

# Has Science Discovered God?

Discover the Evidence  
and Decide for Yourself ...



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# Contents

An Intelligent Designer? .....	3
One-Time Beginning .....	4
Everything from Nothing .....	6
Finely-Tuned for Life .....	7
Accident or Miracle? .....	8
DNA: The Language of Life .....	12
Fingerprints of a Creator .....	14
A Personal Creator? .....	15
Has the Creator Revealed Himself in the Bible? .....	16
Is There Compelling Evidence for Jesus' Resurrection? .....	19
Is the Resurrection of Jesus a Myth? .....	19
What Would a Jury Decide? .....	20
What Does Jesus' Resurrection Mean to You and Me Today? .....	21
Why Can't God Just Forgive Our Sin? .....	22
The Gift of Heaven .....	23
It's Your Choice .....	24
Endnotes .....	26
Resources .....	28

# An Intelligent Designer?

**Einstein didn't believe it was possible. Stephen Hawking said it might be the greatest scientific discovery of all time.**

What discovery has baffled the greatest scientific minds of the past century, and why has it caused them to rethink the origin of our universe?

New, more powerful, telescopes have revealed mysteries about our universe that have raised new questions about the origin of life.

But wait a minute! Hasn't science proven we don't need God to explain the universe? Lightning, earthquakes and even babies used to be explained as acts of God. But now we know better. What is it about this discovery that is so fundamentally different, and why has it stunned the scientific world?

This discovery, along with what molecular biologists have learned about the sophisticated coding within DNA, have many scientists now admitting that the universe appears to be part of a grand design.

One cosmologist put it this way:

Many scientists, when they admit their views, incline toward the teleological or design argument.<sup>1</sup>

Surprisingly, many scientists who are suddenly talking about God have no religious belief whatsoever.<sup>2</sup>

So, why are scientists suddenly speaking of God? We will hear from scientists who have been stunned by the following recent discoveries:

1. The universe had a beginning.
2. The universe is just right for life.
3. DNA coding reveals intelligence.

The statements leading scientists have made about these discoveries may shock you. Let's take a look.

## One-Time Beginning

Since the dawn of civilization man has gazed in awe at the stars, wondering what they are and how they got there. Although on a clear night the unaided human eye can see about 6,000 stars, Hubble, James Webb, and other powerful telescopes reveal there are countless trillions of them clustered in over 100 billion galaxies. Our sun is like one grain of sand amidst the world's beaches.

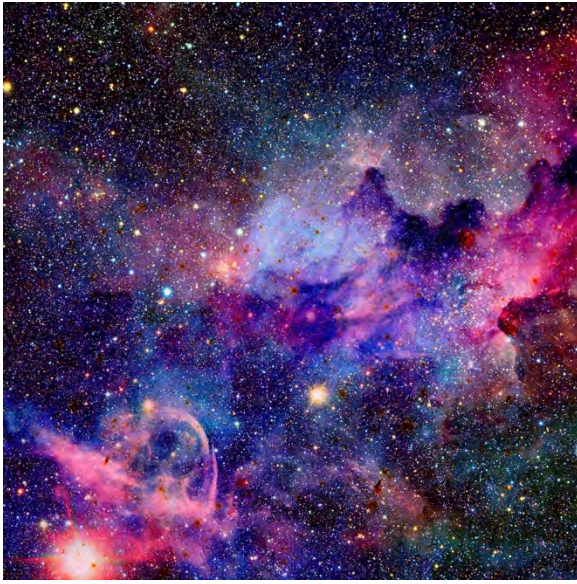


However, prior to the 20th century, the majority of scientists believed our own Milky Way galaxy was the entire universe, and that only about 100 million stars existed. Most scientists believed that our universe never had a beginning. They believed mass, space and energy had always existed. Since this view contradicted the Bible, many scientists considered the biblical account mythical.

But in the early 20th century, George Lemaitre, a Belgian priest, as well as a professor of physics, showed mathematically that the universe was actually expanding. This was a revolutionary thought that most scientists rejected—including the great Einstein.

However, Lemaitre was proven correct when astronomer Edwin Hubble observed through the Mount Wilson telescope that the universe is truly expanding, which means it had a starting point. Rewinding the process mathematically, Lemaitre calculated that everything in the universe, including matter, energy, space and even time itself, had a one-time beginning.

