

Try Prime

Your Amazon.com | Today's Deals | Gift Cards | Sell | Help

Shop by Department

Search Books

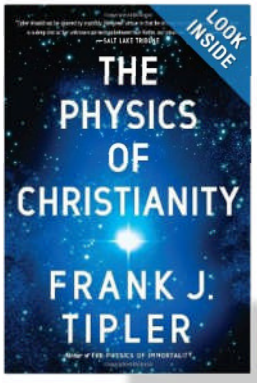
Go

Hello, Sign in Your Account

Try Prime

0 Cart

Wish List



The Physics of Christianity Paperback

by Frank J. Tipler (Author)

48 customer reviews

See all 7 formats and editions

Kindle \$13.99	Hardcover \$15.49	Paperback \$15.29
	45 Used from \$1.99 18 New from \$5.80 2 Collectible from \$16.49	44 Used from \$3.86 42 New from \$8.80

A highly respected physicist demonstrates that the essential beliefs of Christianity are wholly consistent with the laws of physics.

Frank Tipler takes an exciting new approach to the age-old dispute about the relationship between science and religion in *The Physics of Christianity*. In reviewing centuries of writings and discussions, Tipler realized that in all the debate about science versus religion, there was no serious scientific research into central Christian claims and beliefs. So Tipler embarked on just such a scientific inquiry. *The Physics of Christianity* presents the fascinating results of his pioneering study.

Tipler begins by outlining the basic concepts of physics for the lay reader and brings to light the underlying connections between physics and theology. In a compelling example, he illustrates how the God depicted by Jews and Christians, the Uncaused First Cause, is completely consistent with the Cosmological Singularity, an entity whose existence is required by physical law. His discussion of the scientific possibility of miracles provides an impressive, credible scientific foundation for many of Christianity's most astonishing claims, including the Virgin Birth, the Resurrection, and the Incarnation. He even includes specific outlines for practical experiments that can help prove the validity of the "miracles" at the heart of Christianity.

Tipler's thoroughly rational approach and fully accessible style

[Read less](#)

Buy New **\$15.29**

Qty: List Price: ~~\$16.99~~
Save: \$1.70 (10%)

FREE Shipping on orders over \$25.

Only 4 left in stock (more on the way).

Ships from and sold by Amazon.com. Gift-wrap available.

Yes, I want FREE Two-Day Shipping with Amazon Prime

Add to Cart

[Sign in to turn on 1-click ordering](#)

Want it Monday, Oct. 14? Order within **32 hrs 12 mins** and choose **One-Day Shipping** at checkout. [Details](#)

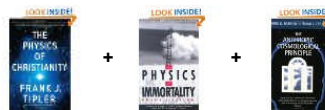
Buy Used **\$13.76**

Add to Wish List

Have one to sell?

[Share](#)

Frequently Bought Together



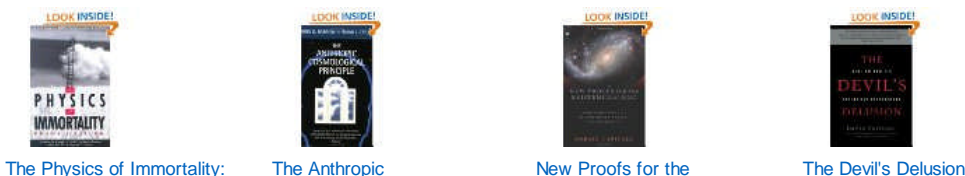
Price for all three: **\$52.24**

[Show availability and shipping details](#)

- This item:** The Physics of Christianity by Frank J. Tipler Paperback **\$15.29**
- [The Physics of Immortality: Modern Cosmology, God and the Resurrection of the Dead](#) by Frank J. Tipler Paperback **\$15.19**
- [The Anthropic Cosmological Principle \(Oxford Paperbacks\)](#) by John D. Barrow Paperback **\$21.76**

Customers Who Bought This Item Also Bought

Page 1 of 2



[The Physics of Immortality:](#)

[The Anthropic](#)

[New Proofs for the](#)

[The Devil's Delusion:](#)

Modern ...

[> Frank J. Tipler](#)

(86)

Paperback

\$15.19

Cosmological ...

[> John D. Barrow](#)

(28)

Paperback

\$21.76

Existence of God: ...

[> Robert J. Spitzer](#)

(57)

Paperback

\$19.46

Atheism and its ...

[> David Berlinski](#)

(189)

Paperback

\$11.56

Product Details

Paperback: 336 pages**Publisher:** Doubleday Religion; Reprint edition (August 19, 2008)**Language:** English**ISBN-10:** 0385514255**ISBN-13:** 978-0385514255**Product Dimensions:** 0.7 x 5.5 x 8.5 inches**Shipping Weight:** 8.8 ounces ([View shipping rates and policies](#))**Average Customer Review:** (48 customer reviews)**Amazon Best Sellers Rank:** #651,740 in Books ([See Top 100 in Books](#))Did we miss any relevant features for this product? [Tell us what we missed.](#)Would you like to [update product info](#), [give feedback on images](#), or [tell us about a lower price?](#)Start reading [The Physics of Christianity](#) on your Kindle in under a minute.Don't have a Kindle? [Get your Kindle here](#), or download a **FREE Kindle Reading App.**

Editorial Reviews

From Publishers Weekly

The relationship between science and religion has long been a tenuous one. Some have worked to put these disciplines in "dialogue" with each other, while others have dismissed any possibility of a collegial relationship. To his credit, Tipler, professor of mathematical physics at Tulane University, attempts the former. He proposes that Christianity can be studied as a science, and its claims, if true, can be empirically proven. "I believe that we have to accept the implications of physical law, whatever these implications are. If they imply the existence of God, well then, God exists." After a cogent description of modern physics, Tipler embarks on a crusade to prove that God exists, that miracles are physically possible and the virgin birth and the bodily resurrection of Jesus do not defy scientific laws. The author's arguments are somewhat intriguing—his knowledge of science seems exhaustive and this may attract other scientists to consider the importance of religion. Many of his theological insights, however, are problematic. Dubbing Christianity a "science" does not automatically make it so, and Tipler seems to dismiss the centuries-old importance of the apophatic tradition in Christianity, that is, approaching the mystical nature of the Divine by positing what cannot be said about God. Tipler's interest in integrating science and religion is noble, but his method is uneven. (May)

Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --*This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.*

Review

Praise for Frank Tipler's *The Physics of Immortality*:

"A thrilling ride to the far edges of modern physics." --*New York Times Book Review*

"A dazzling exercise in scientific speculation, as rigorously argued as it is boldly conceived." --*Wall Street Journal*

"Tipler has written a masterpiece conferring much-craved scientific respectability on what we have always wanted to believe in." --*Science*

"More readable than Roger Penrose's *The Emperor's New Mind* or Douglas Hofstadter's *Godel, Escher, Bach* . . . an imaginative eschatological entertainment appropriate to the approaching end of the millennium." --*New Orleans Times-Picayune*

"Undeniably fascinating..." --*Seattle Times*

"Tipler's brash announcements are challenging—and entertaining. Although written from the viewpoint of a Ph.D., anyone should be able to get a kick out of the professor's big-bang ideas." --*Publishers Weekly*

"A book that proves the existence of the Almighty and inevitably of resurrection, without recourse to spiritual mumbo jumbo . . . Tipler does it all." --*Mirabella*

[See all Editorial Reviews](#)

More About the Author

[Visit Amazon's Frank J. Tipler Page](#)



Discover books, learn about writers, read author blogs, and more.

Customer Reviews

(48)

2.8 out of 5 stars

I believe in Jesus, but this is a

Given the amount of

Very much technical

5 star	15
4 star	5
3 star	2
2 star	9
1 star	17

belief.

Jose L. Strapasson

falsification throughout the book, there's just no point to wasting your time reading the book.

Tom in northern California

information that raise my thoughts.

