

# 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY SCIENCE

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## SCIENCE PROVES: GOD EXISTS!

- Human Soul Lives Forever, Surgeon Discovers
- Beauty Not in Eye of Beholder, Researchers Claim
- Human Choice Necessary for Quantum Physics

These headlines may seem very strange. We are not used to scientific reports on matters of faith and philosophy. But even though the headlines are made up, scientists are beginning to make those claims. In fact the scientific discoveries of the 20<sup>th</sup> century are leading to a whole new approach to science.

To understand what's new about it, you have to understand what came before. For 300 years, researchers thought that, in order to keep all their facts straight, their work could not involve anything that could not be seen, touched or measured.

That means that "real" science could not talk about God – or even about human intelligence or free will. In trying

to be as scientific and accurate as possible, some researchers sneered at faith as an inferior way

of knowing. This made some believers so suspicious of science that they refused to accept its data. (You may still find these attitudes in some debates between "creationists" and "evolutionists".)

Prejudices like these began to threaten true scientific progress. Fortunately, however, the fact could no longer be ignored! And the facts came from unexpected places: the world of nature, nuclear physics – even from outer space!

At a 1990 convention of astronomers (scientists who study outer space), speakers presented data from a space-studying satellite. Commenting on the findings, astronomer Geoffrey Burbridge told the assembly, "The first verse or so of the book of Genesis seems to have been confirmed. Burbridge was not claiming that the Bible

was a book of scientific data. (It certainly is not.) But in the strictly scientific meeting, the astronomer could freely mention God and the Bible.

A century ago, only theologians would have called the beginning of the world “the moment of creation”. Now it is an accepted scientific term. The “Big Bang” theory not only tells us when that moment was (15 to 20 billion years ago: the Big Bang points to God. “Our picture is incomplete without Him,” said physicist Edward Milne. Wernher vonBraun, a pioneer of solid-fuel rocket research, one remarked, “The more I study outer space, the more I believe in God.”

Even the existence of life points to an intelligence beyond the universe. “The more I examine the universe . . .the more evidence I find that the universe in some sense must have known we were coming,” wrote physicist Freeman Dyson.

For centuries, philosophers said that the beauty and order in nature prove the existence of God. Now scientists are pointing to the same things and coming up with the same conclusion: The beauty in nature, in molecules and even (believe it or not! in mathematics points to an artist, an intelligence behind the scenes. It points to God.

There is so much more to the earth, the stars, nature and the human being than people had

ever dreamed of. That is why the old scientific approach wasn’t big enough. Now scientists are growing into a new approach: one that looks at nature and finds meaning; one that looks at human beings and sees dignity; one that looks at the stars and knows there is a God.

Do you still hold these popular “scientific” beliefs?

Claim: “In the struggle against a hostile environment, animals gradually took on new abilities, their offspring slowly changing from one kind of animal to another.”

Fact: First of all, there is no such thing as an environment that is “hostile” to the creatures that naturally live there. Secondly, fossil evidence shows new animals appearing in a particular place “all of a sudden,” not by a slow process of adaptation.

Claim: “Human being evolved from ape-like creatures that gradually became more intelligent and social.”

Fact: A 90,000 year old human skeleton found in Israel comes from the same time period as Neanderthal “man”. That’s good news and bad news. Good news, because it proves that Neanderthal was not our pre-human ancestor, but a neighbor of early man. Bad news, because it

**means that all the books on the subject will have to be re-written!**

**Claim: “Human thought and choice is a matter of brain circuitry.”**

**Fact: The studies of Canadian neurosurgeon Dr. Wilder Penfield proved that even while the brain of a conscious patient was being stimulated by an electrode, the patient’s thinking remained clear and correct. The electrode could not influence the person’s ability to choose, either. Dr. Penfield’s conclusion: The mind and will are not part of the brain at all. “What a thrill it is” Dr. Penfield wrote, “to discover that the scientist, too, can legitimately believe in the existence of the spirit!”**