Shockwaves rang loudly throughout the scientific community. Many scientists, including Einstein, reacted negatively. In what Einstein later called “the biggest blunder of my life,” he fudged the equations in his theory of relativity to avoid the implication of a beginning.<sup>3</sup>



Many scientists scoffed at the idea that the universe had a beginning.

British astronomer Sir Fred Hoyle sarcastically nicknamed the creation event a “big bang.” He stubbornly held to his steady state theory that the universe has always existed.

So did Einstein and other scientists until the evidence for a beginning became overwhelming.

The “elephant in the room” implication of a beginning is that something or some superintelligent being beyond scientific investigation must have started it all.

Finally, in 1992, COBE satellite experiments proved that the universe really did have a one-time beginning in an incredible flash of light and energy.<sup>4</sup> Although some scientists called it the moment of creation, most felt more comfortable referring to it as the “big bang.”

Astronomer Robert Jastrow tries to help us imagine how it all began.

The picture suggests the explosion of a cosmic hydrogen bomb. The instant in which the cosmic bomb exploded marked the birth of the Universe.<sup>5</sup>

Science is unable to tell us what or who caused the universe to begin. But some believe it clearly points to a Creator. British theorist, Edward Milne, wrote a mathematical treatise on relativity which concluded by saying,

As to the first cause of the Universe, in the context of expansion, that is left for the reader to insert, but our picture is incomplete without Him.<sup>6</sup>

## Everything from Nothing

It's hard to picture the beginning because Cosmologists tell us that prior to the birth of the universe there were no particles, no atoms, no matter, no energy. Even time itself began during that creative act in the distant past. British scientist, Edmund Whittaker attributed the beginning of our universe to "Divine will constituting Nature from nothingness."<sup>7</sup>

Many scientists were struck by the parallel of a one-time creation event from nothing with the biblical creation account in Genesis 1:1, which states, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."<sup>8</sup>

Prior to this revolutionary discovery of a beginning to our universe, many scientists and university professors scoffed at the biblical account of creation from nothing as being unscientific. But, when the beginning was confirmed, many former skeptics changed their opinions. Robert Jastrow admitted,

Now we see how the astronomical evidence leads to a biblical view of the origin of the world.<sup>9</sup>

Another agnostic, George Smoot, the Nobel Prize winning scientist in charge of the COBE experiment, also acknowledged the parallel. He wrote,

There is no doubt that a parallel exists between the big bang as an event and the Christian notion of creation from nothing.<sup>10</sup>

What shocking statements from leading agnostic scientists! Several of them who used to scoff at the Bible as a book of fairy tales, are now admitting that the biblical concept of creation from nothing has been right all along.

Cosmologists, who specialize in the study of the universe and its origins, soon realized that a chance cosmic explosion could never bring about life any more than a nuclear bomb would—unless it was precisely engineered to do so. And that meant a designer must have planned it. They began using words like, "superintellect," "Creator," and even "Supreme Being" to describe this designer. Let's look at why.



## Finely-Tuned for Life

Physicists calculated that for life to exist, gravity and the other forces of nature needed to be just right or our universe couldn't exist.

Had the expansion rate of the early universe been slightly weaker, gravity would have pulled all matter back into a "big crunch." There would have been no stars or planets.

We're not talking about merely a one or two percent reduction in the universe's expansion rate.



British theoretical physicist Stephen Hawking wrote of the incredible precision required for the expansion rate.

If the rate of expansion one second after the big bang had been smaller by even one part in a hundred thousand million million, the universe would have re-collapsed before it ever reached its present size.<sup>11</sup>

On the flip side, if the expansion rate had been a mere fraction greater than it was, galaxies, stars and planets could never have formed, and we wouldn't be here. The question is: who programmed gravity to be so perfectly balanced with the expansion rate in order that our universe could exist?

Also, for life to exist, the conditions in our solar system and planet also needed to be just right. Not only is our sun the right size for us, but if earth was much closer, it would be too hot for life to exist. And if our sun was much further away, it would be too cold. Our elliptical orbit around the sun is also ideal for enabling seasons which are necessary for plant photosynthesis, growth, maturity, and pollination.