Ginatta Marco

[See all 48 customer reviews](#)

Most Helpful Customer Reviews

118 of 154 people found the following review helpful

Interesting

By [William Kerney](#) [vine voice](#) on May 13, 2007

Format: Hardcover

Tipler's ideas are again mind-blowing, as they were with the Physics of Immortality. Some issues I have with it, though:

1) His main flaw, is the amount of certainty he gives to his sentences. When you research what he's talking about, you see that the facts, as they are, are much more questionable than what he leads you to believe.

For example, he says that the Shroud of Turin is consistent with XX males. IF the Shroud of Turin is the real burial shroud of Christ, and IF it is consistent with XX males (the only reference on the internet to this fact comes from Tipler), then, maybe, it gives us evidence. But he doesn't use correct qualifiers. (Qualifiers are words like "perhaps".) He states them as flat fact, which casts doubts on his entire book. A good scientist will always qualifies his statements with words indicating the degree of confidence he has in them.

2) He tries to gain a patina of scientific-ness by using big, complicated words, and, perhaps intentionally, explaining things in a confusing fashion. I took a quarter of quantum physics, and have read some books on it since I graduated from college, so I have a moderate understanding in the field, but even when Tipler is explaining things I already know, I find myself becoming confused by his explanations. He really needs to take a class on how to put together better analogies.

3) He has a very cockeyed idea of what his reader needs to have defined for him. For example, after the following line, "More precisely, the uncertainty principle says that the product of the uncertainty in the position of a particle multiplied by the uncertainty in its momentum must always be greater than Planck's constant divided by 4pi." he could have chosen to define a lot of different things. [Read more >](#)

29 Comments Was this review helpful to you? Yes No

13 of 16 people found the following review helpful

A little off the deep end...

By [Dan](#) on November 7, 2010

Format: Paperback

Many people on here have written fine reviews, covering more detail than I am willing. But there's one thing I'd like to point out. The bottom line is, I respect the guy for putting his controversial theories out there, probably fully aware that he was going to get crucified by scientists and non-scientist alike, but this book utterly fails in its goal. In attempting to reconcile Christianity and physics, in a way that describes all the miraculous phenomenon of Christian doctrine, Tipler ends up satisfying neither Christians nor physicists. For example, in trying to explain the resurrection of Jesus, Tipler imagines some sort of de-materialization of Jesus' body into neutrinos and then re-materialization back into His resurrection body. I mean, come on. Jesus' resurrection body was more than just physical. There was a supernatural spiritual reality to it that cannot be explained by the laws of physics, for it is not subject to such laws. And there's a whole lot more of this in the book. And to be honest, I found myself glossing over some areas that were so out there I felt that they weren't even worth the time reading. In the end, Tipler presents a far-fetched theory that neither Christians nor physicists can accept.

3 Comments Was this review helpful to you? Yes No

100 of 152 people found the following review helpful

Blinded by Science?

By A Customer on July 31, 2007

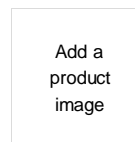
Format: Hardcover

By the time I was halfway through Frank Tipler's new book I scanned the table of contents and was disappointed to find there would be no explanation of the recently reported miraculous appearance of Mother Teresa's image on a cheese Danish in Nashville. That was unusual, given that Tipler goes out of his way to provide convoluted physics justifications for key Christian miracles, including the image of Jesus on the Shroud of Turin, long debunked as a 14th-century forgery by many experts. Moreover, whenever conventional physics doesn't provide a sufficient explanation for the phenomenon of interest, Tipler re-invents it.

As a collection of half-truths and exaggerations, I was first tempted to describe Tipler's new book as nonsense, but I soon realized that that would be unfair to the concept of nonsense. These descriptions are far more dangerous than nonsense, because Tipler's reasonable descriptions of

Advertisement

Product Images from Customers



Most Recent Customer Reviews

A disservice to science and Christianity

Since an ample number of the reviews already written have furnished many of the details of why Frank Tipler's "The Physics of Christianity" is pseudo-science masquerading as... [Read more](#)
Published 4 months ago by Doug Erlandson

Book review

Book arrived quickly and in good condition. Hard for me to understand physics explanation-- My Pastor was a physics major (read book after me) and said that author jumps to... [Read more](#)
Published 6 months ago by J. Sheffer

Meh

tippler's thesis seems not too impressive. The idea that God is the Singularity at the heart of the Big Bang seems necessary but not sufficient. [Read more](#)
Published 6 months ago by Miles N. Fowler

The Mad Hater is Alive and Well at Tulane Unviersity

This book is a tribute to insanity and deserves special commendation for the pinnacle of misuse of science that could only be accomplished by a raving lunatic expounding on pious... [Read more](#)
Published 8 months ago by WKI

amazing

A little high level on the physics but fascinating. word 11 xxx zzzz qqqq rrrr mmmm oooo tttt iiii rrrr
Published 9 months ago by Terry Brown

Do I understand this? Heaven is the Matrix?

This book jumped the shark for me in Chapter III. That's the one in which Mr. Tipler says that our descendants will be able to download the personalities of all previous human... [Read more](#)
Published 11 months ago by Jacquelyn Bailey

A few interesting thoughts, but

various aspects of modern physics, combined with his respectable research pedigree, give the distinct illusion that he is honestly describing what the laws of physics imply. He is not. This book provides an object lesson in the dangers of pushing science beyond its domain of validity, and using various scientific approximations as if they are completely valid in all contexts. Indeed, while he complains several times early on in the book that other physicists let their philosophical prejudices influence their conclusions, Tipler has clearly let his desires get the better of him. Based on my personal experience, I believe that Frank Tipler as an honorable man and I do not think that he intended to pervert reality to serve his goals, but nevertheless he has.

Allow me to give several cases in point: Tipler claims that the standard model is complete and exact. It isn't. [Read more](#)

16 Comments Was this review helpful to you?

Tipler is far out.

By [Thomas E. Dalton](#) on September 13, 2013

Format: Hardcover [Amazon Verified Purchase](#)

I really have to wonder how many believers would even take this work seriously, and I don't think Tipler would find much support from his fellow physicists. Dr. Tipler has no doubt that he can prove Christianity with his vast knowledge of math and physics.

He must be appealing to a very small audience, because it would probably require a Ph. D. related to math and physics to be able to refute this man's explanations. As a layman, all I can do is to follow his ideas and take his word for all his formulas and scientific jargon. He claims Immanuel Kant had it wrong in his thoughts about our knowledge limitations. Tipler claims faith is not needed, and he delights me with the confidence he demonstrates in proving immortality, the resurrection of Christ, the second coming, etc. all based on his scientific proofs. Frankly, I have strong doubts about Tipler's claims, but I found the book to be a fascinating read, even though his concepts and scientific proofs are way above my head. As I was reading his Physics of Immortality, I began wonder if Tipler hadn't been the one to plant the thoughts into the creators of the Terminator series and/ or Space Odyssey 2001.

Tipler is employed by Tulane University and I have no doubts many students would probably chose to be in his classes. Tipler is obviously widely read in philosophy, literature, all branches of the sciences. I am not questioning his credentials, because he shows brilliance and creativity in many of his thoughts, and the way he defends his concepts makes this work unique. In my humble opinion, Tipler could be another H.G. Wells if he was so inclined. At least, those were my thoughts while reading this book.

Comment Was this review helpful to you?

[See all 48 customer reviews \(newest first\)](#)

[Write a customer review](#)

muddled theologically

Overall this is a book that I am not sad to have bought and read, but not one I necessarily recommend to others. [Read more](#)
Published 11 months ago by Michael Belote

Einstein States the Universe is Curved, Not Linear!

Some reviewers of this book by Tipler argue that Tipler was incorrect in stating that the universe WILL/MUST eventually collapse in on itself in the far, far future. [Read more](#)
Published 15 months ago by John

This isn't Science. It's faith in a star-trek Halloween costume.

