

HOUSE to HOUSE
HEART to HEART

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House to House Heart to Heart

VOLUME 26 NUMBER 5

The BIG BANG

got so many things right

The folly of attributing design to randomness

Allen Webster

Since it is but a mindless, accidental, evolutionary process, it is amazing how many things the Big Bang got right. It managed to create (oops, produce) conditions for life to exist on Planet Earth.

Earth is the only planet in our solar system that can sustain life as we know it. It has many unusual and unique conditions required before human life could exist. No doubt evolution is right in concluding that human life exists by chance, not design.

Consider the wonder of Big Bang!

THE EARTH IS THE RIGHT DISTANCE FROM THE SUN'

We are just the right distance from the sun so that we get the right amount of heat to sustain life. Energy is needed to fuel chemical reactions (metabolism).

Ten percent closer, too hot; ten percent farther, too cold. Planets from Mars to

Neptune are too cold to support life. Though the moon is relatively close to earth, its surface temperature varies each fifteen lunar days from a high of 214 degrees Fahrenheit above zero, to a low of 243 degrees Fahrenheit below zero.

THE EARTH'S ROTATION IS THE RIGHT SPEED

The earth rotates eastward once every 24 hours. It rotates counter clockwise (from perspective of the North Star). If the earth's rotation were 1/10 its present rate, the length of days and nights would increase ten times. Vegetation would burn up during the long days; if not, the low night temperatures would kill any plant life that survived the day.

THE EARTH IS THE RIGHT SIZE

The radius of the earth is 3963 miles at the equator. Its circumference is nearly

THE HEAVENS DECLARE THE AND THE FIRMAMENT SHOWS

25,000 miles. Its surface is 197 million square miles. This produces a gravitational force of 15 pounds per square inch.

If the earth were the size of the moon, its gravity would only be 1/6 its present force and unable to hold either atmosphere or water. If its diameter were doubled, the force of gravity would be doubled, and the atmosphere would be compressed. If the earth were increased to the size of the sun, while retaining its density, gravity would increase 150 times. This would increase atmospheric pressure to over a ton per square inch. Life would be virtually impossible under such conditions. It is good that the Big Bang got it right.

EARTH HAS BOTH WATER AND CARBON

Water and carbon are required for life. Carbon is a necessary building block for complex organic molecules. Water is necessary for many chemical reactions. If the earth were once part of the sun, why didn't the water evaporate? How did the Big Bang pull that off? Impressive.

EARTH'S CRUST IS THE RIGHT THICKNESS

The earth's outer layer is three to five miles thick under the oceans and 25 or more miles thick under the continents. If the earth's crust were only ten feet thicker, the metallic elements in the crust would combine with the free oxygen in the atmosphere, ruling out the possibility of animal life. If the oceans were merely a few feet deeper, they would absorb so much carbon dioxide from the air that plants could not exist. Less than twenty feet tolerance on twenty miles? Amazing!

EARTH'S MOON IS THE RIGHT DISTANCE AWAY

The moon is on average about 239,000 miles from earth. Its gravitational pull creates the oceans' tides, which, among other things, scrub its beaches twice daily. If the moon were only 50,000 miles away, tides would submerge the continents twice a day. The Big Bang thought ahead and got it right the first time.

EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE IS THE RIGHT THICKNESS AND DENSITY

Atmosphere protects life by absorbing ultraviolet solar radiation, warming the surface through heat retention (greenhouse effect), creating pressure to keep water on the surface, and reducing temperature extremes between day and night.³

The density and thickness of the earth's atmosphere serves as a protective blanket to shield it from deadly radiation. If radiation reached the earth, human life could not exist. UV light can damage or break complex molecules, causing mutations. Our atmosphere is just dense enough to protect the earth from the twenty million meteors that enter it daily. These meteors, traveling at speeds of about thirty miles per second, would endanger all life on earth's surface. The Big Bang thought of everything!