Earth is the only planet known to man that is just right for life, including its atmosphere of oxygen, without which none of us would be able to breathe. Due to the lack of oxygen on Mars, Venus, or any other planet known to man, we would die almost immediately. And without oxygen, water couldn't exist. Without water neither plant nor biological life could exist. Other elements also essential for biological life, such as hydrogen, nitrogen, sodium, carbon, calcium, and phosphorus, are plentiful on earth.

But these conditions are not all that is needed for life to exist. The size, temperature, relative proximity, and chemical makeup of our planet, sun, and moon also need to be just right. And dozens of other conditions needed to be exquisitely fine-tuned or we wouldn't be here to think about it.<sup>12</sup>

Scientists who believe in God may have expected such fine-tuning, but atheists and agnostics were unable to explain the remarkable "coincidences." Theoretical physicist Stephen Hawking, an atheist, acknowledged,

The remarkable fact is that the values of these numbers seem to have been very finely adjusted to make possible the development of life.<sup>13</sup>

## Accident or Miracle?

But couldn't this amazingly precise fine-tuning be attributed to chance? After all, odds-makers know that even long shots can eventually win at the racetrack. And, against heavy odds, lotteries are eventually won by someone. So, what are the odds against human life existing by chance from a random explosion in cosmic history?

For human life to be possible from a big bang defies the laws of probability. One astronomer calculates the odds for human life at less than 1 chance in a trillion trillion trillion trillion trillion trillion trillion trillion trillion trillion.<sup>14</sup> In other words, it would be far easier for a blind-folded person—in one try—to find and pick up one specially marked grain of sand out of all the beaches of the world.



Another example of how unlikely it would be for a random big bang to produce life is one person winning over a thousand consecutive mega-million-dollar lotteries after purchasing only a single ticket for each.

What would be your reaction to such news? Impossible—unless it was fixed by someone behind the scenes, which is what everyone would think. And that is what many scientists are

concluding—a superintelligence behind the scenes must have designed and created the universe.

This new understanding of how miraculous human life is in our universe led the atheistic astronomer George Greenstein to ask,

Is it possible that suddenly, without intending to, we have stumbled upon the scientific proof of the existence of a Supreme Being?<sup>15</sup>

However, as an ardent atheist, Greenstein maintains his faith in materialism rather than belief in a Creator, to ultimately explain our origins.<sup>16</sup>

In his book, *God and the Astronomers*, Jastrow explains why some scientists are reluctant to accept a transcendent Creator,

There is a kind of religion in science; it is the religion of a person who believes there is order and harmony in the Universe...This religious faith of the scientist is violated by the discovery that the world had a beginning under conditions in which the known laws of physics are not valid, and as a product of forces or circumstances we cannot discover. When that happens, the scientist has lost control. If he really examined the implications, he would be traumatized.<sup>17</sup>

It is understandable why atheistic scientists like Greenstein and Hawking sought other explanations for the fine-tuning rather than acknowledge it as evidence for a Creator. In order to come up with materialistic explanations for our origins, some have resorted to speculative ideas that sound more like science fiction than genuine science.

Hawking attempted to eliminate the need for a super-intelligent Creator by speculating that other unseen (and scientifically unprovable) universes *may* exist, increasing the odds that one of them (ours) is perfectly fine-tuned for life. However, since his proposal is speculative and unverifiable, it doesn't meet the standard required of a scientific theory.

Although he is also an agnostic, Paul Davies, Director of Beyond: Center for Fundamental Concepts in Science, dismisses Hawking's Multiverse hypothesis as too speculative. He writes, "Such a belief must rest on faith rather than observation."<sup>18</sup>

Nevertheless, during his lifetime, Hawking continued leading the charge to explore purely materialistic explanations for our origins. However, many other scientists, including numerous agnostics, have acknowledged what appears to be overwhelming evidence for a Creator.

Hoyle, who initially argued against creation, wrote,

A common sense interpretation of the facts suggests that a superintellect has monkeyed with physics, as well as chemistry and biology, and that there are no blind forces worth speaking about in nature.<sup>19</sup>

Einstein himself wasn't religious, and didn't believe in a personal God, but he called the genius behind the universe...