He starts off by insulting every athiest scientist in the world. Basically saying they're all in denial about this singularity. Which is just untrue. They aren't. [Read more](#)
Published 19 months ago by B. Stewart

pseudo science and heresy

I am a Christian and a physicist myself, but this book is a complete lost of time. I got a Portuguese translation of this book. [Read more](#)
Published on May 26, 2011 by Jose L. Strapasson

Search Customer Reviews

Only search this product's reviews

Feedback

- ▶ If you have a question or problem, visit our [Help pages](#).
- ▶ Would you like to [update product info](#), [give feedback on images](#), or [tell us about a lower price](#)?
- ▶ If you are a seller for this product and want to change product data, click [here](#) (you may have to sign in with your seller id).

Your Recently Viewed Items and Featured Recommendations

You viewed



[View or edit your browsing history](#)

See personalized recommendations

[Sign in](#)

New customer? [Start here](#).

Continue Shopping: Customers Who Bought Items in Your Recent History Also Bought



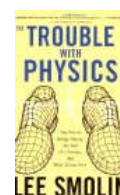
[New Proofs for the Existence of...](#)



[Mind and Cosmos: Why the...](#)
▶ Thomas Nagel



[Biophysics: Searching for Principles](#)



[The Trouble With Physics: The...](#)



[Just Six Deep...](#)

Anglican Curmudgeon

Curmudgeonly comments on the current trials and tribulations of being in the Episcopal Church (USA) and the Anglican Communion at the same time---with some leavening for good measure.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2008

The Physics of Christianity: Frank Tipler on the Virgin Birth

This will be one of the most unusual posts I have put up on this blog, which is normally devoted to issues of the interface between law (including especially canon law) and The Episcopal Church. However, as I noted [in this earlier post](#), I recently came across Frank Tipler's *The Physics of Christianity*, and I regard that book as one of the most remarkable books about Christianity that I have ever read. In fact, the book is so remarkable that I have decided, at the risk of my reputation as a reliable curmudgeon, who can always be counted on to tell you what is wrong with a particular act or position taken by those in charge at TEC, to tell you instead about some of the things which this amazing book shows *are inescapably correct* about traditional Christian belief. I use the word "inescapably" because I am a slave of logic: show me a tight logical argument leading to an inexorable conclusion, and I will follow that argument wherever it leads, no matter what the conclusion, so long as logic demonstrates ineluctably its inevitability. (How's that for a prose style---I managed to use the words "inescapably", "inexorable," "ineluctably" and "inevitability" all in one sentence. My regular readers will, I know, forgive me, and for those of you who have landed here for the first time, please do not be put off, but read on.)

The book is, as I described in my earlier post on it, written by a man who has impeccable credentials as a physicist, having obtained his doctorate under [John Archibald Wheeler](#) (the man who named the black hole and whose most famous student was Richard Feynman). The [mathematics](#) which underlie his theology are not open to dispute, having been [cited by his peers](#) for outstanding achievement. What I want to show you in this post is not his mathematics, but a first-class example of Frank Tipler's theology---specifically, that having to do with the virgin birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. For he manages to bring to this abstruse topic---about which I admit, as a lifelong Episcopalian, I have heretofore been comfortably fuzzy ("yes, of course, God can do whatever He wants, even if we mere mortals cannot fathom how He did it")---a rigor and respect for the laws of nature, as currently maintained by thoroughly reputable scientists, that is simply breathtaking. In short, his conclusions---and the evidence he marshals to support them---will, to use a phrase from the '60's that is perfectly applicable here, [blow your mind](#). So please sit back, *open* your mind (meaning: clear it of all preconceived notions), and be prepared to embrace the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help me God.

The first task is to set the context. If you, as a scholarly Christian, or as one who is at any rate well-versed in the tenets of the faith, are already fully familiar with the issue to which the words "virgin birth" refer, then please feel free to skip the next few paragraphs. Briefly, for the rest of us, the issue is what to make of the nativity stories in Matthew and Luke which recite plainly that Mary, the Mother of Jesus, was a virgin when she conceived Him through the Holy Spirit, or---to use the familiar words of the Nicene Creed---"[Jesus] was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, and was made man." To refresh your theology, here are the relevant passages from Matthew and Luke. First, Matthew, [ch. 1, verses 18-25](#):

1:18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ happened this way. While his mother Mary was engaged to Joseph, but before they came

A GUIDE TO THIS SITE

This page will provide you with a convenient listing of posts by category. In order to use the features of this site, you need to check *all* the past posts in a given category, since each new post assumes a certain familiarity with what has gone before.

A Guide to This Site

SUBSCRIBE TO THIS BLOG

 [Subscribe in a reader](#)

A GENTLE WARNING TO READERS

This Weblog has a different purpose from that of---oh, say [Instapundit](#). The topics here do not lend themselves to short, pithy treatment. Also, there are many legal colleagues in the audience; I include material that may appeal more to one who has been trained in that profession. So, be forewarned; this may not be easy reading. No apologies---some days you might just have to work harder! Should you have any complaints, first observe [these preliminaries](#), and then post your specifics on the [RantBoard](#).

COMMENT POLICY

Good dialogue is fostered when people sign their own posts. I reserve the right to moderate all comments, again in the interests of a good dialogue, and I thank those who are minded to contribute to that goal. If you are having trouble posting a comment because of the registration

ABOUT ME



[View my](#)

[complete profile](#)

ANGLICANNON TO THE RIGHT

[AS Anglican Samizdat](#)
Bishop Jim Njegovan's son charged with fraud

[VirtueOnline](#)
CHARLESTON, SC: Episcopal dispute may play out in two courts

[Stand Firm](#)
The Media's "Republicans Have No Obamacare Replacement" Myth

[Treading Grain](#)
Donald Miller: Why Most Twenty Somethings Are Delusional

[Soundings](#)
Save Me Lord: A Contemporary Prayer Of Petition

[Midwest Conservative Journal](#)
TRANSITIONS

[BabyBlueOnline](#)
Bono is back

[Wannabe Anglican](#)
Margaret Thatcher R. I. P.

[Ancient Briton](#)
The burden of conscience

[Not Another](#)

together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit.
 1:19 Because Joseph, her husband to be, was a righteous man, and because he did not want to disgrace her, he intended to divorce her privately. 1:20 When he had contemplated this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, because the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 1:21 She will give birth to a son and you will name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." 1:22 This all happened so that what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet would be fulfilled: 1:23 "Look! The **virgin** will conceive and bear a son, and they will call him Emmanuel," which means "God with us." 1:24 When Joseph awoke from sleep he did what the angel of the Lord told him. He took his wife, 1:25 but did not have marital relations with her until she gave birth to a son, whom he named Jesus.

And here is Luke, [ch. 1, verses 26-38](#):

1:26 In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, 1:27 to a **virgin** engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, a descendant of David, and the **virgin's** name was Mary. 1:28 The angel came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one, the Lord is with you!" 1:29 But she was greatly troubled by his words and began to wonder about the meaning of this greeting. 1:30 So the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God! 1:31 Listen: You will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. 1:32 He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of his father David. 1:33 He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and his kingdom will never end." 1:34 Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I have not had sexual relations with a man?" 1:35 The angel replied, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called the Son of God.

1:36 "And look, your relative Elizabeth has also become pregnant with a son in her old age – although she was called barren, she is now in her sixth month! 1:37 For nothing will be impossible with God." 1:38 So Mary said, "Yes, I am a servant of the Lord; let this happen to me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

The issue squarely presented by these two passages is this: how can a virgin conceive a child without first "knowing" a man? Having thus set the stage, I now turn the discussion over to physicist Frank Tipler.

As any proper theologian would, Professor Tipler begins with the texts themselves. And with regard to the texts, the most prominent issue is the word translated in both passages above as "virgin", which I have put in bold for easy reference. In all three cases, the word used in the Greek manuscripts that we have for Matthew and Luke is *parthenos*, which was the word used by Greeks in the first century for "an unmarried young woman, a virgin." Matthew's passage actually is referring to and quoting an Old Testament text, Isaiah 7:14, in which the Hebrew word used is *'almah*, a word that generally means "young woman," and in some contexts (e.g., Genesis 24:43) means "virgin" as we understand it. However, as Tipler points out, there is a more specific word for "virgin" in modern Hebrew: *betulah*. In a very well-informed discourse that takes up more than eleven pages in Prof. Tipler's book, the reader is treated to one of the best elucidations I have ever read about the state of the current scholarship on the use and interpretation of these three words in the Bible, and on what Matthew and Luke understood by their use of the (Septuagint) word *parthenos*. In addition, the reader is introduced—for the first time, to my knowledge, in any commentary on these books of the Bible—to a well-grounded discussion of exactly what first-century readers would have believed or understood about the subject of human reproduction at that time.

requirements, please email me (see my Profile) and I will try to help.

