Has the Bible Been Corrupted?

History is an amazing thing. Many history books have been written over the thousands of years of civilization. Those texts are accepted as accurate copies of the original. In some cases, historians count on the accuracy of those books to know what happened in the past. Two examples are Thucydides’ History and Herodotus’ History. What about the New Testament (NT) of the Bible? It was more recently written than these books, much more recently.

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In The Beginning

Cosmologists and astronomers once thought the earth, and the universe, were eternal. There was no beginning because they have always existed. The founders of science such as Newton (inertia & gravity, inventor of calculus math), Kepler (motion of the planets), Maxwell (laws of electricity & magnetism) all believed in the God of the Bible. Though Newton thought the universe might be eternal, he also stated clearly that atheists were wrong in their belief.

It is now established beyond doubt, that the universe had a beginning. The first hint of there being a beginning was when it was observed that all the galaxies are moving away from us. If they are moving away from us, then at

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Complex Thinking

It has long been known, well established by researchers hoping for a different outcome, that religious belief and practice is strongly associated with better mental health. This is a fact for all spirituality, though Christians come out at the very best in most studies. Plus, religious people live longer. If evolution were true it would seem that Christians would be the most (and atheists the least) evolved! Now the researchers are piling on. Researcher Eric W. Dolan titled his paper “NEW STUDY LINKS INTRINSIC RELIGIOUS MOTIVATION TO HIGHER-LEVEL PATTERNS OF THOUGHT.”

He concludes that it is probably because deeply religious people interact with Big ideas more commonly than nonreligious. It also seems to indicate that people claiming to be religious but don’t live their religion probably don’t benefit. The next time an atheist skeptical of Christianity proclaims that religion is irrational, let him/her know that Christianity is the most logical, rational worldview in all humanity. Think about it!

The Brain vs Mind or Soul

Materialists (those who believe everything can be explained using matter, energy and the laws of science - no god, no supernatural) have had a huge problem with the idea of the mind. Because evolution is 100% random accidents that happen to result in us after a couple billion years, the brain is also an accident. And, because the brain is an accident, the arrangement of YOUR neural connections is also an accident and random. The net result is that your thinking is also random. There is no such thing as rational thought. There is no such thing as free will.

This may sound strange to you (it is strange!), but many honest,
There is much criticism that the Bible has been changed over the years so that it is now a different book from what it was as originally written. Supposedly, the Christian leadership has made major alterations. Now there is no doubt that there have been some modifications consisting primarily of minor typographical errors. In the case of the book of Mark there are actually several verses that appear to have been added over the years by the copyists. The question is this: Has the original text been altered by the copyists? The answer is, “No.” But, can we really trust those copies as being true to the original?

In the case of the Old Testament, when the Dead Sea Scrolls were found in 1946, they gave evidence of accuracy. The scrolls had been copied by the Essenes at their community by the Dead Sea at about the same time that Jesus was alive in Israel 2000 years ago. Copies of every book of the Old Testament were found in the caves, with the exception of the book of Esther. It was discovered that our modern texts have a few minor typos, but there had been an amazingly low level of typos. Not only did this verify the contents of the Old Testament of the Bible as written, it also gave historians confidence that such works as the Iliad were probably very accurate also. To see if we can trust the New Testament as we have it now, let’s do a little comparison.

In the chart below, note the number of early text copies of the new Testament there are and how soon they were written after the original was written.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Year Written</th>
<th>Accuracy</th>
<th># of Ancient Copies</th>
<th>Years from Original to Oldest Copy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Iliad</td>
<td>800-900 BC</td>
<td>Text considered true to original, might be an accurate portrayal of events.</td>
<td>643</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Julius Caesar’s Gallic Wars</td>
<td>58-51 BC</td>
<td>Text considered true to original, probably an accurate portrayal of all the events.</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pliny’s History</td>
<td>23-79 AD</td>
<td>Text considered true to original, and considered an accurate portrayal of events.</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thucydides’ History</td>
<td>460-395 BC</td>
<td>Text considered true to original, considered a very accurate portrayal of events.</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Herodotus’ History</td>
<td>440 BC</td>
<td>Text considered true to original, considered an accurate portrayal of events.</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bible New Testament</td>
<td>47-95 AD</td>
<td>Text considered true to original, and most consider it an accurate portrayal of events.</td>
<td>5800+</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gnostic Gospels</td>
<td>140-400 AD</td>
<td>Text considered true to original, much debate regarding accuracy of events.</td>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>100+</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
We cannot have free will. Your thoughts are simply the result of a particular arrangement of neural networks, not logic or rational thought.