...an intelligence of such superiority that, compared with it, all the systematic thinking and acting of human beings is an utterly insignificant reflection.<sup>20</sup>

British Atheist Christopher Hitchens, who spent much of his life writing and debating against God, admitted that the fine-tuning of the laws of physics to make life possible was a compelling argument for intelligent design. He acknowledged in an interview that he was most perplexed by the fact that life couldn't exist if things were different by just "*one degree or one hair.*"<sup>21</sup>

Theoretical physicist Paul Davies acknowledges in his book, *The Cosmic Blueprint*, that intelligence must have been involved. He writes,

There is for me powerful evidence that there is something going on behind it all. It seems as though somebody has fine-tuned nature's numbers to make the Universe.... The impression of design is overwhelming.<sup>22</sup>

Davies, Hoyle, Jastrow, and Einstein all cite evidence of a superintelligence who created our universe and planet by fine-tuning nature's laws.

But, if the universe is so perfect for life, why don't we find forms of life in abundance on Mars, Venus, and other planets in and beyond our solar system?



Mars' Lifeless Surface

The fact that our universe and solar system is perfectly fine-tuned for life isn't enough to make life happen without an extremely complex molecule that carries coded instructions making each species unique. In the last century scientists discovered that the secret to all life is contained in the sophisticated coding (software) of that tiny molecule called **DNA**.

## DNA: The Language of Life

Astronomy and physics are not the only areas where science has seen evidence for design. Molecular biologists have discovered intricately complex design in the microscopic world of DNA. In the past century, scientists learned that DNA is the “brains” and “organizer” behind each cell in our bodies as well as every other living thing. Yet the more they discover about DNA, the more amazed they are at the brilliance behind it.

Materialists like Richard Dawkins argue that DNA must have evolved by natural selection. Yet, even the most ardent evolutionists admit that the origin of DNA’s intricate complexity is beyond the capability of natural selection.



Before life could exist, DNA needed to exist with its extremely complex code which instructs proteins how to form. DNA’s intricate complexity caused its co-discoverer, Francis Crick, to believe that it could never have originated on earth naturally. Crick, an evolutionist who believed life is too complex to have originated on earth, and must have come from outer space, wrote,

An honest man, armed with all the knowledge available to us now, could only state that in some sense, the origin of life appears at the moment to almost be a miracle, so many are the conditions which would have had to have been satisfied to get it going.”<sup>23</sup>

The brilliant coding behind DNA reveals such intelligence that it staggers the imagination. A mere pinhead of DNA contains information equivalent to a stack of paperback books that would encircle the earth 5,000 times. And DNA operates like a language with its own extremely complex software code.

Intelligence is always required to develop software programs. And the coding of DNA is so brilliant that Microsoft founder Bill Gates stated, “the software of DNA is far, far more complex than any software we have ever developed.”<sup>24</sup>

As Francis Crick, co-discoverer of DNA concluded, natural selection could never have produced the first molecule. Many scientists believe that the coding within the DNA molecule points to an intelligence far exceeding what could have ever occurred by natural causes.

The intelligence contained within DNA convinced the world’s leading Atheist, Antony Flew that God must exist. In the early 21st century, this British professor—who had argued against God’s existence for over 50 years—changed his mind after studying the intelligence behind DNA. Flew explains what led him to renounce decades of atheistic belief and lecturing:

What I think the DNA material has done is to show that intelligence must have been involved in getting these extraordinarily diverse elements together. The enormous complexity by which the results were achieved look to me like the work of intelligence.... It now seems to me that the finding of more than fifty years of DNA research have provided materials for a new and enormously powerful argument to design.<sup>25</sup>

Although Flew was not a Christian, he admitted that the “software” behind DNA is far too sophisticated and complex to have originated without a “designer.” The discovery of the incredible intelligence behind DNA has, in this former leading atheist’s words, “provided materials for a new and enormously powerful argument to design.”

In 2007 Flew wrote a book explaining his new belief in God, entitled, *There is a God: How the World’s Most Notorious Atheist Changed His Mind*.

## Fingerprints of a Creator

Are scientists now convinced that a Creator has left his “fingerprints” on the universe? In other words, does the revolutionary new evidence from astronomy, physics, and biology convince skeptics as well as honest agnostics?

