

Reasonable Faith: The Scientific Case for Christianity

Dr. Jay L. Wile, Ph.D.

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- Ph.D. in Nuclear Chemistry from the University of Rochester
- University Professor From 1990 - 1995
- NSF-Sponsored Scientist with More Than \$200,000 In Research Grants
- More than 30 articles in the peer-reviewed journals of Nuclear Chemistry
- Currently writes junior high and high school science curriculum for homeschoolers.

The Argument From Design

Would anyone believe that a computer was the result of an earthquake at a spare electronics shop? Of course not! Given that life is *infinitely* more complex than a computer, how can anyone believe it is the result of random collisions of simple chemicals?

Atomic Structure

An atom is made of protons, neutrons, and electrons. They are finely tuned to one another:

- Neutron / Proton mass ratio **cannot** be greater than 0.2%
- Electron / Proton mass ratio **cannot** vary more than 2%
- Electron / Proton charge difference **must** be less than 0.00000001%

Atoms link together to form molecules, such as amino acids, and amino acids link up to form proteins

The SIMPLEST protein of life, ribonuclease contains 124 amino acids linked together in a precise configuration. Chance of this occurring by natural processes: 1 in 10^{152}

Organisms That Possess Advanced Engineering

The bacterium's flagellum twirls around and around in a circle. Its design is very similar to an outboard motor, but it is MUCH more advanced. It rarely stops for any extended amount of time, and it never breaks down.

The brittlestar "sees" by means of microscopic crystals that focus light on a tiny spot of nerve bundles about 5 micrometers in diameter. The light intensity at the nerve bundles is magnified by a factor of 50. This allows them to sense the motion of shadows and thus avoid predators. "These tiny lenses rival the best that human technology can offer."

-Greg Miller, Science News

"It's astonishing that it's been able to build this essentially out of coral. [This] primitive organism ...[has] been able to fashion...these fabulous microlens arrays." -Dr. Roy Stambles, physics professor

The sea anemone's sting paralyzes fish, EXCEPT for the clownfish. These stingers work with a sophisticated chemical detection system. Since the clownfish masks the one amino acid detected by the stingers, it can swim freely in them. This provides protection for the clownfish and lures other fish into the sea anemone for food.

The oriental sweetlips is a fish that has teeth and therefore must clean them. It seeks out blue-streak wrasses, which “brush” its teeth by swimming *right into its mouth* and eating the foreign material on its teeth.

The words of Sir Frederick Hoyle:

“...A common sense interpretation of the facts suggests that a **superintellect** has monkeyed with physics, as well as with chemistry and biology, and that there are no blind forces worth speaking about in nature. The numbers one calculates from the facts seem to me so overwhelming as to **put this conclusion almost beyond question.**”

The Words of Dr. Robert Gange:

“Everything we know tells us that machines are structures intelligence designs, and that accidents destroy. Therefore, accidents do not design machines. Intellect does. And the myriad of biological wonders that sprinkle our world testify to the design ingenuity of a Supreme Intellect.”

The Bible: The Most Unique Book in Human Literature

Composition: Multiple authors over a period of 1,500 years

- The Bible gives you insight from more than 70 different generations. What other book is so timeless?
- The authors were from all walks of life.

Popularity:

- The Gideons International has distributed over 600,000,000 copies. The Christian booksellers association in the US sells more than \$400,000,000 worth of Bibles each year.
- “No other book has known anything approaching this constant circulation.” *Cambridge History of the Bible*

Survivability:

- In AD 303, Rome tried to outlaw Christianity and destroy all Bibles. By AD 328, it began copying Bibles for the church!
- Pravda is now printing Bibles!
- “Infidels for eighteen hundred years have been refuting and overthrowing this Book, and yet it stands today as solid as a rock.” H.L. Hastings

Influence:

- Government by the people and not the monarch class is a direct result of the Bible.
- “If every Bible in any considerable city were destroyed, the Book could be restored in all its essential parts from the quotations on the shelves of the city public library” C.B. McAfee

Central Character: Jesus was one of the less popular “Messiahs” of His time. Others commanded much more respect but are forgotten today.

