death. If you had explained what you meant more clearly and not used the name of a person and made it sound like she had a relationship with God and Christ when she probably never did have that relationship while she was alive, I would not have flagged what you said.

New American Standard Bible (Proverbs 27:17)
As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.

Holy Days 2025

Passover – April 13, 2025 (Observed at Sunset the Evening Before)

Passover/Unleavened Bread – April 13-19, 2025

Pentecost – June 2, 2025

Trumpets – September 23, 2025

Atonement – October 2, 2025

Tabernacles –October 7, 2025, to October 13, 2025

Last Great Day – October 14, 2025

Notes

Notes