Although many scientists are still bent on squeezing God out of the universe, most recognize the religious implications of these new discoveries. In his book, *The Grand Design*, Stephen Hawking—who didn’t believe in a personal God—attempted to explain why the universe doesn’t need God. Yet when faced with the evidence of it being so perfectly fine-tuned for life, even Hawking admitted,

There must be religious overtones. But I think most scientists prefer to shy away from the religious side of it.<sup>26</sup>

As a former agnostic, the astronomer Robert Jastrow had no Christian agenda behind his conclusions. However, in response to the evidence, he freely acknowledged the compelling case for a Creator. Jastrow wrote of the shock and despair experienced by scientists who thought they had squeezed God out of their world.

For the scientist who has lived by his faith in the power of reason, the story ends like a bad dream. He has scaled the mountains of ignorance; he is about to conquer the highest peak; as he pulls himself over the final rock, he is greeted by a band of theologians who have been sitting there for centuries.<sup>27</sup>

Although scientists are focused on the “What” and “How” of the universe, they leave the “Who” and “Why” to theologians. The reason so many scientists are talking about God now is that the evidence is pointing to a superintelligence who, not only created everything, but seems to have done it with clear intent and purpose—involving us.

So, what does the evidence reveal about the Creator of the universe—and us?



# A Personal Creator?

If there is a superintelligent Creator, is he just some Force like in the movie *Star Wars*, or is he personal like us? The bigger question is: “How could a non-personal intelligence create personal beings?”

In his classic book, *The God Who is There*, Dr. Francis Schaeffer writes,

No one has presented an idea, let alone demonstrated it to be feasible, to explain how the impersonal beginning, plus time, plus chance, can give personality.... No one in all the history of humanistic, rationalistic thought has found a solution.<sup>1</sup>

Nobel laureate Arthur L. Schawlow, reasons that these new discoveries provide compelling evidence for a personal God. He writes,

When confronted with the marvels of life and the universe, one must ask why and not just how. The only possible answers are religious.... I find a need for God in the universe and in my own life.<sup>2</sup>

Considering what Davies, Schaeffer, and Schawlow each concluded, the question is why would God fine-tune the universe so perfectly for human life unless he had a reason for our existence?

Of all living creatures, only human beings have the intelligence to both explore the universe and ask why we are here. Furthermore, since we instinctively have the need to know our purpose, wouldn't we expect the Creator to communicate with us and let us know?

Schaeffer reasons that a personal Creator would communicate to us verbally.

Why should he [God] not communicate in verbalized form when he has made man a verbalizing being, in his thoughts as well as in communication with other men?<sup>3</sup>

## Has the Creator Revealed Himself in the Bible?

In an interview with the *New York Times*, Nobel laureate Arno Penzias cites the Bible as in perfect agreement with science about our origins. He wrote,

The best data we have are exactly what I would have predicted, had I had nothing to go on but the five books of Moses, the Psalms, the Bible as a whole.”<sup>4</sup>

Cosmologist Smoot also admitted that the Christian view of creation is scientifically accurate. And former agnostic Robert Jastrow acknowledged that the astronomical evidence supports the “biblical view” of creation.

The main points of agreement between the Bible and science are:

- The Bible and science agree about a beginning to the universe.
- The Bible and science agree about a superintelligence.
- The Bible and science agree about a personal Creator.

The Bible is unique in that it contains 66 books, written by 40 different authors, covering a period of approximately 1,600 years. Yet, incredibly, they each wrote of the same Creator, and the same theme of his redemption.

About 25% of the Bible foretells future events that are very specific and detailed. Over 300 of these prophecies are messianic, speaking of a divine Redeemer who would come to die for our sins, as well as usher in world peace in the last days. Centuries passed without these prophecies being fulfilled.

Then, two thousand years ago a man set foot on our planet who claimed to be from a place beyond space and time. He claimed that he was the promised Messiah who had come “to seek and save the lost.” His name is Jesus Christ.

When asked who has left the greatest legacy on history, renowned non-Christian historian H. G. Wells replied, “By this test Jesus stands first.”<sup>5</sup>

The New Testament book of Hebrews reveals Jesus' divine identity:

In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets...But now in these last days God has spoken to us through his Son...and through him he made the world. The Son reflects the glory of God and shows exactly what God is like." Hebrews 1:1-2, NCV

The writer of the New Testament book of Hebrews tells us Jesus Christ existed before coming to earth as a baby. We are told it was Jesus himself who flung the stars into space, fine-tuned our universe, and created DNA.