A GALLIMAUFRY OF WEBLOGS

Listed below are the Weblogs I commend to your attention. A listing is not an endorsement of content. For an explanation of the groupings (by analogy to Tennyson's "Charge of the Light Brigade"), please see [this post](#), and [this](#); the reference to "cannon" is not pejorative (although it may, depending on its character, be regarded as onomatopoeic). Authors who object to their listing here, either on specific grounds or no grounds at all, may contact me for correction or removal. (Removal is automatic after a month or so of inactivity.) I will also consider requests and recommendations to be added.

Note: only the best of the conservative political blogs are listed here (under "Cannon Fodder", below). For a comprehensive roll of political blogs on the left, please visit the [Liberal Curmudgeon's site](#) (also linked below).


ANGLICANNON TO THE LEFT

 [In a Godward direction](#)
Thought for 04.09.13
1 hour ago


 [The Lead](#)
Jim Wallis for marriage equality - sort of
2 hours ago


 [Thinking Anglicans WATCH meeting: Preparing for Elections](#)
4 hours ago

 [Anglocat on the Prowl](#)
Maggie Eclat
13 hours ago

 [Ethical Musings](#)
Finding happiness
1 day ago


[Episcopal Church Blog](#)
The Big Tent: Doubt on Display in the Center Ring

 [To all the world... This. Changes. Everything.](#)

 [An Exercise in the Fundamentals of Orthodoxy](#)
Resurrection Year

 [American Anglican Council](#)
Navigation

[AnglicansUnited.com](#)
the Rev. Dr. Ephraim Radner writes to Texas Supreme Court

 [Billy Ockham](#)
Observation

 [Hot Rod Anglican](#)
Jerusalem - Hot Rod Anglican Re-Mix!

 [The Writers' Block](#)
Remembering Mary

[Global South Anglican](#)
A Communiqué from the Global South Conference on the Decade of Mission and Networking, July 16 - 21, 2012 at Bangkok, Thailand

ANGLICANNON IN FRONT

 [Mere Comments](#)
Reminiscences to Mourn the Passing of Lady Margaret Thatcher
42 minutes ago

 [Transfigurations](#)
Annette Funicello: 1942 - 2013
1 hour ago

[Mere Orthodoxy](#)
Is the Use of Drones Morally Permissible?
2 hours ago

 [TitusOneNine](#)
Big Night for the Diocese of S. Carolina—An Evening with Bishops from East Africa
3 hours ago

[The King's English](#)
The Queen of Sheba
8 hours ago

 [The Conciliar Anglican](#)
Ask an Anglican: The Reformers and the Divines
12 hours ago

And here Professor Tipler scores, in my view, a real *coup* against traditional Biblical scholars: he shows that first-century readers of the passages in Matthew and Luke would *also* have understood references in Mark, John and the Pauline epistles (where the word *parthenos* does not expressly appear), based on the contemporary understanding of how babies were conceived, to refer to a virgin birth for Jesus---i.e., a baby conceived without the aid of a human father.

All this, however, is served up just as an appetizer. So we have most of the authors of the New Testament---Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, plus the apostle Paul---capable of being read as supporting a virgin birth for Jesus in accordance with their contemporary understanding of what occurred in His case. How does that realization assist us in the twenty-first century, with our so much greater knowledge of science and biological facts? Please, I invite you, sit down to the main course, and read on.

Frank Tipler is first and foremost a scientist, and only secondarily a top-notch physicist. As a scientist, he makes it his rule to understand any discipline which he endeavors to expound. And his native genius ensures that he can use his knowledge of physics and mathematics to apply himself to other scientific disciplines as he may require to support the faith that he has, through his efforts to follow the truth wherever it may lead him, uncovered. (Remember that he was, as most scientists today are, an agnostic when he began to explore the mathematical consequences of standard current physical theories.) With my background in physics and mathematics, I can follow to a certain extent his mathematics, and the physical conclusions he draws from the mathematics. But I have to say that I am here only as a simple reporter of what he says about biology and genetics; I have no extended training in either of these fields. If anyone most knowledgeable in those sciences can demonstrate what Prof. Tipler says to be false, then so be it, and the wonderful edifice that he has constructed will fall. To give him his due, he would be the first, as a scientist, to recognize any falsity in his biological and genetic claims. But I have to give him full credit for his unstinting willingness to follow his rational beliefs to the farthest extent to which he is able to push them---even if the result was that he had no other option than to become a devout believer of Christianity, and could no longer sustain his agnosticism. Indeed, this is Frank Tipler's most singular achievement: as a scientist, he has demonstrated mathematically that if the laws of physics are true (and everything we do at every single moment of every day is premised on the assumption that those laws are true), then God must of necessity exist. No rational scientist, he implies, could believe otherwise---even though most of his peers think he is nuts (and those at his own University have as a consequence, he reports, deliberately deprived him of ordinary salary increases---see [my previous post](#)). Well, I have to confess that my love of logic resonates with his mathematical reasoning, and since his own peers have given him accolades for his mathematics, there is no other conclusion I can draw than that he is, like John the Baptist, a "voice crying in the wilderness"---and being punished for it as well.

But I digress, in my admiration for the main thrust of his book. Back to the issue at hand: the virgin birth of Jesus Christ. How could such an event scientifically take place? And, even more important: *if* there were a scientific explanation for such an event, *how could we prove today that it actually happened?* These are the questions to which Professor Tipler brings his expertise, and to which I now invite your attention.

In what follows, you must first appreciate the theological purity of the explanation. That is to say, Professor Tipler has devoted the earlier chapters of his book to demonstrating first, not only the necessary existence of God according to the laws of physics, but *also* the necessary existence of the Trinity---God, Son, and Holy Ghost, from before time and space began. By jumping to his discussion of the virgin birth, I am skipping over all the earlier discussion which proves the necessary existence of the Holy Trinity as Three Persons in One. (I will come back to that in a later post, after having established Prof. Tipler's *bona fides* on a topic as readily approachable, as well as fantastic, as the virgin birth of Jesus.) So in the passage that follows

 [this fragile tent](#)
Poetry of protest...
1 day ago

 [Lionel Deimel's Web Log](#)
Was León's Sermon Inappropriate?
3 days ago

[Seven whole days](#)
Easter Day: A life of Easter faith
1 week ago

 [Crusty Old Dean](#)
Cutting the Gordian Knot of Lent Madness
1 week ago


 [The Thin Tradition](#)
A Diaconal Church
3 weeks ago


[hypersync](#)
Explosions In The Sky
5 months ago

 [Anglican minimalist](#)
A Tale of Two Cons
8 months ago

LITURGICANNON


 [haligweorc](#)
Eastern Anglicanism?
21 hours ago

 [Not only with our lips, but in our lives](#)
Presiding Bishop Unwittingly Speaks the Truth
2 months ago

 [Fr Hunwicke's Liturgical Notes](#)
TUTISSIMUS INDEX (4): eodem sensu eademque sententia
5 months ago

EVANGELICANNON

 [Locusts and Wild Honey](#)
Tuesday in 2 Easter: The son of destruction
3 hours ago


 [Stand to Reason Blog](#)
Challenge: The Gospels Aren't Eyewitness Accounts
4 hours ago

 [Books and Culture](#)
Making Musical Sense
4 hours ago

 [The Gospel Coalition Blog](#)
Kicking Off the 2013 National Conference


 [He Lives](#)
If you could have...
14 hours ago

[AnglicanTV Ministries](#)
New Wineskins 2013 Sunday Eucharist
1 day ago

 [Creedal Christian](#)
Bishop of Washington: "We don't know what happened to Jesus after his death"
2 days ago

