

# How Christianity Revolutionizes Science

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## Qualifications

- University Professor From 1990 - 1995
- Helped Develop Indiana's Only Residential High School for Gifted and Talented Students
- NSF-Sponsored Scientist with More Than \$200,000 In Research Grants
- Became Interested in Homeschooling Because of Excellent University Students Who Were Homeschooled
- Currently writes junior high school and high school science courses for homeschooled students

## There Are Those Who Say That Science and Christianity are Incompatible

“It follows that science is incompatible with religion. Why is this? It is because once you attribute any particular event to a supernatural agent, a proposition that cannot be disproven by observation or experiment, then science becomes both irrelevant and impossible.”

- Dr. John Ellis in *How Science Works*

“Science and religion are incompatible in the same sense that the serious pursuit of knowledge about reality is incompatible with [nonsense].... Religion makes smart people do stupid things, and scientists do not like stupid.”

- Dr. PZ Myers at the 2010 Global Atheist Convention

## There Are Others Who Strongly Disagree

Carolus Linnaeus is the father of biological taxonomy. While he was alive, the Swiss philosopher Jean-Jacques Rousseau sent him this message: “Tell him I know no greater man on earth.” He described his science this way:

“I saw the infinite, all-knowing and all-powerful God from behind...I followed His footsteps over nature's fields and saw everywhere an eternal wisdom and power, an inscrutable perfection.”

## Who is Right?

In 1938, Dr. Joseph Needham asked a famous question: “Why was China overtaken by the west in science and technology, even though ancient China was advanced compared to ancient Europe?”

His detailed study of China's scientific history led to a 24-volume series called *Science and Civilisation in China*." It was named one of the 100 Best Nonfiction books of the 20th century by the Modern Library Board.

He Gave Three Answers to His Question

The first two dealt with Chinese law and bureaucracy. This is his third reason:

"...the autochthonous idea of a supreme being, though certainly present from the earliest times, soon lost the qualities of personality and creativity. The development of the concept of precisely formulated abstract laws capable, because of the rationality of the Author of Nature, of being deciphered and re-stated, did not therefore occur."

### **The Concept of God as the Law-giving Creator Was Essential to Science**

"...the Christian belief in the Creator allowed a breakthrough in thinking about nature. Only a truly transcendental Creator could be thought of as being powerful enough to create a nature with autonomous laws...Once the basic among those laws were formulated science could develop on its own terms." – **Dr. Stanley Jaki**

### **But There Was More To It Than That**

"The Christian idea of creation made still another crucially important contribution to the future of science. It consisted in putting all material beings on the same level...Unlike in the pagan Greek cosmos, there could be no divine bodies in the Christian cosmos." – **Dr. Stanley Jaki**

Since divine bodies are capricious, a world full of divine bodies is not one that behaves in a repeatable manner. If you do one thing one day and the same thing the next, there is no reason to expect that you will get the same result both days.

"Finally, man figured in the Christian dogma of creation as a being specially created in the image of God. This image consisted both in man's rationality as somehow sharing in God's own rationality...Man's reflection on his own rationality had therefore to give him confidence that his created mind could fathom the rationality of the created realm." – **Dr. Stanley Jaki**

## **Many Scientific Breakthroughs Occur Because of Scientists' Christian Faith**

Nicolaus Copernicus put the sun at the center of the universe specifically because the geocentric model was too messy, and he said that this went against the nature of God, who is the “the Best and Most Orderly Workman”

Sir Isaac Newton went against the scientific consensus of his day by believing that the same laws which operate on earth operate in the heaven. Why? Dr. Morris Kline says it was because Newton believed, “God had designed the universe, and it was to be expected that all phenomena of nature would follow one master plan.”

Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz developed binary logic and the binary number system (which is the basis of modern computers) to be able to more effectively communicate Christianity to the pagans.

In a letter to Duke Rudolph of Brunswick, he wrote, “After all, one of the high points of the Christian faith, which agrees least with the philosophers and is not easy to impart to pagans, is the creation ex nihilo through God’s almighty power. Now one can say that nothing in the world can better present and demonstrate this power than the origin of numbers, as is represented here through the simple and unadorned presentation of One and Zero or nothing.”

### **Christian-Based Research Makes Discoveries that Secular Research Never Would**

Creationists have discovered significant amounts of carbon-14 in dinosaur bones.