THE COMPOSITION OF THE EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE IS PERFECT TO SUSTAIN LIFE

Dry air is about 78 parts nitrogen, 21 parts oxygen, 0.93% argon, 0.04% carbon diox-

GLORY OF GOD; HIS HANDIWORK

PSALM 19:1

ide, and small amounts of other gases.

Too much nitrogen would slow down all functions of the body so that death would result. Too much oxygen would increase the body's functions to a pace that life could not be sustained long term. It is highly unlikely that this mixture could have developed accidentally since most accidents involving chemicals result in explosions. This is especially true of nitrogen, which is the basic ingredient in explosives. Thankfully, the Big Bang knew about explosions and was able to avoid this danger.

THE TILT OF THE EARTH IS RIGHT

The earth is tilted on its axis 23 1/2 degrees. This tilting, plus the revolution around the sun, creates earth's seasons. In most places on earth, this gives a healthy balance of time—spring/summer to raise necessary food, and fall/winter for the soil to lie idle, soak up moisture, and increase in fertility.

We have much for which to thank the Big Bang.

Or, maybe, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" (Genesis 1:1), and, "The heavens declare the glory

of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork" (Psalm 19:1).

Endnotes:

¹ Some of these ideas are adapted from Dr. A. Crescy Morrison's book, *Man Does Not Stand Alone*.

² <http://astrobiology.nasa.gov/media/medialibrary/2013/10/Astrobiology-Educator-Guide-2007.pdf>.

³ *Wikipedia*.



Rich without Money

Some of world's wealthiest people had little money (Mark 12:41–44; 2 Corinthians 8:1–5, 9; Philippians 2:5–11).

- If you have a good name, then you are rich without money (Proverbs 22:1).
- If you have good health, then you are rich without money (Acts 3:1–10; 3 John 1:2).
- If you have friends, then you are rich without money (Proverbs 18:24; 1 Samuel 23:16; 3 John 1:14).
- If you have a happy home, then you are rich without money (Proverbs 18:22; 19:14; Matthew 19:3–9; Ephesians 5:22–33).
- If you are have a good conscience, then you are rich without money (Jeremiah 17:9; Romans 14:21–23; 1 Timothy 4:1–2; Hebrews 13:18).
- If you are a part of the New Testament church, then you are rich without money (Acts 20:28; Ephesians 2:8–9).
- If you are a faithful Christian, then you are rich without money (2 Corinthians 1:20; Ephesians 1:3; 2 Timothy 2:10; Revelation 2:10).

The richest people in the world are not those with the most money but those with great faith. —Anonymous

"Be thankful to Him, and bless His name."

PSALM 100:4

God's Plan for Saving Man

Divine Love: John 3:16

God's Grace: Ephesians 2:8

Christ's Blood: Romans 5:9

Holy Spirit's Word: Romans 1:16

Sinner's Faith: Acts 16:31

Sinner's Repentance: Luke 13:3

Sinner's Confession: Romans 10:10

Sinner's Baptism: Acts 22:16

Christian's Love: Matthew 22:37

Christian's Work: James 2:24

Christian's Hope: Romans 8:24

Christian's Endurance: Revelation 2:10



Ten Commands for Teens

(written by a teenage girl)

1. Don't let your parents down; they brought you up.
2. Stop and think before you drink.
3. Be smart; obey. You yourself will give orders some day.
4. Ditch dirty thoughts fast, or they'll ditch you.
5. Show-off driving is juvenile. Don't act your age.
6. Pick the right friends to be picked for a friend.
7. Chose a date fit for a mate.
8. Don't go steady unless you are ready.
9. Love God and neighbor.
10. Live carefully. The soul you save may be your own. —Author Unknown

"Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth."

