

# Scientific Discoveries Made as a Result of the Christian Faith

by Dr. Jay L. Wile, Ph.D.

## 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

## Roger Bacon, The Father of the Scientific Method

“For the grace of faith illuminates greatly, **as also do divine inspirations**, not only in things spiritual, but in things corporeal and **in the sciences of philosophy...**”

“For it is not possible that the soul should rest in the light of truth while it is stained with sins...Virtue, therefore, clarifies the mind, so that a man comprehends more easily not only moral but scientific truths.”

## It's Not Surprising That Many Discoveries Were Made as a Result of Christian Faith

1. “For a long time, then, I reflected on this confusion in the astronomical traditions concerning the derivation of the motions of the universe's spheres. I began to be annoyed that the movements of the world machine, created for our sake by the **best and most systematic Artisan of all**, were not understood with greater certainty by the philosophers, who otherwise examined so precisely the most insignificant trifles of this world.”

-Nicolaus Copernicus

2. 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. As a result, he explained the solar system. Why did he do that?

“This most beautiful system of the sun, planets and comets, could only proceed from the counsel and dominion of an intelligent and powerful being. This Being governs all things, not as the soul of the world, but as Lord over all.”

## Real Historians of Science Understand This

“The thought at *all* the phenomena of motion should follow from one set of principles might seem grandiose and inordinate, but it occurred very naturally to the religious mathematicians of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. God had designed the universe, and it was to be expected that all phenomena of nature would follow one master plan. One mind designing a universe would almost surely have employed one set of basic principles to govern related phenomena.”

-Dr. Morris Kline, mathematician and historian

3. James Joule went against the 100-year-old scientific consensus that energy is an element. He showed that mechanical energy can be converted into heat on a 1-to-1 basis.

He wrote, “We might reason, *a priori*, that such absolute destruction of living force cannot possibly take place, because it is manifestly absurd to suppose that the powers with which God has endowed matter can be destroyed any more than that they can be created by man's agency.”

We now understand that he was correct. Heat is just another form of energy.

We honor his achievement by naming the standard unit of energy the Joule.

### **Christian-Based Research Has Made 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.

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 then 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 from fossils of two different dinosaur species!

### **Christian Researchers Corrected 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 80,000 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

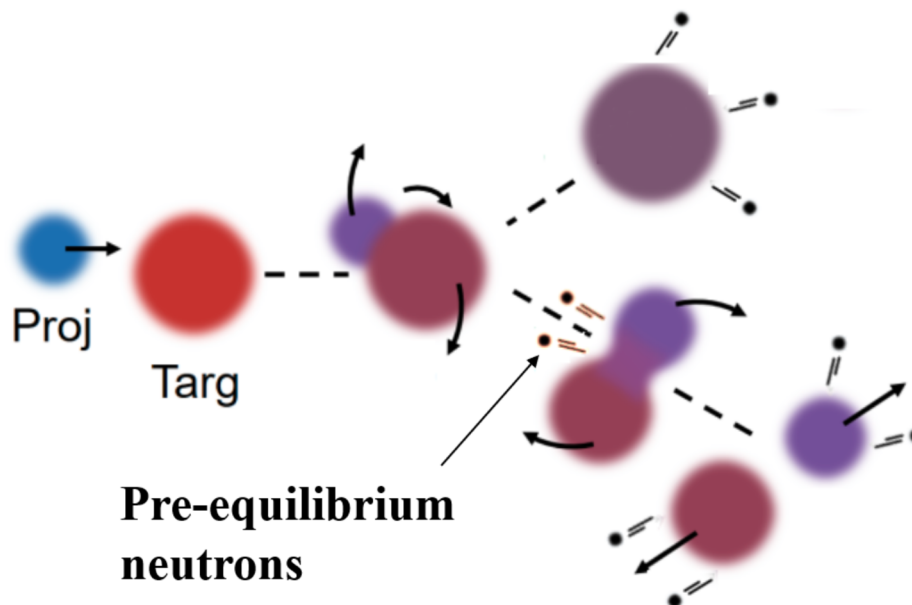
Mercury was visited by Mariner in 1975, and its magnetic field was measured.

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%).

### **I Will Use Myself Here, Even Though I am Definitely NOT a Great Scientist**



Pre-equilibrium neutrons were always treated like they were independent particles.

**I thought the nucleus would be better designed than that, and it would hold onto its particles better.**

After praying for guidance, I came upon a method of analyzing the data to see if pre-equilibrium neutrons really acted independently.

**My results indicated they did not, which led to a concept that is now called “Radial Energy Scaling.”**

While very minor, it was my most important contribution to nuclear chemistry.

<https://journals.aps.org/prl/abstract/10.1103/PhysRevLett.63.2551>

### **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.