Part 3 - Pain, Suffering, Evil and Christianity

We have looked at pain, suffering and evil and found that Atheism cannot explain evil. Pantheism and cosmic religions cannot escape the eternity of evil. For reincarnation, there is no hope. The logical extension of karma appears to be downhill. Evil is intrinsic to the universe so there is no escape.

That brings us to Christianity. How does Christianity relate to pain, suffering and evil? We must start with how Christianity deals with the four core components of most eastern-based religions, including Hinduism, Buddhism and movements such as Transcendental.

COBE & WMAP - Cosmic Microwave Background

In the late 1960s, the big bang model of the beginning of the universe was gaining support from scientists. The previous generally accepted model was the steady-state model, which contended that the universe had simply always existed. The discovery that space is expanding was a serious problem for the steady state model. But at the same time, the big bang had made no unique predictions that had been confirmed by data.

Part 3 - Radiometric Dating Details

We have detailed C-14 dating evidence which shows that material supposedly hundreds of millions of years old dates to 50,000 years using C-14. This leads to the question of which supposedly accurate radiometric dating method is actually accurate? Is it C-14 (which dates from a few years to 60,000 years) or long-age radiometric dating (dating millions and billions of years)? They appear to contradict each other... by hundreds of millions of years.

Science In The News

Junk DNA is renamed. Finally, evolutionists are acknowledging that all DNA may have a purpose. Dark DNA is the new term for DNA for which no function has yet been determined. This has come about because every month so-called junk DNA has been found to have a role in the functioning of cells. Evolutionists have long claimed that junk DNA is useless leftovers of evolution.

Creationist have called for C-14 testing of “Sue.” You may remember Sue, the dinosaur. Her fossil remains contained soft tissue, blood vessels and blood cells. Every scientist knows that soft tissues and blood will break down in a short time even if perfectly sealed for preservation. The chemical bonds in life are too unstable to last more than a few thousands years after death. Here is an opportunity to prove creationist scientists wrong. If C-14 dating results in 10s of thousands of years of age, then we lose.
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additional scientific data may support or refute one of these conflicting results.

Assumptions: Both helium diffusion and radiometric dating make assumptions. In the case of helium diffusion, we have to know the diffusion rate of helium through a zircon crystal. As part of the study we are looking at, those calculations were made by a non-creationist expert. The assumption is confirmed. Helium diffusion dating appears accurate.

In the case of radiometric dating, two assumptions are made. The first is that we know how much of each element was in the rock before radiometric decay occurred. In many cases, we simply cannot know. But there are tests that can be made to verify this assumption in some cases. In the case of U-Pb decay in zircon crystals, the quantities are known to a high degree of certainty. The second assumption is that radiometric decay has always occurred at the same rate we observe today. We simply cannot know if this assumption is true. So, we will have to look at additional scientific data that supports or refutes the assumption.

Evolutionists have long assumed that radioactive decay has always occurred at the same rate. There is no logical reason to think otherwise. We agree. There doesn’t appear to be a logical reason why the rate would have changed. But it was never investigated. So let’s do an investigation.

The first item to note is that man has artificially changed the rate of decay. Scientists have stripped the electrons off of a certain radiometric element with the result that the decay rate was cut from a half-life of over a billion years to a half life of 33 years. So, we do know it can vary.

The research we are looking at has found evidence in nature that the rate of radiometric decay has varied in the past, by a factor of thousands. Here are the data: As radioactive elements decay, the particles released damage the structure of the granite (igneous) rock they are in. The drawing and photo of halos above right show the rings of damage that occur during decay. Each particle ejected during decay has a certain energy level, resulting in concentric rings in the crystal.

Many times, rings of decay were found for later stages of radiometric decay, but the early stages were missing. It appears the decaying atom was moved at a very certain stage of decay. Rings were found all over the world with the same result. But there was great variability depending on the age of the igneous rock. See our web site for a link to the whole story. It is involved and a bit complex. We have space for only a brief summary.

Creationists and evolutionists agree on the total amount of decay that has occurred. Also, radiometric decay halos can only occur in solidified rock that has not been reheated to a high temperature.

Two important facts were found. 1) magma flows that creationists believe occurred during Noah’s Flood have a density of 5 times more halos than older or younger rock. This suggests that radiometric decay was accelerated during the flood. 2) Supporting this idea, it was found that during the decay in these rocks, the center of the halos moved up to 1 mm. This suggests hot flowing water and gas through the strata. Contrary to the long-held assumption of constant radioactive decay rates, it appears that the rate of radiometric decay increased during Noah’s flood.  CRM

How to Date a Rock
A scientist cannot determine the age of a rock by looking at it. In fact, he cannot measure the age of a rock. He can infer the age. That means he can measure certain properties of the rock and come to a logical conclusion. But a direct measurement of age cannot be done.