ECCLESIASTES 12:1

You Know You're Getting Old When

- Most of your dreams are reruns.
- The gleam in your eye is from the sun on your bifocals.
- Your "little black book" contains only names ending with M.D.
- You get winded playing checkers.
- The airline attendant offers you, "coffee, tea, or Milk of Magnesia."
- You sit down in a rocking chair, and you cannot get it started.
- Everything hurts, and what does not hurt, doesn't work.
- Your children look middle-aged.
- The little gray-haired lady you help across the street is your wife.
- You sink your teeth in a nice juicy steak . . . and they stay there.
- Your knees buckle, but your belt won't.

Read 2 Corinthians 4:16–18, Deuteronomy 34:7, and Ecclesiastes 12:3–5.

For more material on the home and family, fathers and mothers, husbands and wives, grandparents, and family finances, go to www.housetohouse.com.



A Threefold Cord

Marriage exists on three planes.

The first is the physical plane and is fulfilled in the sexual relationship. The second plane is the mental or psychological relationship and relates to the companionship/friendship aspect of marriage. The third plane is the spiritual relationship and is enjoyed when Christians marry Christians.

Many marriages never get beyond the first level—and they do not last long. Elaine Walster, psychology and sociology professor at the University of Wisconsin, found that for most couples, intense passion lasts from six months to about two-and-a-half years. If this type of love is the only mortar holding the marriage together, trouble looms ahead.

When husbands or wives have only the second kind of love, they feel that an obligation exists, so they try to keep the marriage together because of duty. Since they have a license and a marriage certificate, they owe each other something (the attitude we have toward a family reunion—"I feel obligated to go"). They go through the motions, but there is no warmth.

Real love is binding, but it binds with the cords of voluntary service (Exodus 21:5–6). Robert Burton said, "No cord or cable can draw so forcibly, or bind so fast, as love can do with a single thread" (brainyquote.com/quotes/robert_burton_164716).

When a husband has only the second love, he and his wife may have fun together. This love depends on worth and admiration. If more worth and admiration arises in somebody else, then he may change wives as he does golfing partners. If it is a part of the whole of his love, it can add a great dimension to marriage.

Ideally, when *eros* lessons, *philia* can reinforce it, even enhance it. When a husband loves his wife with the deepest love, it is not based on good looks nor legal backing nor a flawless personality. It is based on no assignable causes, as God's love for people is not understandable.

"Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church" (Ephesians 5:25). God could have said, "Husbands, *eros* your wives" or, "Husbands, *philia* your wives," but He did not.

God used the word *agape*. This word has to do with looking out for the other person's highest good. God's way to successful marriage focuses on what husbands and wives put into it, not on what they can get out of it. When you have all three, you can have a wonderful marriage. —Anonymous

"A threefold cord is not quickly broken."

ECCLESIASTES 4:12

Just for Fun Name the 12 Apostles (Matthew 10:2–4)



- | | |
|-----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 2. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 4. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 6. _____ |
| 7. _____ | 8. _____ |
| 9. _____ | 10. _____ |
| 11. _____ | 12. _____ |
| 13. _____ | 14. _____ |

Name 2 more as a bonus! →

Where Is the Headquarters of Your Church?

Have you been asked, “Where is the head of the church to which you belong?”

The only right answer is “in heaven.” If a person belongs to a church that has headquarters on earth somewhere, whether Indianapolis, Nashville, St. Louis, Philadelphia, Rome, or some other city, he belongs to the wrong church, for the right church has its headquarters higher up than that.

Christ resides in heaven, seated at the God’s right hand, and He is the only Head of the church (Colossians 1:18). Colossians was written thirty years after Christ ascended to heaven. He left no vicar here on earth. Christ is King in the kingdom of heaven, and is head of the church.

He is its founder, for He said, “On this rock I will build My church” (Matthew 16:18). He is its director, guiding it in all its ways. He is the door of the church (John 10:9), and He is the chief cornerstone (Ephesians 2:20). Belief in Christ’s divinity is the creed of the church.