Could Jesus Christ be the one Einstein referred to as the "superintelligence" behind the universe? Could Jesus Christ be the one Hoyle referred to as having "monkeyed with physics, chemistry and biology?" The apostle Paul, who was originally opposed to Christianity, explains Jesus' role as Creator:

Christ is the visible expression of the invisible God. He existed before creation began, for it was through him that everything was made, whether spiritual or material, seen or unseen."  
Colossians 1:15-16, Phillips

When his disciples saw Jesus restore sight to the blind, stop raging storms by uttering a mere word, and even raising the dead, they believed he was the promised Messiah. The apostle John wrote,

We proclaim to you the one who existed from the beginning, whom we have heard and seen. We saw him with our own eyes and touched him with our own hands. He is...eternal life. 1 John 1:1-2, NLT

The details regarding Jesus' birth, life, and death fulfilled hundreds of Old Testament prophecies against impossible mathematical odds. Professor of mathematics Peter Stoner calculated the odds of one person fulfilling all of those ancient prophecies would be one in a hundred quadrillion ( $10^{17}$ ).<sup>6</sup>

Yet, when Jesus told his followers he would be taken prisoner by the Jewish leaders and crucified, they were saddened and confused. They doubted his promise that he would rise again on the third day after his crucifixion.

Bible scholar Wilbur Smith reasons,

When he said He would rise again from the dead, the third day after He was crucified, He said something that only a fool would dare say if He expected the devotion of any disciples – unless He was sure He was going to rise.”<sup>7</sup>

As Jesus had boldly predicted, he was taken prisoner, condemned to death by Pontius Pilate, and crucified on a Roman cross.

After hanging on the cross for six hours, Jesus died. A Roman guard pierced his side to make sure he was dead. Then, Jesus was buried in the tomb of a wealthy member of the Jewish council, Joseph of Arimathea. Roman guards were ordered to maintain a 24-hour watch at the tomb.

Jesus’ disciples had gone into hiding, fearing they too would be arrested and possibly executed like Jesus.

But on the third day, Mary Magdalene and other women hurried to the disciples claiming they had seen Jesus alive! Shortly afterwards the eyewitnesses tell us that Jesus appeared alive to Peter, John, and over 500 others. The disciples were suddenly transformed.

They now believed he was the long-promised Messiah, the fulfillment of over 300 ancient Hebrew prophecies. They went everywhere proclaiming Jesus as the risen Savior and Lord, even at the cost of their own lives.

That leads us to ask: Could Jesus’ resurrection simply be a 2000-year-old legend, or is it based upon verifiable historical evidence? Some skeptics decided to conduct an objective investigation into the facts. Let’s take a look at what they discovered.

## Is There Compelling Evidence for Jesus' Resurrection?

So, what evidence is there that the resurrection is true?

If Jesus didn't rise from the dead, then the foundation for the Christian Faith would forever be destroyed. But if he was really dead—and then rose again, his claims would be proven true, since only the Creator of life itself would have power over death.

Peter Steinfels of *The New York Times* writes:

Shortly after Jesus was executed, his followers were suddenly galvanized from a baffled and cowering group into people whose message about a living Jesus and a coming kingdom, preached at the risk of their lives, eventually changed an empire. Something happened...But exactly what?"<sup>8</sup>

Something happened that changed history. But is there evidence for Jesus' resurrection that would convince honest skeptics as well as an unbiased jury?

## Is the Resurrection of Jesus a Myth?

One person who wanted to know what happened was English journalist and skeptic, Frank Morison, who began research for a book to prove that Jesus' resurrection was a myth. However, as he examined the evidence, Morison's views changed as well as the theme of his book. What was it that changed Morison's mind as well as his book?<sup>9</sup>

Morison discovered Jesus' death was verified by both Jewish and Roman historians. After his crucifixion, a Roman soldier had pierced Jesus' side with a sword, causing blood and water to flow from his body.