As you might imagine, this presents a problem. How is it that worldwide, everyone accepts the exact same rules for performing mathematical calculations? How is it that worldwide, everyone accepts the same rules of logic? In fact, logic and math are a real pest. They are not based on matter and energy and the laws of physics. Rather, the laws of physics presuppose that logic and math exist independently of accidental thoughts. Neither are material things. Both are abstract thoughts.

That brings us to the mind. Logic tells us that there must be something other than neural networks that result in logical thoughts. Materialists look at brain activity and see that certain kinds of thoughts or thinking can be observed to result in activity in certain parts of the brain. One type of thought shows up in one part of the brain and other types of thoughts correlate with activity in some other part of the brain. From that they conclude that the brain is generating the logical thoughts. But those thoughts involve choices. Evolution has no place for choices. Choices are the result of free will. You cannot evolve free will. Your neurons are locked into one possibility, not several possibilities to choose from.

What IS the connection between the mind and brain? I am of the thought that the mind is the connector between our soul and the brain. The brain then serves as a transducer connecting our soul (mind) to the material world. A transducer is something that converts one type of signal into another. For example a microphone turns sound energy into electrical energy (and like thoughts, they carry an informational code). A TV turns electromagnetic energy into images and sound (again both are informational code).

Hand a 21st century smart cell phone to a scientist in the 19th century. The scientist notices that when the device is used as a phone, certain areas of the phone become electrically active. When an app is used to add numbers together, a different area of the phone circuitry is activated. Is the phone circuitry causing the activity of adding numbers or generating sound waves in a language? No. The phone is a transducer. It is transmitting human voice so it can be heard some distance from the human who is speaking. When doing math, the numbers inputted are from a human source, not the circuitry.

Neurosurgeon Wilder Penfield was a materialist. He operated on hundreds of brains, many times while the person was conscious (as is the case in many brain surgeries). 30 years later, he was a dualist, believing the brain is not the mind, not the source of thoughts.

Over hundreds of surgeries, he stimulated the brain all over. He could stimulate various areas of the brain and cause an arm to move or feel a tingling or see a flash of light and many other physical manifestations such as remembering the appearance of a family member. But, he reports, he never had a patient respond to a stimulation by doing calculus or start talking about an abstract concept like justice. He specialized in surgery for seizures. In every seizure, something physical happened, movement or loss of consciousness, etc. But no seizure ever resulted in the patient not being able to stop doing math or have an abstract thought.

He also found that patients could distinguish between him stimulating the brain to make an arm move and the patient making the arm move. If the brain was the source of the idea of moving the arm, the patient would not be able to tell the difference.

Many neuroscientists started out as materialists and ended up as dualists, believing the mind is not the brain but a non-physical mind that happens to interface with the brain which then controls mechanical action or lookup data already inputted. We are spiritual beings that need a physical body to interact with each other.

Matthew 10:28 says And do not be afraid of those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. The Bible is not a science book, but where it touches science, it is always found to be accurate. The Bible distinguishes between the body and the soul. Our minds are part of the soul (all of it?) The body can be destroyed without destroying the soul/ mind. If the soul is destroyed, the body may remain but it will die. At death, our soul is disconnected from the body. The body can no longer function. It appears the soul is even in control of physical processes of the body.

You and your body (once resurrected) can live forever with Jesus if you just call on Him to save you.