There are many metaphors used in Scripture to describe the church. It is called a family, a kingdom, a vineyard, a flock, a building, and a bride. But the most profound metaphor—one having no Old Testament equivalent—is that of a body.

The church is a body, and Christ is the head of the body. This concept is not used in the sense of the head of a company, but rather looks at the church as a living organism, inseparably tied together by the living Christ.

He is the head of the body, the church; not only a head of government and direction, as the king is the head of the state and has right to prescribe laws, but a head of vital influence, as the head in the natural body.

Christ is preeminent in His church (Ephesians 1:1–3; 5:23; Acts 2:36). The headquarters of the church are where the head is “quartered.” —Oran Rhodes

“Behold, I thought.”

2 KINGS 5:11



Cut out this section and mail it to the address on the front.



Bible Quiz

VOLUME 26:5

Send in your answers to receive a free Bible bookmark! We will grade and return them and enclose the bookmark “Which Herod is Which? A Family Tree of Herod the Great” as a way of saying thanks for spending time in the Word (quantities may be limited).

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City/State: _____
 Phone: _____

Answers to Previous Quizzes

V. 26:3 *The Minor Prophets:* 1. Hosea (Hosea 1:2); 2. Build the Lord’s house (Haggai 1:12–14); 3. Sheepbreeder (Amos 1:1); 4. “The just shall live by his faith” (Habakkuk 2:4); 5. Nineveh (Jonah 1:2); 6. Zechariah (Zechariah 9:9); 7. Joel (Joel 2:28–32); 8. Micah (Micah 6:6–8); 9. Malachi (Malachi 3:8); 10. Joel (Joel 1:1–4); 11. Joshua (Zechariah 3:8); 12. Leopards (Habakkuk 1:8); 13. Silence (Habakkuk 2:20); 14. Knowledge (Hosea 4:6); 15. Josiah (Zephaniah 1:1); 16. Darius (Haggai 1:1); 17. House of the Lord (Haggai 1:12–14); 18. Red (Zechariah 1:8).

V. 26:4 *Starts with the Letter “F”:* 1. Faith (Hebrews 11:1); 2. False (Matthew 7:15); 3. Fasted (Matthew 4:2); 4. Fall (Proverbs 16:18); 5. Foundation (1 Corinthians 3:11); 6. Fathers (Ephesians 6:4); 7. Fear (Proverbs 9:10); 8. Feet (John 13:5); 9. Felix (Acts 24:25); 10. Fellowship (1 John 1:7); 11. Figs (Isaiah 38:21); 12. Frankincense (Matthew 2:11); 13. Firmament (Genesis 1:6); 14. First (Matthew 7:5); 15. Fishermen (Matthew 4:18–21); 16. Flatters (Proverbs 2:16); 17. Flesh (Galatians 6:8); 18. Flock (1 Peter 5:2).

Famous Old Testament Quotations

Directions: Find answers in the following passages: Genesis 1:1; 2:24; Exodus 20:3–18; Numbers 6:24–26; Deuteronomy 6:4–7; Ecclesiastes 3:1, 11; 12:7; Isaiah 11:6; 7:14. Questions are taken from the New King James Version.

- “To everything there is a _____, joined to his _____, and a time for every purpose under they shall become one _____.” heaven.”
- “He has made everything _____ 9. “You shall have no other gods _____ Me.” in its time.”
- “The wolf also shall dwell with the 10. “You shall not make for yourself _____.” lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and _____ shall lead them.”
- “Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name _____.”
- “The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord _____, and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace.”
- “Then the dust _____ 11. “You shall not take the name of the Lord your God _____.” to the earth as it was.”
- “In the beginning _____ 12. “Honor your _____ and your _____.” the heavens and the earth.”
- “Therefore a _____ shall 13. “You shall not _____.” leave his father and mother and be 14. “You shall not _____.”
- _____ against your neighbor.”
- “You shall not _____.”
- “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is _____!”
- “You shall _____ the Lord your God with all your _____, with all your soul, and with all your _____.”
- “You shall teach them _____ 20. “You shall teach them _____.” to your _____.”

