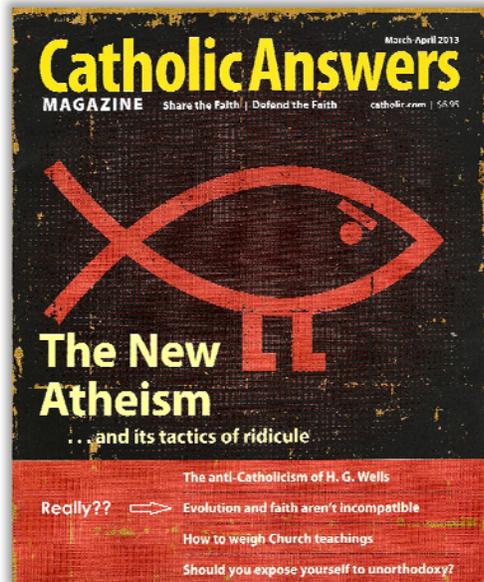


## Catholic Answers: Still Bowing to Gideon's Idol



I hadn't seen a copy of *Catholic Answers Magazine* for quite a while, but I happen to see the March-April 2013 copy in the magazine rack of my church in Maryland. I'll say this much. The magazine does its best with the caliber of people it has working for it. Basically, it attempts to correct misunderstandings about the Catholic faith that are commonly voiced from people of other religions. With that task it does a good

job, and I recommend the magazine for that very purpose. The problem comes when Catholic Answers deals with more esoteric topics, such as science, heterodox clergy, American politics, and other sensitive issues.

To set the stage, I was reading the book of Judges the other day, particularly the story of Gideon. Gideon had just saved the Israelites from the Midianites in chapters 6 and 7. In chapter 8, the Israelites request that he rule over them, but Gideon retorts that God is their ruler. Gideon then asks them to take off their gold jewelry so that he can make an idol. Verse 27 then says, "and Gideon made it into an idol and placed it in his city, Ophrah, and all Israel played the whore with it there." Without skipping a beat, it then continues in verse 28: "So Midian was subdued before the sons of Israel...and the land was undisturbed for forty years in the days of Gideon." This is odd, no? Gideon defeats a foreign nation and its god, which results in a forty-year peace period for the Jews, but Gideon makes a false god for the Israelites and they worship it, thus Israel remains the same "whore" it was before peace period.

I'm afraid I see the same dichotomy with many Catholic "apologetics" institutions. On the one hand, they are so adept at defeating the "foreign enemies" to the Gospel (e.g., Luther, Calvin, Muslims, fundamentalists, etc.), but like Israel in the book of Judges they continue to "play the whore" and worship the idols of the world (e.g., modern cosmological

theories, capitalism, modern music, art, philosophy, psychology, historical criticism, and many others).

Let's take one particular issue that is highlighted in the March-April issue of *Catholic Answers Magazine* – evolution. I can tell from the people that work at *Catholic Answers* that the staff knows very little about the details of cosmogony and cosmology. None of them have academic degrees, much less any education in science, yet the magazine's writers push evolution and the Big Bang as if they were experts on the topic. They make it appear as if there are no problems in evolutionary theory and that the Bible supports the theory without question.

The stark reality is, however, that modern scientific theory about such topics is on the verge of total collapse, as admitted by some of its best secular experts. All of the scientific evidence gathered in the last 100 years is pointing directly at instantaneous and miraculous creation and the veracity of the literal words of Genesis. Conversely, current theory is propped up by atheistic or agnostic scientists who twist the scientific data in a desperate attempt to relieve themselves from having to bow down to the Creator, as St. Paul reveals to us explicitly in Romans 1:18-20. They have not only rejected the Bible but have also rejected any scientific evidence that goes against their theories, thus, as St. Paul says, "they suppress the truth." They rate right up there with used car salesmen in regards to integrity.

The only reason Catholics have glommed onto modern scientists is because they are still smarting after the Galileo affair that occurred almost 400 years ago. The common cry is that they don't want to be "embarrassed," once again, when the world's scientists reveal the origin and operation of the universe. Basically, Catholics are clueless when it comes to interpreting the scientific data, which results in them making up all kinds of pseudo-apologetics in order to rub shoulders with the world and keep Catholics within the status quo. This shows the unyielding power and influence that Scientism holds today. It is the Goliath of our modern age and most Catholics are simply too frightened to confront it head on.