God, in the person of Christ Jesus, is the creator of the brain, the universe and your soul and my soul.
one time, they had to all be in the same place. The time at which that would be true would be when the universe came into existence.

The second thing that shows there must have been a beginning is the second law of thermodynamics - entropy. If the universe did not have a beginning, then it would be eternal. If it is eternal it already would have suffered a heat death, something that is believed to be in our future (in many billions of years).

Many proposals have been advanced to try to avoid the beginning of the universe. When the Big Bang was first proposed, the vast majority of cosmologists did not like it because they were atheists. They don’t want to have to deal with the creation of the universe. Those proposals take three basic forms. Each form has more than one proposal as there are different approaches. But all the proposals fit pretty much into three categories.

Bouncing Universe: The bouncing universe (also known as the Oscillating Universe) is a big bang followed by expansion, followed by contraction, resulting in a big crunch, followed by another big bang. There would have already been an infinite number of big bangs.

This model has been falsified by the work of MIT physicist Alan Guth (a big proponent of the big bang and who proposed the original idea of inflation of the universe). He showed that because of the 2nd law of thermodynamics the bouncing universe would have longer and longer cycles, or bounces, with each bounce. Working backwards in time, at some point the cycle had to be infinitely short... a beginning.

Multi-universes: were originally proposed to explain why life managed to happen in the universe. If there are an infinite number of universes, one would hit the jackpot. Each of these universes would have their own big bang.

Bubble Universes: This is similar to the multi-universes. Rather than separate and distinct, our universe is an expansion bubble off a previous universe. In both the multi-universe, the bubble universe and just the good 'ol big bang, the universes are expanding.

Alan Guth, along with Arvind Borde and Alexander Vilenkin developed what is known as the Borde-Guth-Vilenkin Theorem. That theorem shows that any and all expanding universes MUST have a beginning. That means, that at the very least, our universe, regardless of all the theories, must have had a beginning. There is no way out. The theorem works for all expanding universes, regardless of the expansion mechanism. Of course there are critics, but their arguments are weak.

The Hawkins-Hartle (HH) model is a quantum physics wave-function solution to the origin of the universe. But it cheats. First, it assumes a singularity, just like the big bang (which is not quantum physics based). But the big problem with HH is that it is based on solutions of the Wheeler-DeWitt (WD) equation. The WD equation has infinite solutions. The physicist must determine what beginning boundaries must be to get it to work for our universe. HH sneaks in information and intelligence by selecting boundaries that will work.

The solution that has the best chance of succeeding actually requires an intelligent agent to input information into the equation. Most would call that intelligent agent “God.”

God, in the person of Jesus, created the ability for us to comprehend the universe via science, the universe, you and me. CRM

**QUOTE:**

“...Among the many top scientists who have endorsed the book is Nobel Prize-winner Brian Josephson, a physicist at Cambridge University, who says: “This book makes it clear that far from being an unscientific claim, intelligent design is valid science.”

Mathematician Granville Sewell in *The Federalist*, 9/2/2021

**POINT:**

Granville Sewell is a professor of mathematics at the University of Texas El Paso. He mentions a quantum mechanics researcher who worked with quantum tunnelling. That researcher states, regarding Stephen Myers new book, *Return of the God Hypothesis*, “This book makes it clear that far from being an unscientific claim, intelligent design is valid science.” It is being recognized by secular scientists that materialism falls short of being able to explain origins of the universe or life. The spokespersons for materialism will say their philosophy is on solid ground and not in question. They are either willingly ignorant or out of touch with reality. Even the New York Times mentions The God Hypothesis without mentioning the book or author, stating, “But the God hypothesis is constantly vindicated by the comprehensibility of the universe, and the capacity of our reason to unlock its many secrets. Indeed, there’s a quietly theistic assumption to the whole scientific project.” More and more scientists, mostly younger scientists who will follow the data rather than die on a hill that is disappearing, are accepting the God hypothesis.