What's the Bible All About?

It is about Jesus.

Jesus is the preeminent person in the preeminent book. God the Father and the Holy Spirit testify to Christ's greatness (Mark 9:7; John 14:16; 16:8).

He is the King, the Prophet, the High Priest, the Lawgiver.

Christ told the Jews concerning Moses, "He wrote about Me" (John 5:46). John said, "These are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name" (John 20:31).

The dispensation of Christ is the greatest dispensation, for the apostle calls it the dispensation of the "fullness of time" (Galatians 4:4). The message of God's preacher is "Christ and Him crucified" (1 Corinthians 2:2). That was Paul's theme (1 Corinthians 1:21). In fact, each of the divinely sent preachers of the New Testament preached Christ.

No man ever had a grander theme. The apostle speaks of "the unsearchable riches of Christ" (Ephesians 3:8), and the "love of Christ which passes knowledge" (Ephesians 3:19). Paul wrote, "The law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith" (Galatians 3:24).

—Author Unknown

"I will make him My firstborn, the highest of the kings of the earth."

PSALM 89:27



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Recommended Resource



Why should we believe the Bible? Who is God? How do I become a Christian? Get answers to life's biggest questions. Listen to a new podcast about faith that is engaging, challenging, and fun to listen to. New episodes every Wednesday. More details at Housetohouse.com/AC

I want to learn more **about the Bible!**

If you knew for sure that the religious path you are on would not get you to heaven, would you change? If there was the possibility of a doubt, would you investigate? Why not request a personal Bible study today?

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Prayer requests or comments: _____

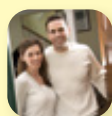
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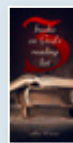
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- Roadblocks on the Road to Ruin
- The Big Bang Got So Many Things Right
- The Man with Slippery Feet



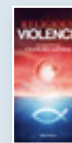
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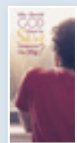
3 Books on God's Reading List



3 Tests of Abraham's List



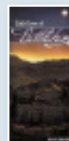
Religious Violence



Why Would God Want to Save Someone like Me?



How to prepare for the End of the World



Little Town of Bethlehem



Why do People Hate Christians



5 Fellowships a Week

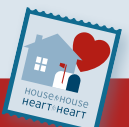


What Does For the Remission of Sins Mean?

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VOLUME 26:5





Does God Send People to Hell?

God sent His Son so people would not have to go to hell (1 Timothy 2:4; 2 Peter 3:9; Ezekiel 33:11).

The Bible says, “God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed. . . . This is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil” (John 3:16–19).

This passage teaches three things:

- God loves the world and has done everything He can to save it (3:16–17).
- God lets each person choose his beliefs (light/darkness). A person’s actions reflect his or her choice (3:18). The one who chooses evil prefers to remain in darkness.
- Man’s destiny follows his decision. Light symbolizes good and heaven. Darkness symbolizes evil and hell.

Ultimately, we live with the consequences of our choices. C. S. Lewis put it this way: “Sin is man’s saying to God throughout his life, ‘Go away and leave me alone.’” Hell is God finally saying to man, ‘You may have your wish.’” —Anonymous



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THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD

“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.” (Ephesians 6:10–13)

- The Helmet of Salvation**
“There is one salvation in our Lord, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.” Acts 4:12
- The Breastplate of Righteousness**
“For the shield of faith will consume us as we lay on it, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.” 1 CORINTHIANS 5:8
- The Shield of Faith**
“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” HEBREWS 11:1
- The Belt of Truth**
“The truth, and do not sell it, also wisdom and instruction and understanding.” PROVERBS 2:6
- The Sword of the Spirit**
“For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” HEBREWS 4:12
- Feet Shod with the Preparation of the Gospel of Peace**
“How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!” ROMANS 10:15

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