Case in point, on page 5 of *Catholic Answers Magazine* is a full-page ad for Fr. Robert Spitzer's new movie, *Cosmic Origins*, and his study guide, *In the Beginning*. Fr. Spitzer's mantra, as the ad says, is: "There is no contradiction between faith and science." What he means is, he will do his best to twist the words of Scripture to match the theories of modern science, and he proceeds to defend this axiom by claiming the Bible has no problem with the Big Bang. Fr. Spitzer is your typical modern Jesuit

who, on the one hand, is not embarrassed by interpreting Christ's words, "This is my body" (Mt 26:26) as referring to the literal presence of Jesus in the Eucharist but, on the other hand, is very embarrassed if Catholics take literally the words in Genesis 1:1-3: "In the beginning...the earth was without form and void...and God said, 'let there be light.'" Go figure. In fact, it is funny how modern Catholics often criticize "fundamentalist" Protestants for interpreting Gen 1:1-3 literally (which has resulted in the formidable institutions such as Creation Research Institute, Creation Ministries, Answers in Genesis, and other such bible-believing entities) but it is the Catholic Church who first introduced the literal reading of Scripture when, two thousand years ago, it decided to interpret Mt 26:26 literally at, ironically, the utter consternation of Protestant fundamentalists who believe Jesus was merely speaking in symbolic language in Mt 26:26 and who repudiate the idea that the bread actually turns into His body. Hence, the proverb that says 'one man's trash is another man's treasure' couldn't be any more evident than the contradictions we see between modern Catholics and fundamentalist Protestants. They both come to the Bible with bias and preconceived notions.

Suffice it to say, Fr. Spitzer's movie, *Cosmic Origins*, and his study guide, *In the Beginning*, are filled with ludicrous claims that the Catholic Church and the Bible either teach or support the Big Bang. Any first grader can see that Genesis 1:1-2 says the Earth was created first and around it all the other celestial bodies were added later. Fr. Spitzer apparently suffers from exegetical dyslexia since he reverses the biblical order and says the Earth came last.<sup>1</sup> In the face of this blatant contradiction between the Bible and Fr. Spitzer's science, I've challenged him to a debate on the issue, but he refused to engage. This just shows what a grip Gideon's idol has on modern Catholics.

As we turn the pages in *Catholic Answers Magazine*, we run into an article by Trent Horn titled: "How to Respond to the 'New Atheism.'" Horn attempts to make a distinction between the "Old Atheism" of communism over against the "New Atheism" of Richard Dawkins and Christopher Hitchens, who claim religion is responsible for tragedies like 9/11 (thus fingering "fanatical Muslims" and their so-called "hatred for the west," for flying planes into the Twin Towers and the Pentagon). The problem with Horn's thesis is twofold. First, he fails to address that the atheism of both Dawkins and Hitchens stems from their unbridled devotion to evolution and their dismissal of divine revelation, particularly Genesis. Unlike many Catholics who try to fit the square peg

---

<sup>1</sup> See my critique of Fr. Spitzer's movie at <http://www.catholicintl.com/index.php/component/content/article/67-general/958-the-movie-cosmic-origins-just-another-heresy-in-religious-garb>

of evolution into the round hole of Catholic history, both Hitchens and Dawkins are smart enough to realize that the Bible does not teach or support evolution. They are antithetical to one another, hence, only one can be right. Logically, they reason that if evolution is right (which they firmly believe) then the Bible is wrong and is thus full of myths and falsehoods that aren't worth the paper it is written on. Unfortunately, Horn totally misses this aspect of the issue and proceeds on the facile idea that evolution has nothing to do with Dawkins' and Hitchens' atheism. Studies show that nearly 50% of the population attribute their atheism to Darwin's theory of evolution.

Second, it is not hard to see that *Catholic Answers* has its crosshairs on the Muslims. They are the boogeyman of choice so that the 'us/them' game can be played out for all its commercial appeal. It is the same reason, if we flip to page 27 of the magazine, we see a full-page ad on the upcoming book by Robert Spencer titled: "Do we have an ally in Islam?" The caption, added by the magazine's editor, says: "...Spencer shines the light of truth on areas where Christians and Muslims don't just quibble over small details, but fundamentally disagree." Bravo. *Catholic Answers* takes a stand against the heresies of Islam. But if you turn to the remaining pages of this magazine, or to the pages of any magazine that *Catholic Answers* has put out over the last few decades, you will not find one article critical of the Jews or Judaism. It's all about how "evil" the Muslims are, since apparently they make the best enemy money can buy in our Capitalist-saturated Judeo-Christian milieu. Truth be told, at least the Muslims believe that Jesus Christ was a great prophet, and they also have great respect for Mary as his mother. Conversely, Judaism, as expressed in the Talmud, the Kabbalah and the Zohar, believes that Jesus Christ is a false prophet who is in hell being burned in boiling excrement, and that Mary was the prostitute that bore him. Try to find those facts in any of *Catholic Answers'* publications. As St. Paul says quite explicitly in 1 Thess. 2:14-16, Judaism and the Jews at large are the greatest enemy, not only of Christianity but of the rest of the world, but the majority of Catholics today simply dismiss these biblical warnings and embrace Judaism as if it were a sister religion with the same mission and Savior as Christianity.