[Thinking Christian](#)
Trust in God or in Man? The Cross, Evil, and Faith
3 days ago

 [Conger](#)
New patriarch for Ethiopia: The Church of England Newspaper, March 31 2013, p 7.
5 days ago

 [an undercurrent of hostility](#)
he lives, we seem to still be living
5 days ago

 [Anglican Essentials](#)
Michael Ingham Announces his Retirement
6 days ago

[Anglican Ink](#)
Easter Messages from across the Anglican Communion
1 week ago

 [Julia Duin](#)
Spring break, part II
1 week ago


 [pungere](#)
an Easter joy
1 week ago

 [Science And Religion](#)
Man vs. Molecule!
2 weeks ago

 [Confessions of a Carioca](#)
Conciliation
4 weeks ago

[The Anglican Communion Institute](#)
Conciliation Accord: What It Means
4 weeks ago

 [Entangled States](#)
Response to disaster
4 weeks ago

 [Not only with our lips, but in our lives](#)
Presiding Bishop

(from p. 166), please understand that for Professor Tipler, there is no question that Jesus the Son of God predated all creation, and coexists with the Father and the Holy Ghost, while *Jesus the man* was indeed conceived of a virgin:

I shall now describe a simple mechanism, completely consistent with known physical law, whereby a virgin birth can occur via the action of the Father through the Holy Spirit. In this mechanism, the mind of the virginally conceived Jesus would be in resonance with, and in complete harmony with, the Son from the instant of formation of the mind in the nervous tissue of the embryo. He would be completely human, with the rational mind of a human, but nevertheless be the Son. Furthermore, I shall show that if the Virgin Birth occurred in the manner I propose, the Virgin Birth hypothesis can be verified by direct experiment. The Virgin Birth would no longer rest on Mary's word alone. We would be able to show directly, without reference to human testimony, that Luke and Matthew merely reported the facts as related to them by a completely truthful Mary. A direct experimental confirmation of the Virgin Birth would also support the claim that Matthew and Luke were just reporting the facts when they described the risen Jesus.

Extraordinary words, are they not? (Do you begin to see why I felt that this book is worthy of your attention?)

There follows an extensive discursus on the phenomenon of parthenogenesis (literally, from the Greek, "virgin birth") in animals as well as in humans. (Yes, I said *humans*---Prof. Tipler cites the scientific references.) Then he stakes his claim:

I propose that Jesus was a special type of XX male, a type that is quite rare in humans but extensively studied [footnote omitted]. Approximately 1 out of every 20,000 human males is an XX male. . . . An XX male results when a single key gene for maleness on the Y chromosome (the SRY gene) is inserted into an X chromosome. One possibility is that *all* (or at least many) of the Y chromosome genes were inserted into one of Mary's X chromosomes and that, in her, one of the standard mechanisms used to turn off genes was active on these inserted Y genes. (There is an RNA process that can turn off an entire X chromosome. This is the most elegant turnoff mechanism.) Jesus would then have resulted when one of Mary's eggs started to divide before it became haploid and with the Y genes activated (and, of course, with the extra X genes deactivated). . . .

I hope I have quoted enough here to enable qualified geneticists to ascertain the basis of Professor Tipler's claim to have an explanation for the Virgin Birth of Jesus. As I understand it, the genetics of Jesus would have marked him as an unusually rare male of the species, and if we could somehow have access to a blood sample, we could determine whether or not Professor Tipler's theory was correct. And to give him his due, Prof. Tipler states as much:

If a sample of Jesus' blood and/or flesh could be obtained, my proposal could easily be tested by carrying out two distinct DNA tests for sex: (1) test for the Y genes and (2) test for the two alleles (different gene forms) of X chromosome genes. In other words, a male born of a virgin would have two X chromosome genes for each of its counterpart Y genes. Normal males would only have one X chromosome gene for each Y counterpart gene. This pairing would apply to each of the thirteen genes on the Y chromosome that has an X counterpart.

The odds of such a "virgin birth" would truly be fantastic, as Professor Tipler calculates here:

Such a virgin birth would be improbable. If the measured probability that a single Y gene is inserted into an X chromosome is 1 in 20,000, then the probability that all Y genes are inserted into an X chromosome is 1/20,000 raised to the 28th power, the

10 hours ago

Prydain
The Rev. William Klock: "Valuing the Things of God" (Genesis 25:29-34)
11 hours ago

Anglicans Ablaze
Regeneration Precedes Faith
18 hours ago

Anglican Down Under
Devastating cathedral news
19 hours ago

Blog and Mablog
Leaving a Red Welt on Your Forehead
1 day ago

Positive Infinity
The Bad Taste of Princeton Alumna Susan Patton
1 day ago

Journey in Faith
Am I crazy or Are They Crazy?
1 day ago

Shreds and Patches
SERMON FOR EASTER 2
4 days ago

The Ugly Vicar
Better Never to Have Been?
6 days ago

Gentle Wisdom
Book: The Biblical Revelation of the Cross
6 days ago

The Barnabas Project
Jesus Christ the Faithful Witness
1 week ago

Stand to Reason
Six Things Christians Should Stop Saying?
2 weeks ago

AnglicansUnited.com
the Rev. Dr. Ephraim Radner writes to Texas Supreme Court
2 weeks ago

This Week's Focus: Our Daily Witness
This Week's Focus: The View from the Cross
2 weeks ago

A Living Text
Reminder
3 weeks ago

Cranmer's Curate

Unwittingly Speaks the Truth
2 months ago

Cotton Country Anglican
TEC versus +Lawrence and the Diocese of South Carolina ... Such a waste
4 months ago

Northwest Anglican
I believe in the prosperity gospel
5 months ago

Church Times

(ANGLO-) CATHOLICANNON

Anglican Mainstream
Polygamous marriage: why not?
13 minutes ago

Cranmer
Margaret Thatcher dies - the world responds
36 minutes ago

Mere Comments
Reminiscences to Mourn the Passing of Lady Margaret Thatcher
42 minutes ago

Ask Sister Mary Martha
Paper Tigers
16 hours ago

The Continuum
Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
18 hours ago

News » Damian Thompson
Watch Margaret Thatcher's bravest performance
1 day ago

The Kraalspace
Very big news
5 days ago

Sed Angli
Dum transisset Sabbatum
1 week ago

Catholic and Reformed
Public Opinion Nailed Me to the Cross
1 week ago

Timotheos
Prologizes Why Anglicans should pray for the conclave
4 weeks ago

intersection

power corresponding to the number of Y genes. (Assuming that the insertion of each Y gene has equal probability and that these insertions are independent.) There have been only about 100 billion humans born since behaviorally modern *Homo sapiens* evolved

Thus, the virgin birth of such an XX male would be unique in human history even if there were only two such Y genes inserted into an X chromosome. (I assume an upper bound to the rate of virgin birth is 1/300. Then the probability of a virgin birth of a male with 2 Y genes is $1/[300][20,000][20,000] = 1/120$ billion.) But . . . if such an event *had* to occur [for God to exist according to physical laws that have shown themselves thus far as true], then the Virgin Birth probability would become 1; that is, certain to occur. In other words, it would be a miracle!

But how can we today test the evidence available to us for proof of such a birth occurring more than 2,000 years ago? The answer, according to Professor Tipler (and a growing number of scientists), is to conduct scientific analysis on the bloodstains that allegedly were left on two pieces of cloth that are claimed to have enshrouded the body of Jesus as laid in the tomb outside of Jerusalem. The principal cloth, used to wrap his body, was the Shroud of Turin, and the second cloth was one that was put over his face, and called today the Sudarium of Oviedo. Note that they have entirely independent histories, and repose in two different places. The age of the cloth of the Shroud has supposedly been established by radiocarbon analysis as dating from the 14th century, but Professor Tipler provides an exhaustive review (based on the physics with which he is most familiar) as to why that dating is most probably wrong. And indeed, as he shows from the available scientific evidence, the correlation in the location and type of bloodstains between the two cloths establishes a strong possibility that they once covered the same corpse. Given that the Oviedo cloth is known to have existed as of about 1000 A.D. ---four centuries or so before the "known" dating of the Shroud according to radiocarbon decay analysis, the accuracy of the latter is called into question.