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BUT, if the C-14 dating results in an age of 3000 to 5000 years, creationists will have shown that man and dinosaurs walked the earth together just a few thousand years ago. Evolutionists know what the results would be so they absolutely refuse to date Sue.

Bird Soft Tissue. The Carnegie Museum of Natural History thinks they have a better understanding of bird evolution, but their primary evidence is fossils including soft tissue, which means these fossils are just a few thousand years old. “We went to Changma hoping that we’d discover one, maybe two, fragments of fossil birds,” said Dr. Lamanna. “Instead, we found dozens, including some almost complete skeletons with soft tissues. We were successful beyond our wildest dreams.” (Emphasis ours)

Atheism defined by Federal Court. Atheists maintain that Atheism is not a religion because they have no god. But they have a world view, which actually is what a religion is all about. And they do have a god: themselves. In 2005, the U.S. Appeals court ruled, in Kaufman v. McCaughtry, that Atheism is a religion. The Supreme Court has not overturned the ruling. Evolution is the foundation of Atheism. Combined with Peloza v. Capistrano, 1994, which defined scientific theory, evolution is exposed as a religious belief rather than a scientific theory. Our web site has a link to the information and discussion.

Atheists and Media Go Nuts. The new Kansas science standards have come under heavy fire in newspapers and magazines. It is proclaimed that the standards require the teaching of creation science. Here is the phrase which brings such indignation: “(7) explains proposed scientific explanations of the origin of life as well as scientific criticisms of these explanations.” That’s it. Seven specific things students are to understand about evolution. The last item includes that there are other possibilities. Does opposition to that phrase sound like it is encouraging academic excellence and inquiry or brainwashing students with dogma?  CRM
In 1948 George Gamow predicted that if the big bang is true, there would be dissipated heat left over from the time when elementary particles cooled and combined to form what we now call matter, about 400,000 years after the big bang. This heat would be found in every direction of the sky and be about the same in every direction. This was referred to as Cosmic Microwave Background Radiation (CMB). The temperature of that background radiation would be just a few degrees above absolute zero, and there should be fluctuations in the temperature.

Two scientists at Bell Labs made a startling discovery in 1969. They accidentally detected that background radiation while working to calibrate a microwave receiver. The big bang had been coming under assault in the scientific community, but this discovery changed that and the big bang became the accepted model of the start of the universe. The scientists had found the predicted CMB.

Cosmologists predicted how strong the CMB signal should be and how much fluctuation there should be due to the formation of galaxies. In other words, the signal should not be exactly the same in every direction. There was a natural desire to measure the strength of the signal across the sky. This could not be done from the surface of the earth for several reasons. Cosmologists set about designing and constructing a satellite that could measure the signal.

On November 18, 1989, the COsmic Background Explorer (COBE) satellite was launched. It took until the end of 1991 for a complete mapping of the CMB. The CMB was of less intensity than had been predicted and the fluctuations were much smaller than expected. In fact, the final “map” of the information was based on a statistical analysis of the data, not a direct reading. Here is the map that was released to the world in 1992:

The COBE satellite had used the most sophisticated electronics of the time, but a major problem was that the measuring instrument itself adds data (this is a function of all electronics...turn on your CD player. Don’t play a CD yet. Turn up the volume. Hear the hiss? That hiss is in all electronic devices). So, a new satellite was developed using up-to-date electronics which would have a hiss low enough that data could be read directly. The result was the Wilkinson Microwave Anisotropy Probe (WMAP) satellite. This satellite, launched in 2001, is much more sensitive than COBE and gave us a much more detailed picture of the CMB.

Here is the map:

The WMAP map is much more detailed than the COBE image. All of this energy is, according to the model, at the edge of space. It is not distributed in the universe, it is at the edge. The analysis of this information results in many calculations about the universe based on the assumption that there was a big bang beginning.

As we reported in an earlier newsletter, the analysis results in the diameter of the universe being over 125 billion light years, which is difficult to believe since the universe has only existed for about 13.7 billion years. It also resulted in the need for the universe to expand at many times the speed of light during first the second after the big bang.

It was predicted by the big bang model that the WMAP data would show “shadows” of galaxies. Those shadows do not appear. Bad news. (See our home page for a link to the information).