With regards to 9/11, Horn's thesis has no hard evidence to support it. Although it has been popularized by the predominately Jewish-owned press and the US government that Muslims are responsible for 9/11, there hasn't been a shred of positive evidence showing that they were involved at all. In fact, few are aware of the fact that neither Osama bin Laden nor his Taliban have ever been officially accused by the United States for orchestrating 9/11. For example, his "Most Wanted" poster issued by the FBI in 2006 did not list the 9/11 attacks in his resumé! The

reason, says Rex Tomb, Chief of Investigative Publicity for the FBI, “is because the FBI has no hard evidence connecting bin Laden to 911” thus “Bin Laden has not been formally charged in connection with 911.” Likewise, Dick Cheney stated in an interview with Tony Snow on March 26, 2006: “So we’ve never made the case, or argued the case that somehow Osama bin Laden was directly involved in 911. That evidence has never been forthcoming.” Robert Muller of the FBI admitted much the same: “In our investigation, we have not uncovered a single piece of paper either here in the U.S. or in the treasure trove of information that has turned up in Afghanistan and elsewhere that mentioned any aspect of the September 11th plot.” On October 5, 2001, the Taliban offered to try Bin Laden in an Afghan court if the United States provided ‘solid evidence’ of his guilt, but the US refused to provide any evidence and instead launched its invasion [two days later] on October 7, 2001. So why was bin Laden hunted down by the US and killed? Perhaps it’s the same reason they hunted down and killed Sadaam Hussein, i.e., they disseminated a false story of him (e.g., having “weapons of mass destruction”) for the purpose of deceiving the public and provoking another illegal invasion. Of course, Tomb and Cheney’s admission also means the US has no hard evidence that “nineteen Muslims” piloted and crashed four US planes into the Towers or the Pentagon (oh, except, of course for the passport of Mohammed Atta that just happen to survive the crash and flutter unmolested onto the street below!). I’ve documented all this evidence in my paper which was published in *Culture Wars* (July-August 2012) and is on our website (<http://www.catholicintl.com/index.php/latest-news/949-r-sungenis-review-of-christopher-bollyns-book-qsolving-911q>).

The evidence, believe it or not, points right to the Jewish cabal of Zionists both in Israel and the United States as those responsible for 9/11, the very people that *Catholic Answers* and most other Catholic institutions today hold up as “the Chosen People” who are entitled to the land of Palestine and whose ‘Old Covenant has not been revoked’ or ‘whose wait for the Messiah is not in vain.’ Quite ironically, in the same magazine, *Catholic Answers* staffer Michelle Arnold wrote an article titled: “How to ‘Hold Fast What is Good’: Strategies for discerning whether ‘Catholic’ material is reliable.” Yet it was Michelle Arnold who was teaching just a few years ago on a *Catholic Answers* teaching forum that it wasn’t necessary to preach the Gospel to the Jews (although apparently it was still necessary to preach it to the Muslims since she made no provision for them). Moreover, when I asked Karl Keating in an email this past year to consider the evidence that the Zionists helped plot and perpetrate 9/11, sending him my above paper and asking him, if he wanted to be a real American patriot, to consider the evidence therein, he

totally ignored the issue. I guess it is much easier to stick with an enemy that increases your public image and helps propagate the status quo, a bill which is filled very well by “fanatical Muslims,” thank you. In other words, if you’re a modern Catholic, it’s ok to be “anti-muslim” and accuse the Muslims off all kinds of dastardly deeds. Everyone will love you and keep sending you money. Just the opposite will occur if you are branded with the label of “anti-semitic” and happen to accuse the Jews of ANY misdeeds, much less 9/11. The Catholic Church is full of hypocrisy today, just as in Gideon’s day.

Finally, turning a few more pages in *Catholic Answers Magazine*, we come to the article: “God May Create Through Any Means—including Evolution,” written by Matt Fradd. He begins by saying, “In this article I want to dissolve the apparent conflict between the theory of evolution, the existence of God, and the creation accounts in Genesis.” Good luck, Mr. Fradd.

He begins with the typical nominalist argument: “As the omnipotent creator, God is free to create—either quickly or slowly and either directly or through processes that he sets up.” Yes, I suppose God is free to use either a “quick or slow” means to bring the world into existence. But one thing God is not free to do is lie. As Titus 1:2 says: “the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised long ages ago.” God says in Genesis 1 that He created the Earth first. Does Mr. Fradd believe that inspired stipulation? Apparently not. Why? Because he has already decided that whatever modern science tells him about cosmogony is true. So if modern science says that Earth came last, Mr. Fradd will accept it as true, but the horrible result is that he makes God a liar. So, God is not free to create quickly or slowly. He is bound by His own word, and his word says that he created quickly, so quickly that the Earth came first and thus didn’t need 8 billion years to arrive (as Big Bang evolutionary theory teaches).