However, this conclusion---that the Shroud of Turin and the Oviedo Sudarium are intimately related---is almost trifling compared to where Professor Tipler goes next. Scientist that he is, he asks whether anyone has conducted a DNA analysis of the bloodstains on the two cloths, to determine whether (a) the cloths have the same DNA imprint, and so are unquestionably related, but (b) whether it is possible, from the analyses that have been conducted and reported in the literature, to ascertain whether, assuming that the blood on both cloths was that of the crucified Jesus, its genetic profile was consistent with his hypothesis of an unusual (*i.e.*, miraculous) XX male birth.

It turns out, as Professor Tipler reports, that DNA analyses *have* been conducted of *both* the bloodstains on the Turin Shroud and on the Oviedo Sudarium:

In January 1993 a group of Italian researchers, led by Professor Marcello Canale of the Institute of Legal Medicine in Genoa, conducted a DNA analysis of the blood on the Shroud. This group included several workers who had invented the standard DNA test for gender. . . .

This group simultaneously tested the blood on the Oviedo Cloth.

Imagine his surprise, therefore, when he could not obtain, through the usual library channels, a copy of their published results. Even more, it developed that the results the group had obtained were published in a very non-standard form:

. . . The results were published, in Italian, in the very obscure journal devoted to the study of the Turin Shroud. Furthermore, only the raw data were published. That is, the Genoa team published black-and-white Xerox copies of the computer output of the DNA analyzer. This is never, never done. Always, the data are

OPEN GOAL FOR THE GOSPEL MISSED AT CURATE'S OLD SCHOOL
4 weeks ago

 [Covenant | Home](#)

JURICANNON

Opinio Juris
LJIL Symposium: Explaining and Justifying International Courts as Agents and Actors: Comments on von Bogdandy and Venzke's 'On the Functions of International Courts'
10 minutes ago

The Volokh Conspiracy
Marriage equality event in D.C.
57 minutes ago

Religion Clause
Romanian High Court Rejects Strange Religious Malpractice Lawsuit
3 hours ago

Legal Juice
A Responsible Drunk Driver?
9 hours ago

SCOTUSblog
Petition of the day
11 hours ago

The Cackle Bur
The Special Requirements for Petition-Stage Amici
3 days ago

The Law Insider
The Voters Rights Act & Amex's Next Chapter
5 days ago

Religion Law Blog
Free Speech Anyone ? - Not in England or Canada Apparently
2 weeks ago

Court Beat
Lucky in Supreme Court jobs, even luckier with colleagues
1 year ago

OTHER CURMUDGEONS

The Sensuous Curmudgeon
Pat Robertson: Why Miracles Happen in Africa
30 minutes ago

 [The Comics](#)

When in Rome: Team America shut down
4 weeks ago

CANNON FODDER

American Thinker Blog
The future of 'free' TV
1 minute ago

Moonbattery
Olander D. Cuthrell: Yet Another Hate Crime Hoaxer
7 minutes ago

Breitbart Feed REPORT: Beyoncé, Jay Z's Cuban Vacation 'Fully Licensed By Treasury Dept'
38 minutes ago

Hot Air » Top Picks
CNN's Tapper covers free-speech fight of Fox News reporter
38 minutes ago

RedState
Debunking the War on Fracking
40 minutes ago

Ace of Spades HQ
Tuesday Morning News Dump
1 hour ago

Commentary Magazine
America Could Use Some 'Question Time'
1 hour ago

Power Line
Just us
1 hour ago

The American Spectator
My Fair Lady T.
4 hours ago

National Review Online
Margaret Thatcher 1926-2013
6 hours ago

American Thinker
Subverting Bowdoin
8 hours ago

Front Porch Republic
A Long Repentance: A Decade of Turning Away from (a Part of) the American Dream
9 hours ago

It Don't Make Sense
North Korea's Le Grand Armeé
14 hours ago

presented in a neat table or figure, and they are accompanied by a discussion of their significance. The Genoa team made no effort to interpret their data. . . .

Being the scientist that he is, Frank Tipler went to work on the raw data of the Italians' tests, and reported triumphantly (the italics are in the original):

But I was able to interpret the data at once. *They are the expected signature of the DNA of a male born in a Virgin Birth!* The data are presented in standard tabular form in Tables 7.1 and 7.2. . . .

The standard DNA test for sex is the amelogenin test I mentioned earlier. The Italians performed this test, which gave 106 base pairs for the X form of amelogenin and 112 base pairs for the Y form. There is a phenomenon called *sputtering*, which can cause the actual value obtained to differ by 1 base pair from the expected value.

The Turin Shroud data show 107 (106 +1) but no trace of a 112 base pair gene. The Oviedo Cloth data show 105 (106 - 1) but no trace of a 112 base pair. The X chromosome is present, but there is no evidence of a Y chromosome. This is the expected signature of the simplest virgin birth, the XX male generated by an SRY inserted into an X chromosome. It is *not* what would be expected of a standard male.

Thus *The Physics of Christianity* not only provides a physical explanation for how the virgin birth reported in the New Testament would be possible, but it also uses the available physical evidence to provide a stunning verification of Tipler's hypothesis---a verification which is all the more amazing because it is based on reported results *that were never properly presented or interpreted by those who obtained them*.

It is for this reason alone that I commend Frank Tipler's book to all who wish to ground their faith on the physical evidence and common sense that God has given us. Professor Tipler is a unique breed: he is someone who has followed the available evidence, and who has worked out the consequent mathematics, to a conclusion which, no matter how much his colleagues might wish to avoid it, shows that:

A. There is definitely a God Who created the universe in which we find ourselves (to be faithful to his proof, I should use the plural, "universes"---but more on that later);

B. This God indeed has an only-begotten Son, Jesus, who together with the Holy Spirit constitute three separate persons forming one indivisible trinity;

C. The Son---Jesus---although existing before (and throughout) all space and time, came to this planet and took on the form of a man, the product of a unique and one-time Virgin Birth; and

D. Evidence for that unique and one-time birth, as well as for His Resurrection itself, has been waiting for nearly two thousand years for mankind to develop the skills and technology needed to assess it.

It is, as I say, a remarkable thesis, in what is an even more remarkable book. As time permits in the coming weeks, I shall return to it, because this synopsis of just one chapter in it does not begin to give it its due.

Posted by A. S. Haley at 6:41 AM 

Curmudgeon
The best is how extremely unimpressed the checkout lady looks
2 hours ago

The Liberal Curmudgeon
ALEC Helps Thwart Taping Of Cruelty To Animals
11 hours ago

The Curmudgeon
In Memoriam: Baroness Thatcher
1 day ago

The Constructive Curmudgeon
A Moral Case Against Darwinism
2 days ago

The Christian Curmudgeon
I'm not swimming the Tiber but....
2 days ago

Second Effort
We'll miss you, Roger Ebert
4 days ago

The Crusty Curmudgeon
Superman Saturday: Intense, high explosive dynamite, pure dynamite
1 week ago

The Joy of Curmudgeonry
At an End
7 months ago

Curmudgeons Corner

Patum Peperium
Gone, but will never be forgotten.
22 hours ago

Armavirumque
Heroic Rheingold Cast Overcomes Technical Difficulties
1 day ago

South Dakota Politics
The Administration That Wasn't There
2 days ago

A Gringo in Rural Mexico
Remember the Equal Rights Amendment
6 days ago

Six Meat Buffet
The Buffet Goes Social
6 days ago

Hugh Hewitt's TownHall Blog
Intellectuals and Race: Part II
3 weeks ago

HillBuzz
9 Reasons to Dump Your Corporate Gym For a Family Gym
4 weeks ago

Keith Hennessey
How filibusters work and why they are so rare
4 weeks ago

Gonzalo Lira
Mo' Debt, Mo' Problems (Mo' Keynesian Cynicism)
2 months ago

iowahawk
White House Scientists Struggle to Contain Outbreak of Scrutonium
6 months ago

Ann Coulter

BLOG ARCHIVE

- ▶ 2013 (32)
- ▶ 2012 (134)
- ▶ 2011 (147)
- ▶ 2010 (215)
- ▶ 2009 (237)
- ▼ 2008 (172)
 - ▶ December (17)
 - ▼ November (20)
 - No Comment Necessary
 - "Know the Enemy": As the Church Formed, So It May ...
 - The Madness of Politicians
 - How to Wreck the Anglican Communion

Recommend this on Google

11 comments:

E Tregonsee said...