Carbon-14 has a relatively “short” half-life (5,700 years). It can only be used on things that are supposed to be less than 60,000 years old.

Evolutionists have always assumed there would be no detectable carbon-14 in dinosaur bones.

**The Evolutionists Were Wrong!**

Samples of 8 dinosaur fossils from Texas, Alaska, Colorado, and Montana, China, and Europe had so much carbon-14 in them that they couldn’t be more than 39,000 years old. Not a single sample tested as expected by evolutionists.

## **How Did Evolutionists Respond?**

The facility that did the carbon-14 analysis now refuses any samples they send!

“The scientists at CAIS and I are dismayed by the claims that you and your team have made with respect to the age of the Earth and the validity of biological evolution. Consequently, we are no longer able to provide radiocarbon services in support of your anti-scientific agenda.”

## **Speaking of Dinosaur Fossils...**

In 2005, Mary Schweitzer found soft tissue in a *Tyrannosaurus rex* femur that was supposed to be 65 million years old!

Laboratory studies indicate that soft tissue decays about 50 weeks or so, it is thought that proteins break down after only 30,000 years, unless special circumstances were present

This led to lots of searches for soft tissue in fossils.

## **One Christian Researcher Looked for Soft Cells**

He published a paper showing electron microscope images of cells that appeared to be soft. In the secular, peer-reviewed paper, he wrote:

“Filipodial extensions were delicate and showed no evidence of any permineralization or crystallization artifact and therefore were interpreted to be soft.”

The university fired him. In a lawsuit that was settled out of court, the researcher, Mark Armitage, said a university official stormed into his office and yelled, “We are not going to tolerate your religion in this department!”

Using some of those funds, he continued his research and has isolated individual, soft cells!

## **Christian Researchers Correct the Conclusions of the Long Term Evolution Experiment**

On February 24, 1988, Dr. Richard Lenski’s Lab started the Long Term Evolution Experiment (LTEE).

They have been following 12 identical populations of bacteria as they varied the conditions.

They have passed 68,000 generations, and have seen nothing genetically novel appear.

They Originally Thought They Had Something

After 31,500 generations, one population of bacteria were able to digest a chemical they couldn't originally digest under the experimental conditions (citrate).

The bacteria had the ability to eat this chemical in the absence of oxygen but not the presence of oxygen, which was a part of the experiment.

Lenski himself said, "...one of the lineages makes its living by doing something brand-new, something that its ancestor could not do. That sounds a lot like the origin of species to me. What do you think?"

### **Evolutionists Were Content With That Interpretation**

Scientists working from a Christian perspective (like Dr. Scott Minnich) were not, so they decided to test a key part of the story.

They decided to see whether or not this was a random result.

They found it was not. They could reproduce the result 46 times, in as little as 12 generations.

This showed it couldn't be an evolutionary event, instead, it was a pre-programmed response.

The Authors State in Their Peer-Reviewed Paper

**"We conclude that the rarity of the LTEE mutant was an artifact of the experimental conditions and not a unique evolutionary event. No new genetic information (novel gene function) evolved."**

This was the first conclusive demonstration that genomes are programmed to mutate when organisms are stressed.

This process, called adaptive mutation, had been speculated about for some time. We now know that it is a real, programmed response to changing environments.

### **Only One Theory of Planetary Magnetic Fields Has Made Accurate Predictions**

The one that uses young-earth creationist assumptions.

It was formulated in 1984, and it correctly reproduced the known data.

It was also used to predict the magnetic fields of both Uranus and Neptune.

Several years later, the Voyager crafts confirmed the prediction, while the old-earth model was off by a factor of 10,000.

Since Then, It Made Another Accurate Prediction

Mercury was visited by Mariner in 1975, and its magnetic field was measured.

NASA sent MESSENGER there, and it settled into orbit in 2011.

In 2004, the young-earth model was used to predict that the magnetic field should be 4-6% weaker than in 1975. The old-earth model predicted no measurable difference.

The young-earth prediction was mostly verified (it decreased by about 7-8%).

### **One Very Important Point**

Doing science from a Christian point of view doesn't mean you are going to be right.

Even starting with the correct assumptions, you can still misinterpret the data.

It's also possible for Christians to misinterpret Scripture, which can negatively affect their science.