- Judah the Macabee - Led a revolt against the Assyrians in 164 BC. He had as many as 10,000 men in his army. He was eventually killed for his actions.
- The Egyptian Messiah - Led a revolt against Rome in which he “...got together thirty thousand men that were deluded by him...” (Josephus the Historian). He was killed for his actions.

- Simon Bar Kochba - Led a revolt against Rome in AD 132. The revolt was partially successful. The Jewish leaders proclaimed him as Messiah and *printed coins with his portrait on them*. He was killed for his actions.

The Bible: The Most Accurate Source of Ancient History

The Internal Test: Does the document contradict itself?

The genealogies of Christ in Matthew 1 and Luke 3 are different

- Matthew 1:16: "...Jacob begat Joseph, the husband of Mary"
- Luke 3:23: "...son of Joseph which was the son of Heli."

These two genealogies are not contradictory, instead, they are complimentary. The genealogy presented in Matthew is Joseph's family line, whereas the passage in Luke traces Mary's family line

- Acts 9:7: "The men who journeyed with him stood speechless, **hearing** a voice, but seeing no man."
- Acts 22:9: "And they that were with me saw indeed the light, and were afraid; but they **heard** not the voice of Him that spake to me."

The meaning of the Greek word *akouo* depends on its construction. In Acts 9:7, the word is used to indicate that sounds were heard. In Acts 22:9, the word is used to indicate that the sounds were *not understood*.

"When secular historical principles are applied to the Bible, it passes the internal test just as well as any other document of its time." Josh McDowell

The External Test: Is the document consistent with other sources of history, especially archaeology?

"There are a number of striking cases where specific passages have been doubted...and have [later] been confirmed."

Edwin Yamauchi *The Stones and the Scriptures*

Old Testament:

The "conversion" of W. F. Albright

- "...the Hebrew material was either borrowed from extant legends...or invented by use of haggadic processes."

After a lifetime of archaeological research:

- "There can be no doubt that archaeology has confirmed the substantial history of the Old Testament."

New Testament:

The Pavement

- John 19:13 says Christ was tried before Pilate there.
- Prior to about 1950, it could not be found, and most archaeologists believed that it never really existed.
- In 1960, The Pavement was determined to be the court of the tower of Antonia, the headquarters of the Roman military.

The Bibliographic Test: Was the document passed on from generation to generation without substantial revision?

The histories of Cornelius Tacitus

We now have 20 copies of his original, and the shortest timespan between copy and original is 1,000 years

The New Testament

We have 24,000 different copies of original documents, the earliest of which was made 25 years after the original!

“...it may be safely said that no other work of antiquity has been so accurately transmitted.”

W. Green

“After trying to shatter the historicity and validity of Scripture, I came to the conclusion that it is historically trustworthy.”
Josh McDowell

You cannot reject the historicity of the Bible because of Miracles!

- Science believes in the miraculous: “... Quarks are so much smaller than the proton that they rattle around like a few grains of sand in a vast sea of space. That leaves a lot of room for other kinds of activity...among other things, [these] three familiar quarks are adrift in a surprisingly dense sea of short-lived 'virtual' quarks that *wink in and out of existence*.”
Science 264, 1994
- Reliable Newspapers Report on Miracles: *USA Today* - January 20, 1992 - Emma Brady was declared dead after exhibiting no vital signs for 15 minutes. She was placed in a body bag and, one hour later, began gasping for breath. She is alive and well today. The doctors could only say, “it is a miracle.”
- NABS computer search of 10 major newspapers from 1-1989 to 9-1993 found 675 stories about miracles.