>>one of the foremost physicists of our day.

Not exactly. He is a competent physicist, one of many, but nowhere near "foremost." He is primarily and widely known because he authored an excellent introductory physics textbook used by more than a generation of physics students who remember it fondly.

This is not a comment on his conclusions, and I have ordered a copy of his book. However, it is best not to oversell a source, especially to those in the field who will smile tolerantly at a layman's naiveté.

Monday, November 10, 2008 at 7:49:00 AM PST

E A. S. Haley said...

Thank you for that comment, Tregonsee. I have removed my exuberance, and simply described the man's credentials.

However, should even some of his claims about Christianity be verified (and he suggests a number of ways in his book that it could be done), he would have to be regarded as more than just competent.

I hope you enjoy the book!

Monday, November 10, 2008 at 8:06:00 AM PST



The Underground Pewster said...

Does this make Tipler a chimera; some sort of genetiphysicist or physicigeneticist? Perhaps he lost one of his physicist alleles and this has allowed the expression of his latent geneticist tendencies.

Interesting stuff though, life has just not been the same since they discovered reverse transcriptase.

Monday, November 10, 2008 at 12:15:00 PM PST



Perpetua said...

Slightly off topic, but does he confirm that the blood from both the shroud and the oviedo cloth are the same DNA?

Monday, November 10, 2008 at 4:16:00 PM PST

E A. S. Haley said...

Perpetua, there is no outright statement by him to that effect. I am not a biologist or geneticist, so I hope someone with that expertise would help here. His table for the Oviedo Cloth results is much shorter than the table for the Turin Shroud, leading me to think that the DNA samples were more degraded on the Oviedo Cloth. But both samples show the same-size base pairs for the X-form of amelogenin (after correcting for the "sputtering" he mentions), so I think that would be a strong indicator that the blood on the two cloths is the same. (After all, how many relics from that era could there be with the rare blood of two different XX males on them?)

There is a good summary of all the points of similarity between the Shroud and the Oviedo Cloth [here](#). Written in 1998, it says the results of the DNA tests on the blood are still "pending"---apparently because that refers to different tests done later. Only Tipler seems to have written up the Italians' results in English, since I can find no other mention of them on the Web.

Monday, November 10, 2008 at 6:39:00 PM PST

B Truth Unites... and Divides said...

California Supreme Court to Consider Constitutiona...

Bishop Wantland Knows His Canons

Hypocrisy? You Call That Hypocrisy??

Celebrating the Election? Think Again

Understanding Rowan Williams for the First Time

A Question for the Ages (Especially This One)

Somewhere There's a Saying . . .

The Lead Offers an Unwitting Lesson for TEC

Blog Changes - Politics Can Be Fun!

The Unvarnished Truth

The Physics of Christianity: Frank Tipler on the V...

"Know the Enemy": the Office of the Presiding Bish...

The Church of Enablers

What Republicans Can Do with Their Yard Signs Toda...

Vote Early, and Often---Not Just in Chicago

"Know the Enemy": Episcopal Beginnings

► October (13)

► September (18)

► August (53)

► July (18)

► June (9)

► May (12)

► April (7)

► March (5)

Dear A.S. Haley,

I share your exuberance! Keep posting more on this series about Tipler's book.

I love your statement here: "Thus The Physics of Christianity not only provides a physical explanation for how the virgin birth reported in the New Testament would be possible, but it also uses the available physical evidence to provide a stunning verification of Tipler's hypothesis---a verification which is all the more amazing because it is based on reported results that were never properly presented or interpreted by those who obtained them."

Best Regards,

Truth Unites... and Divides

Tuesday, November 11, 2008 at 2:27:00 PM PST

Martial Artist said...

AC,

You asked: "How's that for a prose style?"

I think it is an inestimable piece of allusion on your part, and immeasurably comprehensive.

Blessings and regards,
Keith Toepfer

Wednesday, November 12, 2008 at 2:33:00 PM PST

James Redford said...

Actually, Tregonsee, as regards Prof. Tipler, whatever one's feelings about him, we're quite conservatively talking about the most elite physicist who has ever lived. His Ph.D. is in the field of global general relativity (the same rarefied field that Profs. Roger Penrose and Stephen Hawking developed), and additionally he is also an expert in particle physics (i.e., the Standard Model), computer science (e.g., computational complexity theory), and quantum cosmology. Not even Profs. Penrose and Hawking have all those qualifications, let alone Einstein or Newton.

Furthermore, if one accepts that he has proven God to exist according to the known laws of physics and that he has given the world the physical Theory of Everything (both of which one must accept if one desires to be veridical according to the known laws of physics), then this just cements Prof. Tipler's primary importance within physics all the more.

Tipler is Professor of Mathematics and Physics (joint appointment) at Tulane University. His Omega Point Theory has been published in a number of prestigious peer-reviewed physics and science journals such as Reports on Progress in Physics (one of the world's leading physics journals), Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society (one of the world's leading astrophysics journals), Physics Letters B, the International Journal of Theoretical Physics, etc.

Prof. John A. Wheeler (the father of most relativity research in the U.S.) wrote that "Frank Tipler is widely known for important concepts and theorems in general relativity and gravitation physics" on pg. viii in the "Foreword" to The Anthropic Cosmological Principle (1986) by cosmologist Prof. John D. Barrow and Tipler, which was the first book wherein Tipler's Omega Point Theory was described. On pg. ix of said book, Prof. Wheeler wrote that Chapter 10 of the book, which concerns the Omega Point Theory, "rivals in thought-provoking power any of the [other chapters]."

God has been proven to exist based upon the most reserved view of the known laws of physics. For much more on that, see Prof. Frank J. Tipler's below paper, which among other things demonstrates that the known laws of physics (i.e., the Second Law of Thermodynamics, general relativity, quantum mechanics, and the Standard Model of particle

physics) require that the universe end in the Omega Point (the final cosmological singularity and state of infinite informational capacity identified as being God):

F. J. Tipler, "The structure of the world from pure numbers," Reports on Progress in Physics, Vol. 68, No. 4 (April 2005), pp. 897-964.
<http://math.tulane.edu/~tipler/theoryofeverything.pdf> Also released as "Feynman-Weinberg Quantum Gravity and the Extended Standard Model as a Theory of Everything," arXiv:0704.3276, April 24, 2007.
<http://arxiv.org/abs/0704.3276>

Out of 50 articles, Prof. Tipler's above paper was selected as one of 12 for the "Highlights of 2005" accolade as "the very best articles published in Reports on Progress in Physics in 2005 [Vol. 68]. Articles were selected by the Editorial Board for their outstanding reviews of the field. They all received the highest praise from our international referees and a high number of downloads from the journal Website." (See Richard Palmer, Publisher, "Highlights of 2005," Reports on Progress in Physics. <http://www.iop.org/EJ/journal/-page=extra.highlights/0034-4885>) Reports on Progress in Physics is the leading journal of the Institute of Physics, Britain's main professional body for physicists.

Further, Reports on Progress in Physics has a higher impact factor (according to Journal Citation Reports) than Physical Review Letters, which is the most prestigious American physics journal (one, incidentally, which Prof. Tipler has been published in more than once). A journal's impact factor reflects the importance the science community places in that journal in the sense of actually citing its papers in their own papers. (And just to point out, Tipler's 2005 Reports on Progress in Physics paper could not have been published in Physical Review Letters since said paper is nearly book-length, and hence not a "letter" as defined by the latter journal.)