Both secular and Christian historians agree that Jesus was dead—with no heartbeat, no brain waves, and no circulation of blood. Jesus wasn't merely in a deep coma—his human body was clinically dead.

Morison then wondered if the disciples had conspired a plot to make it appear Jesus had risen. However, there are three main problems with that theory:

1. The tomb was secured by a large stone and a 24-hour trained Roman guard. It would have been impossible for the disciples to roll the stone away and remove Jesus' body without notice.
2. The resurrection plot would have died out as soon as someone discovered Jesus' body, yet that never happened.
3. The disciples changed from being cowards into men who were willing to be tortured and martyred for proclaiming the risen Jesus.

It was the dramatic transformation in the disciples' behavior that convinced Morison the resurrection really happened. His book detailing why he changed his mind is entitled, *Who Moved the Stone*.

## What Would a Jury Decide?

Another scholar who wrote about evidence for Jesus' resurrection was Dr. Simon Greenleaf, founder of the Harvard Law School. Greenleaf wrote the rules of evidence still used in our legal system today.

Applying those rules to the events surrounding Jesus' death, Greenleaf concluded that any honest jury would render a verdict that Jesus' resurrection really happened. As with Morison, it was the sudden change in the disciples' behavior that persuaded him.



This brilliant legal scholar concluded,

It would have been impossible for the disciples to persist with their conviction that Jesus had risen if they hadn't actually seen the risen Christ.<sup>10</sup>

Jesus' resurrection convinced his disciples that he was the Son of God who had died for our sins (John 20:24-29), "the only way to God (John 14:6)," and "the resurrection and the life (John 11:25)."

## What Does Jesus' Resurrection Mean to You and Me Today?

The apostle Paul explains how Jesus' resurrection impacts our lives.

For Christ has completely abolished death, and has now, through the Gospel, opened to us men the shining possibilities of the life that is eternal. —2 Timothy 1:10, Phillips

Jesus' death and resurrection opened the door for us to have eternal life with him. Jesus said,

I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he dies, yet shall he live. —John 11:25, ESV

In Ephesians 1, the apostle Paul reveals the mystery of why God created us.

Before the foundation of the world, he chose us to become, in Christ, his holy and blameless children living within his constant care. He planned, in his purpose of love, that we should be adopted as his own children through Jesus Christ.

For God had allowed us to know the secret of his plan, and it is this: he purposes...that all human history shall be consummated in Christ... And here is the staggering thing—that in all which will one day belong to him we have been promised a share...! —Ephesians 1:3-11, Phillips

What an amazing privilege—to be adopted by the Creator of the universe as his own sons and daughters and spend eternity with him in heaven!

But there is an obstacle preventing us from going to heaven. The apostle Paul explains,



You were his enemies, separated from him by your evil thoughts and actions... —Colossians 1:21, NLT

The obstacle to us having eternal life with Christ is that we have sinned and rebelled against a holy, righteous God. Although God loves us beyond our understanding, his perfect justice requires payment for our sins. The penalty is death.

## Why Can't God Just Forgive Our Sin?

Many wonder why an all-powerful, loving God can't just forgive us without punishing us for our sins. Why does he demand justice?



Imagine entering a courtroom and you are guilty of murder. As you approach the bench, you realize that the judge is your father. Knowing that he loves you, you immediately begin to plead, "Dad, just let me go!"

With tears in his eyes he responds, "I love you, son, but I'm a judge. I can't simply let you go."

Presenting the evidence against you, he bangs the gavel down and declares you guilty. Justice cannot be compromised, at least not by a judge. But because he loves you, he steps down from the bench, takes off the robe, and offers to pay the penalty for you. The penalty is death.

This is the picture painted by the New Testament. God himself stepped down into human history, in the person of Jesus Christ, and was crucified on the cross for us. God had two choices: to punish us for our sin, or to receive the punishment himself. In Christ, he paid the penalty for us.

In other words, God’s perfect justice is completely satisfied by the death of his Son, Jesus Christ. All of our sins—no matter how bad they are or have been—are completely paid for by the blood of Christ. Paul writes,

...yet now he has brought you back as his friends. He has done this through his death on the cross in his own human body. As a result, he has brought you into the very presence of God, and you are holy and blameless as you stand before him without a single fault.  
—Colossians 1:22, NLT

But you ask, “Don’t I have to do good deeds to get into heaven?”

