C__REATURES that have a symbiotic relationship (where two different kinds depend upon each other for survival) present a particular problem for the evolution theory. An excellent example is the case of the Goby and the Pistol or Snapping Shrimp. These shrimps have poor eyesight, so when they make a burrow they share it with a goby fish, which acts as its “eyes.” The goby and shrimp keep in contact with each other, the shrimp using its antennae. When alarmed the goby flicks the shrimp with its tail, and they both head for safety in their burrow. This is why these gobies are sometimes called watchman gobies. This special relationship benefits both: the shrimp gets a warning of approaching danger, and the goby gets a safe place to lay its eggs.

Neither of these creatures can survive without the other, so they pair for life when both goby and shrimp are very young. In order for this relationship to work, the reproductive systems of both goby and shrimp, which are very different, are synchronized so that shrimp and goby young are born at the same time, ready to pair up.

It seems impossible that this amazing and complex relationship could have evolved gradually. If the goby and shrimp need each other to survive, how could they have survived while this relationship was slowly evolving? Design by a wise Creator is a far better explanation.

**The Goby and the Shrimp**

Glenn: Maybe it is wrong, but you asked me how I spell it.

“Not really,” the lady replied, “I nearly always win.”

“It must be a very smart cat,” said the friend.

Teacher: Glenn, how do you spell ‘crocodile’?

Glenn: K-R-O-K-O-D-I-L-E

Teacher: No, that’s wrong.

Glenn: Maybe it is wrong, but you asked me how I spelled it.

**A BOOK TO BE TRUSTED**

Many people dismiss the Bible as just a collection of ancient writings. But people who say such things haven’t done their homework. The Bible was way ahead of its time with some scientific concepts, and both archaeologically and fulfilled prophecy support the Bible’s claim to be inspired by God. The literary evidence for the Bible’s trustworthiness is also impressive. There are 5,568 Greek manuscripts of parts of the Bible in existence today — some very ancient. There is more reason to reject historical accounts of Plato, Aristotle, Homer and Caesar, since the written evidence is tiny in comparison. The Bible is unique. It is actually a collection of 66 books written by around 40 different people over the course of about 2,000 years, and it has an amazing unity. It begins with the creation of all things, including human beings in God’s image. It explains what went wrong with the world, and how God came to rescue the human race through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It also tells us that God will wind up human history when Jesus returns in power and glory as King and Judge.

The Bible’s claim that humans are created in God’s image has encouraged many people to challenge injustice. It inspired William Wilberforce and others to fight against slavery, Lord Shaftesbury to abolish child labour, and Elizabeth Fry to campaign for better prison conditions.

The central belief of Christianity is that Jesus Christ rose from the dead. Can the resurrection be proved scientifically? Of course not! It’s not a scientific matter but an historical one. Like all historical events, it is based on the testimony of witnesses who were there. Hundreds of people saw Jesus alive after he was certified dead. Their claims ring true and the evidence stands up.

**400 years ago, in 1611, a new English translation of the Bible was completed. It was called the King James Bible, because James 1st of England ordered the project. Although a new translation, it was based on earlier work by William Tyndale and John Wycliffe, and became the most popular translation in the English-speaking world.**

**CENTRAL BELIEF OF CHRISTIANITY**

The Bible has been attacked and ridiculed by sceptics and atheists for centuries. But it stands unscathed, and remains the best-selling book in the world. It’s message has shaped our world in amazing ways, and inspired both good science and social reforms. Take a fresh look at the Bible.
SCIENCE IN THE BIBLE

Some people claim that the Bible says the earth is flat and supported in some way. Nothing could be further from the truth. In fact, long before most people realised the truth, the Bible got it right. In one of the Bible’s oldest books — the Book of Job — we read, “He spreads out the northern skies over empty space; he suspends the earth over nothing.” (Job 26: 7.)

In the book of Isaiah chapter 40: 22, there is reference to “the power of the earth.” The Hebrew word for “circle” can be translated as “globe” or “sphere,” and several translations reflect this, e.g. “It is he that sitteth upon the globe of the earth.” (Douay-Rheims 1899 American Edition.) “God sits high above the round ball of earth.” (Message version.)

The idea that the earth is flat was never widely believed. As long ago as the 4th century B.C. Aristotle taught that the earth was a sphere.

The popular story that people were afraid that Christopher Columbus would sail off the edge of the world when he travelled west in the 15th century is nothing but a myth! These are just some examples of the Bible confirming the modern scientific view. The Bible is right about a lot of things, and those who ignore it are merely making up a story to explain the facts.

THE ‘FLAT EARTH’ MYTH

In Job 26: 10 we read, “He marks out the horizon on the face of the waters for a boundary between light and darkness.”

There is a clear reference to a round earth. Jesus Christ said that, when He returns to earth, some people will be asleep in bed, while others will be working, meaning that both day and night occur at the same time (Luke 17: 34-35). This is only possible if the earth is rotating, with one side in darkness and the other in daylight.

Christian writers such as the Venerable Bede (673-735 A.D.) also accepted this Bede (673-735 A.D.) wrote that the unequal length of daylight was due to “the roundness of the Earth”, and that the earth was “set like a sphere in the middle of the universe.”

STRETCHING OUT THE HEAVENS

It is now a well-known fact that the rain and snow which fall to earth are evaporated by the sun to become clouds, which eventually will return to earth again. We call it the water cycle (hydrologic cycle). But before the 16th century many natural philosophers accepted the Greek idea that rainfall was insufficient to feed springs and rivers, and that they were replenished by purified sea water from deep within the earth. However, in 1580, Frenchman Bernard Palissy, a believing Christian, proposed the theory of the water cycle. He wrote, “I have found grace before God, who has revealed to me secrets which till now have remained unknown.” Remarkably, the Bible described the water cycle in about 1520 B.C. “He draws up the drops of water, which distil as rain to the streams; the clouds pour down their moisture and abundant showers fall on mankind.” (Job 36: 27-28). It is also mentioned elsewhere in the Old Testament, e.g. “All streams flow into the sea, yet the sea is not full. To the place the streams come from, there they return again!” (Ecclesiastes 1: 7.)

“The Water Cycle”

Astronomers tell us that we live in an expanding universe, with the stars and galaxies moving away from each other. There are a number of Bible passages which say that “God stretched out the heavens,” e.g. “My own hands stretched out the heavens.” e.g. “My own hands stretched out the heavens.” e.g. “My own hands stretched out the heavens.” e.g. “My own hands stretched out the heavens.”

Many people refuse to believe that the Bible contains a reliable historical record of events, yet, over and over again, archaeological discoveries have proved the skeptics wrong, and confirmed the Bible. Famous Jewish archaeologist Nelson Glueck, wrote: “It may be stated categorically that no archaeological discovery has ever controverted a Biblical reference.”

Although many earlier archaeologists claimed that the Old Testament record of events did not fit the dates of their excavations, British archaeologist David Rohl — a non-Christian with no axe to grind — has refuted these claims in his revised chronology which shows that the Bible record can be regarded as an accurate history.

The British Museum contains lots of archaeological evidence in support of the Bible. The Jews to return home and the city of Jerusalem and its temple to be rebuilt.

Hundreds of fulfilled prophecies — many written hundreds of years before the event — provides strong evidence for the Bible’s divine origin. One notable example concerns Cyrus the Great of Persia. In about 600 B.C. Cyrus conquered Babylon and allowed the Jews to return home and the city of Jerusalem and its temple to be rebuilt.

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Are you up to the e100 challenge? See www.e100challenge.org.uk

DIGGING UP BIBLE HISTORY

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