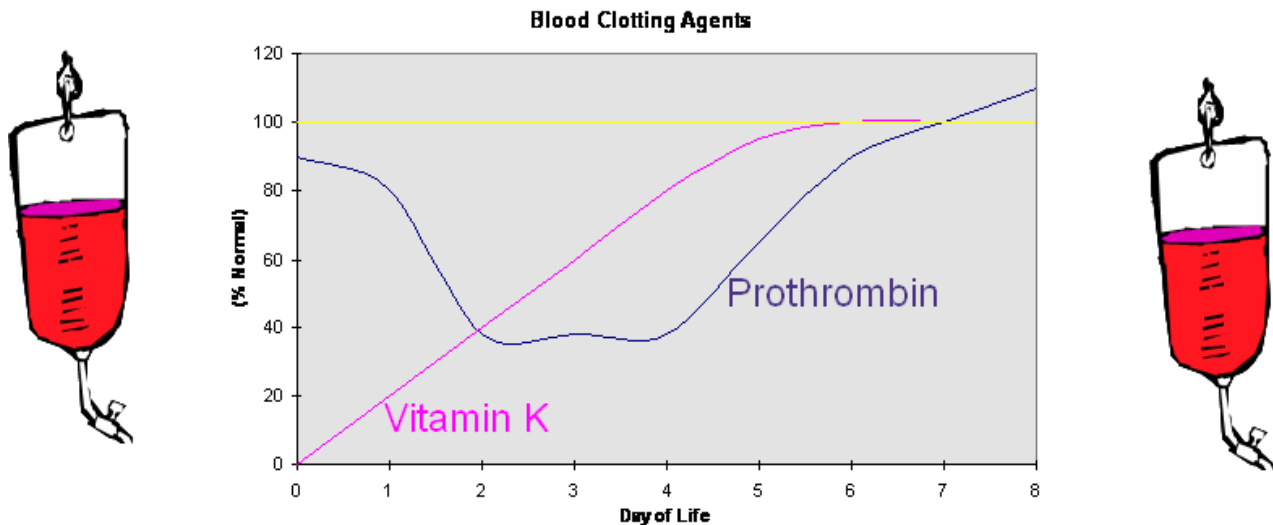
Some biblical miracles have external support:

- Archaeology has determined that the walls of Jericho fell from the inside out, exactly as described in the Bible (Joshua 6:1-20).
- The darkness that shrouded the earth after the crucifixion (Matthew 27:45) has been confirmed by 2 non-Christian, non-Jewish sources.
- The resurrection of Christ is supported by the historical fact that His tomb was empty on the first Easter and that His body was never recovered, despite the best efforts of the Jewish leaders. Josephus the Historian (non-Christian) mentions the resurrection as a fact: “...for He appeared to them alive again on the third day.”

Knowledge From on High

CIRCUMCISION: Required of all Jewish males on the eighth day of life. (Gen. 17:10-12)

- Study of 86,214 women concluded that Jewish women were 8.5 *times* less likely to contract cervical cancer than were other women because of *male* circumcision
- Medical science today confirms that the 8th day is the BEST DAY OF YOUR LIFE to be cut!



The Bible accurately predicts the Future

Ezekiel 26:3-21 predicts fate of Tyre. This prophecy was most likely written in 590 BC. Definitely written by 250 BC.

1. Nebuchadnezzar will destroy the mainland city and lay siege.

In 585 BC, Nebuchadnezzar conquered the mainland and laid siege to the island city. He gave it up after 13 years.

2. Many nations will come against Tyre.

Alexander the Great, Antigonous, Moslems, and the crusaders all took turns conquering Tyre.

3. The city's debris would be thrown into the water.

In 333 BC, Alexander the Great conquered the mainland. To get to the island, he had his men *throw all the stones and timbers of the city into the water.*

4. The city would not be rebuilt.

“Tyre was reconquered by the Moslems in 690..and was laid in ruins, as it remains to this day.”

Nina Jidejian

5. It will become a place where fishermen spread their nets.

“The port [of Tyre] has become a haven for fishing boats and a place for spreading nets.” Nina Jidejian

The Messianic Prophecies

- All were written down at least 250 years before Christ walked the face of the earth.

Nevertheless, they accurately predict when and where He would be born, specific events in His life, and what would ultimately happen to Him.

- Josh McDowell documents 332 separate prophecies that all came true in the life of Christ.

“But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,...From you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel.”
- Micah 5:2

“...And out of Egypt I called My son.” - Hosea 11:1

“So they weighed out 30 shekels of silver as my wages. Then the Lord said to me, ‘Throw it to the potter, that magnificent price at which I was valued by them. So I took the 30 shekels of silver and threw them to the potter in the house of the Lord.’
- Zechariah 11:12,13

“They divide my garments among them, and for my clothing, they cast lots.” - Psalm 22:17

“And it will come about in that day, declares the Lord God, That I shall make the sun go down at noon And make the earth dark in broad daylight.” - Amos 8:9