Here are three items you will not find in any popular newspaper, magazine or book about the CMB: 1) Other models of the beginning also include CMB. 2) Right after the CMB was predicted, a scientist also pointed out that dust clouds in the universe would scatter the CMB so we could never get an accurate reading. 3) The Sunyaev-Zeldovich (S-Z) effect says the CMB will collide with electrons in galaxy clusters and that will affect the reading. Points 2 & 3 make it well known that we can never obtain an accurate view of CMB. For all we know, there could be no fluctuations at all in the CMB. It could be perfectly consistent. That would be a complete nullification of the big bang. So big bang scientists ignore the obvious because they need fluctuations. Looks like “the” proof of a big bang is much ado about inaccurate data. CRM

**INTERESTING:**

Evolutionists generally believe that stars formed by the collapse of gas clouds under gravity. This is supposed to generate the millions of degrees required for nuclear fusion. But most clouds would be so hot that outward pressure would prevent collapse. Evolutionists must find a way for the cloud to cool down. One such mechanism might be through molecules in the cloud colliding and radiating enough of the heat away. But according to theory, the ‘big bang’ made mainly hydrogen, with a little helium—the other elements supposedly formed inside stars. Helium can’t form molecules at all, so the only molecule that could be formed would be molecular hydrogen (H₂). Even this is easily destroyed by ultraviolet light, and usually needs dust grains to form—and dust grains require heavier elements. So the only coolant left is atomic hydrogen, and this would leave gas clouds over a hundred times too hot to collapse. i.e. It can’t happen. [http://www.answersingenesis.org/creation/v20/i3/big_bang.asp](http://www.answersingenesis.org/creation/v20/i3/big_bang.asp)
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Mediation and other eastern philosophy based beliefs. Those core components are: 1) Man is inherently divine, 2) All is one and all is god, 3) Jesus was an enlightened human, and 4) There is no absolute truth. Let’s look at them one by one:

1) **Man is inherently divine.** The Bible teaches that man is born depraved (marked by immorality; deviating from what is considered right or proper or good). This is a parallel to karma. Karma says that we enter this life less than wholly good. Otherwise we would have no need to live again. Yet, there seems to be a belief that a child has to be taught to do bad things. Experience teaches otherwise. Newborn babies are 100% self-centered. When the baby is uncomfortable, unhappy, hungry (the list is long), he cries with enthusiasm and will do so until the hapless parent figures out why the baby is unhappy.

At a young age, children lie to avoid punishment or embarrassment. They do not want to share anything they consider their own. Older children (two or older) will torment their new sibling. Nobody teaches them this. It comes natural. This would not be true if we were born good or were divine (our definition of divine is 100% good).

How do bad kids go good? Training and discipline from parent and family. In 30 years in the classroom, my problem students, rich or poor, had never been trained by their parents to respect the needs and desires of others. The high school students were still quite self-centered.

Evil is not something “out there.” “Out there,” you will find pain and suffering for sure, but not evil. Evil lurks in only one place: the heart of man.

2) **All is one and all is god.** The Bible teaches that our Creator is outside, and bigger, than the creation. Jesus is beyond “good.” He is holy. God gave man freedom and that necessarily included the freedom to be evil. If we are eternally part of the totality of the universe, then our hearts and the universe have eternal evil. But, our holy Creator entered His creation to open a path away from evil for all time. He did it by dying at the hands of evil men.

3) **Jesus was an enlightened human.** If Jesus was merely an enlightened human, then logically, from a pantheist or nontheistic (such as Buddhism) view, he carried with him the essence of the universe. The enlightenment was of no good because all is one and all is god. Buddha and other prophets spent their lives searching for an escape from evil. Jesus sought for no answers. He IS the answer. In Him only is there no evil. Since suffering, pain and evil are a natural part of our being and reality, it is required that someone from outside our reality make provision for us to escape. Jesus, our Creator and Savior did just that for those who confess their evil to Him and ask His forgiveness. When Jesus is invited into the temple which is our body, He enters with the promise of future release from evil.

4) **There is no absolute truth.** Truth is true for everyone and absolute. See the boxes at the left and below.

In the final analysis, everyone must find an explanation for suffering and pain. And more importantly, evil. Christianity offers a sound explanation and the hope of escape. Atheism cannot explain evil. Pantheism and other eastern religions offer no hope of escape as there is no creator, only a force. A force which contains eternal evil. Think deeply about your view of evil. Do you see any hope? If not, we invite you to open your view to Jesus and His sacrifice for you and for us. CRM

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**QUOTE:**

“In a universe of blind physical forces and genetic replication, some people are going to get lucky, and you won’t find any rhyme or reason in it, nor any justice. The universe we observe has precisely the properties we would expect if there is, at the bottom, no design, no purpose, no evil and no good. Nothing but blind, pitiless indifference. DNA neither knows nor cares. DNA just is. And we dance to its music.”


Should a women say, “My rape was not evil, my rapist was just dancing to his DNA?” Can you answer that with a “yes?” We hope not. How is it that we all know the rape was evil? Because we know it is the opposite of good. How can we discern good and evil? Because there is an author who has defined what is good and what is evil. That author is Jesus. If the police were taken away, if the legal justice system were taken away, and we could do whatever we want, what acts would we commence doing? We bet one or two come to mind immediately. Evil is not “out there.” It is in the heart of man. Only evil-less Jesus can overcome evil for us.