The problem is, God requires us to be perfect, and sin separates us from God and his holiness. Romans 5:8 tells us, “But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

Our good deeds can’t erase our sins. But, since Jesus lived a sinless life, he is the only person who is qualified to pay the penalty for our sins.

## The Gift of Heaven

Since eternal life is a gift, you and I can’t do anything to earn our way into heaven. Paul, in his letter to the Ephesians, explains God’s amazing grace.

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. —Ephesians 2:8-9, NIV

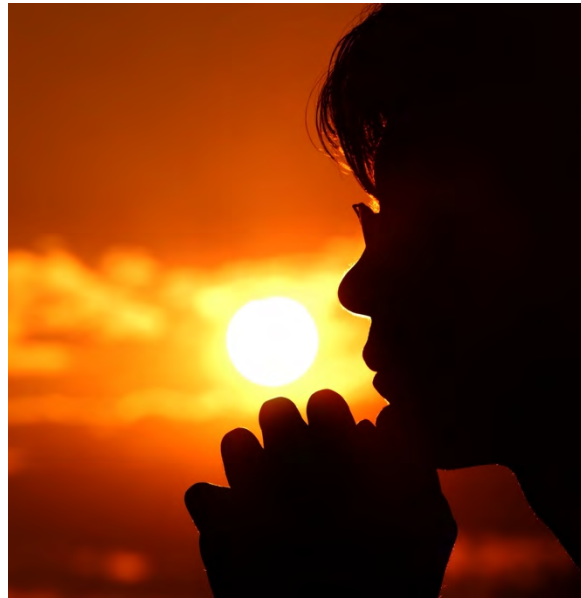
For a gift to be ours, we need to actually receive it. Like any gift, you and I can choose to accept or reject Jesus Christ’s pardon for the penalty for our sins. This was made clear by the apostle John.

This is what God told us: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life, but whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. —1 John 5:11-12, NCV

## It's Your Choice

To become a Christian, you must place your faith in Jesus' death for your sins on the cross, and trust in his resurrection for your eternal life. It is a choice that you alone must make. No one else can do it for you.

You must honestly admit you have sinned and want the forgiveness Jesus Christ offers you. The apostle John tells us that,



If we freely admit that we have sinned, we find God utterly reliable—he forgives our sins and makes us thoroughly clean from all that is evil. — 1 John 1:9, Phillips

John tells us that whoever receives Jesus Christ becomes his child.

Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. —John 1:12, NIV

You can receive Jesus right now by asking him to come into your life and forgive your sins.

If you haven't ever invited Jesus into your life, simply pray the following words. But remember, it's not the words you say but the attitude of your heart that is important.

**“Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for dying for all my sins—past, present, and future. Thank you for giving me eternal life. I receive you as my Savior by faith, and desire you to be Lord of my life. Make me the kind of person you want me to be.”**

If you have made this commitment to Jesus Christ, he actually entered your life. He will help you to become the brand-new person he created you to be. He frees you to experience a life of meaning, purpose and power.

And there's even more. . .

Please share your response below to receive additional free resources.

**[No, I didn't pray the prayer.](#)**

**[Yes, I prayed the prayer and invited Jesus into my life.](#)**

**[Yes, I prayed and rededicated my life to Jesus.](#)**

**[No, I have already invited Jesus into my life.](#)**

# Endnotes

## An Intelligent Designer?

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18. Paul Davies, *God and the New Physics* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 1983), 174.
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27. Jastrow, 107.

## A Personal Creator?

1. Francis A. Schaeffer, *The God Who Is There* (Downers Grove IL: InterVarsity Press, 1998, 30<sup>th</sup> edition), 115.
2. Margenau, H. and R. A. Varghese, eds. *Cosmos, Bios, Theos: Scientists Reflect on Science, God, and the Origins of the Universe, Life, and Homo Sapiens* (Open Court Pub. Co., La Salle, IL, 1992).
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7. Wilbur M. Smith, *A Great Certainty in This Hour of World Crises* (Wheaton, ILL: Van Kampen Press, 1951), 10, 11.
8. Peter Steinfels, “Jesus Died – And Then What Happened?” *New York Times*, April 3, 1988, E9.
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