Let’s offer Mr. Fradd an opportunity to counter this logic. Can he provide us with any dogmatic statement from the Catholic Church that says God made the universe slowly? Well, he quotes from paragraphs 283, 289, and 337 of the 1994 *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, but none of them state God created slowly. In fact, in his entire article Mr. Fradd provides us with no official and dogmatic teaching from the Catholic Church to support his thesis. He has one unofficial comment from John Paul II and a quote from Benedict XVI’s private book, *In the Beginning*, implying the possibility of some evolutionary process, but neither of these are official Catholic doctrine (which is rather ironic since the next article in *Catholic Answers Magazine* is titled: “How to Weigh

Church Teachings” by Jimmy Akin, which places “theological opinions” far down the list of having any authority or requiring our submission).

So Mr. Fradd has neither a statement from Scripture nor a statement from the Church that there was a slow process of creation, yet he insists there was a slow process, and that such a slow process does not conflict with Scripture. But just as hard as it is to twist Genesis 1’s stipulation that the Earth was created first, it is also quite difficult for Mr. Fradd to get around the clear language of Vatican Council 1 and its treatment of creation. It states:

“...God by His goodness and omnipotent power...immediately from the beginning of time fashioned each creature out of nothing, spiritual and corporeal, namely, angelic and mundane; and then the human creation, common as it were, composed of both spirit and body” (Denz 1783); “If anyone does not confess that the world and all things which are contained in it, both spiritual and material, as regards their whole substance, have been produced by God from nothing...let him be anathema” (Denz 1805).

We see nothing here about a “slow process.” We see what the Tradition of the Church had always taught, that is, that everything was created miraculously and instantaneously, in its whole substance (not in processes and parts). The only demarcation of time is between the “angelic and mundane” over against “the human creation,” since they are separated by the time factor “and then” (literally rendered from the Latin original).

Speaking of Tradition, what does Mr. Fradd do with it? Well, he conveniently avoids the totality of Church Fathers (about a hundred of them) who speak against his thesis of “slow processes,” and he chooses only the controversial Origen as his one support (in face of the fact that Origen was convicted of heresy by the Church and had an unbridled penchant of turning even the most literal Scriptures into symbols and metaphors). Fradd introduces Origen with the following words:

“The recognition that the creation accounts must be understood with some nuance is not new. Catholic writers from the early centuries of the Church, as much as 1500 years or more before Darwin, saw the six days of creation as something other than literal, twenty-four-hour periods.”

This is just gross revisionism. I wouldn't trust another thing that Mr. Fradd writes after this blatant historiography. Not only do many Fathers actually mention six "twenty-four hour periods" as comprising the time of Genesis 1, none of the Fathers even entertained that they could be longer than six days. Out of the dozens of Fathers who write on the issue, the only one who questioned the six literal days was St. Augustine, but his alternative was neither his dogmatic position nor did it condone the idea of thousands or millions of years for Genesis' days; rather, his alternative to six days was that the creation took place miraculously and instantaneously, in one day, as it were – far from the proposition of Darwin that it evolved non-miraculously over millions of years.

Unfortunately, you will get none of these details from Mr. Fradd. Set as he is on refusing to fight Goliath, he makes Augustine out to be ignorant of the issue by quoting him from *City of God* 11:6 as saying: "What kind of days these were is extremely difficult or perhaps impossible for us to conceive." But in all of his writings, Augustine offered us only two possibilities: either the days were six, twenty-four hours periods, or they were one day. Never does he entertain the thought that they could be more than six days. Why? Because Augustine did not follow the Greeks who believed, long before Darwin, that the world evolved over eons of time, and thus he was not an evolutionist. Unlike Mr. Fradd and *Catholic Answers*, Augustine was a Biblicist. That's why he said the following words:

"But more dangerous is the error of certain weak brethren [Matt Fradd] who faint away when they hear these irreligious critics [Dawkins, Hitchens, Plantinga] learnedly and eloquently discoursing on the theories of astronomy or on any of the questions relating to the elements of this universe. With a sigh, they [Catholic Answers] esteem these teachers as superior to themselves, looking upon them as great men; and they return with disdain to the [Scripture] Books which were written for the good of their souls; and, although they ought to drink from these Books with relish, they can scarcely bear to take them up." (*The Literal Meaning of Genesis*, Book 1, Chapter 20, Para. 41, Ancient Christian Writers, p. 44.)

Robert Sungenis

March 18, 2013