

**Overcoming Doubt**

**BY PAYING ATTENTION TO SCIENCE**

Four hundred years ago, a Frenchman named René Descartes found that he could doubt absolutely everything except for his own existence. The very acting of doubt proved that he existed, so he came up with the saying, *I think therefore I am.*

With that realization, Descartes and all who follow him plunge into a pit of despair. If nothing but my own existence is sure, then nothing including my existence has real value and meaning. To see how Descartes' doubt has permeated our society all you have to do is look around and read the news.

Descartes tried to climb out of his pit by putting his faith in human reason. Human reason can go a long way; but it cannot answer the BIG questions of life and rescue us from despair.

One Descartes' students, John Locke, put his faith in human senses and our ability to observe and make sense of the world around us. Like reason, observation can teach us a lot; but it cannot pull us out of the pit.

Another Frenchman, Jean Paul Sartre, put his faith in the human will and its ability to create meaning and value where none exist. Shortly before he died, his will gave out and he admitted that he felt "like a being whom only a Creator could put here."

**For two thousand years, Christians have trusted God to answer the BIG questions of life through his Word. We rely on the testimony of Scripture and receive it as God's written Word.**

Of course it's possible to doubt the Bible; but one thing that has helped me overcome my doubts is paying attention to science. That will surprise anyone who thinks that the Bible and science are on

opposing sides of the argument; and at times they have been used against each other, rightly and wrongly. Over the past few decades, there have been a number of points on which science has actually “caught up” with the Bible.

## **BIG BANG THEORY**

The first three words of the Bible teach that there was a moment when the universe did not exist, which was followed by a moment when it did exist. In contrast to that, secular scientists once believed that the universe is eternal. Then a young scientist, Stephen Hawking, came along and confirmed what the Bible taught.

## **INTELLIGENT DESIGN**

The first verse of the Bible teaches that the universe is the work of an intelligent Creator. In contrast to that, secular scientists still believe that it is the product of random chance. Based on the remarkable complexity of things, especially the cells of living organisms, many scientists, including Michael Behe, are disagreeing and returning to belief in an intelligent Creator.

## **THE GOLDILOCK PRINCIPLE**

The first chapter of the Bible teaches that the universe and the earth were created especially for humans. For the longest time, secular scientists thought this was a silly and ancient belief. As they study the conditions of the universe and the earth, however, they have come to see that these conditions are *just right* for human habitation and many are pondering the involvement of a Creator.

The fact that an ancient book, the Bible, is the runaway best seller each and every year around the world tells us that it still provides the best answers to the BIG questions of life. The fact that honest science keeps catching up to the Bible assures us that the answers it provides reflects things the way they really are.