See also the below resources for further information on the Omega Point Theory:

Theophysics <http://geocities.com/theophysics/>

"Omega Point (Tipler)," Wikipedia, April 16, 2008 http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Omega_Point_%28Tipler%29&oldid=206077125

"Frank J. Tipler," Wikipedia, April 16, 2008 http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Frank_J._Tipler&oldid=205920802

The leading quantum physicist in the world, Prof. David Deutsch (inventor of the quantum computer, being the first person to mathematically describe the workings of such a device, and winner of the Institute of Physics' 1998 Paul Dirac Medal and Prize for his work), endorses the physics of the Omega Point Theory in his book The Fabric of Reality (1997). For that, see:

David Deutsch, extracts from Chapter 14: "The Ends of the Universe" of The Fabric of Reality: The Science of Parallel Universes--and Its Implications (London: Allen Lane The Penguin Press, 1997), ISBN: 0713990619; with additional comments by Frank J. Tipler.
<http://geocities.com/theophysics/deutsch-ends-of-the-universe.html>

The only way to avoid the Omega Point cosmology is to invent tenuous physical theories which have no experimental support and which violate the known laws of physics, such as with Prof. Stephen Hawking's paper on the black hole information issue which is dependant on the conjectured string theory-based anti-de Sitter space/conformal field theory correspondence (AdS/CFT correspondence). See S. W. Hawking, "Information loss in black holes," Physical Review D, Vol. 72, No. 8, 084013 (October 2005); also at arXiv:hep-th/0507171, July 18, 2005.
<http://arxiv.org/abs/hep-th/0507171>

That is, Prof. Hawking's paper is based upon proposed, unconfirmed physics. It's an impressive testament to the Omega Point Theory's correctness, as Hawking implicitly confirms that the known laws of physics require the universe to collapse in finite time. Hawking realizes that the black hole information issue must be resolved without violating

unitarity, yet he's forced to abandon the known laws of physics in order to avoid unitarity violation without the universe collapsing.

Some have suggested that the universe's current acceleration of its expansion obviates the universe collapsing (and therefore obviates the Omega Point). But as Profs. Lawrence M. Krauss and Michael S. Turner point out in "Geometry and Destiny" (General Relativity and Gravitation, Vol. 31, No. 10 [October 1999], pp. 1453-1459; also at arXiv:astro-ph/9904020, April 1, 1999 <http://arxiv.org/abs/astro-ph/9904020>), there is no set of cosmological observations which can tell us whether the universe will expand forever or eventually collapse.

There's a very good reason for that, because that is dependant on the actions of intelligent life. The known laws of physics provide the mechanism for the universe's collapse. As required by the Standard Model, the net baryon number was created in the early universe by baryogenesis via electroweak quantum tunneling. This necessarily forces the Higgs field to be in a vacuum state that is not its absolute vacuum, which is the cause of the positive cosmological constant. But if the baryons in the universe were to be annihilated by the inverse of baryogenesis, again via electroweak quantum tunneling (which is allowed in the Standard Model, as B - L is conserved), then this would force the Higgs field toward its absolute vacuum, cancelling the positive cosmological constant and thereby forcing the universe to collapse. Moreover, this process would provide the ideal form of energy resource and rocket propulsion during the colonization phase of the universe.

Prof. Tipler's above 2005 Reports on Progress in Physics paper also demonstrates that the correct quantum gravity theory has existed since 1962, first discovered by Richard Feynman in that year, and independently discovered by Steven Weinberg and Bryce DeWitt, among others. But because these physicists were looking for equations with a finite number of terms (i.e., derivatives no higher than second order), they abandoned this qualitatively unique quantum gravity theory since in order for it to be consistent it requires an arbitrarily higher number of terms. Further, they didn't realize that this proper theory of quantum gravity is consistent only with a certain set of boundary conditions imposed (which includes the initial Big Bang, and the final Omega Point, cosmological singularities). The equations for this theory of quantum gravity are term-by-term finite, but the same mechanism that forces each term in the series to be finite also forces the entire series to be infinite (i.e., infinities that would otherwise occur in spacetime, consequently destabilizing it, are transferred to the cosmological singularities, thereby preventing the universe from immediately collapsing into nonexistence). As Tipler notes in his 2007 book *The Physics of Christianity* (pp. 49 and 279), "It is a fundamental mathematical fact that this [infinite series] is the best that we can do. ... This is somewhat analogous to Liouville's theorem in complex analysis, which says that all analytic functions other than constants have singularities either a finite distance from the origin of coordinates or at infinity."

When combined with the Standard Model, the result is the Theory of Everything (TOE) correctly describing and unifying all the forces in physics.

Tuesday, November 18, 2008 at 12:44:00 PM PST

A. S. Haley said...

Wow, James Redford, thank you for that affirmation of the main post! I also recommend your Weblog to those readers who want more of the physical/mathematical detail which I have not yet introduced them to. Your comment will figure prominently in my subsequent posts on Prof. Tipler's book---so thank you for taking the time and trouble to post it here for our benefit.

Tuesday, November 18, 2008 at 9:26:00 PM PST

A Future Metaphysician said...

Tipler's theory has some significant theological implications. Here's my quick take on how Tiplerism would affect theology.

(1) It makes the genes of Jesus theologically important, which makes the pedigree of Jesus important.

(2) This changes how we read all the Old Testament laws that affect "who marries who" (including kosher laws, since food taboos are one of the most effective ways of keeping groups apart--"lips that touch bacon will never touch mine!")

(3) In the Book of Acts, the Gentile believers were excused from following the Old Testament laws of racial separation. This makes perfect sense if these laws were given to concentrate the gene pool to lead to Jesus.

Monday, January 18, 2010 at 5:35:00 AM PST

Consiglieri said...

"e authored an excellent introductory physics textbook used by more than a generation of physics students who remember it fondly.
"

This is not true. The "Tipler" you are talking about is "Paul Tipler". This Tipler in this article is "Frank Tipler".

Indeed, I liked the article.

Wednesday, October 27, 2010 at 9:43:00 AM PDT

[Post a Comment](#)

Links to this post

[Create a Link](#)

[Newer Post](#)

[Home](#)

[Older Post](#)

Subscribe to: [Post Comments \(Atom\)](#)

Picture Window template. Template images by compassandcamera. Powered by Blogger.

DEBATES: Sean Carroll against Frank Tipler
<http://blogs.discovermagazine.com/cosmicvariance/2009/01/05/the-varieties-of-crackpot-experience/#.UWQKNjc8DT0>

Cosmic Variance

« And Things for Them to Blog About The Best Jobs in the world »
The Varieties of Crackpot Experience
By Sean Carroll | January 5, 2009 10:58 am

Frank Tipler is a crackpot. At one point in his life, he did very good technical work in general relativity; he was the first to prove theorems that

closed timelike curves could not be constructed in local regions of spacetime without either violating the weak energy condition or creating a

singularity. But alas, since then he has pretty much gone off the deep end, and more recently has become known for arguments for Christianity based

on fundamental physics. If you closely at those arguments (h/t wolfgang), you find things like this:

If life is to guide the entire universe, it must be co-extensive with the entire universe. We can say that life must have become OMNIPRESENT in

the universe by the end of time. But the very act of guiding the universe to eliminate event horizons – an infinite number of nudges – causes the

entropy and hence the complexity of the universe to increase without limit. Therefore, if life is to continue guiding the universe – which it must,

if the laws of physics are to remain consistent – then the knowledge of the universe possessed by life must also increase without limit, becoming

both perfect and infinite at the final singularity. Life must become OMNISCIENT at the final singularity. The collapse of the universe will have

provided available energy, which goes to infinity as the final singularity is approached, and this available energy will have become entirely under

life's control. The rate of use of this available energy – power – will diverge to infinity as the final singularity is approached. In other words,

life at the final singularity will have become OMNIPOTENT. The final singularity is not in time but outside of time. On the boundary of space and

time, as described in detail by Hawking and Ellis [6]. So we can say that the final singularity – the Omega Point – is TRANSCENDANT to space, time

and matter.

All of the signs of classic crackpottery are present; the vague and misplaced appeal to technical terminology, the spelling mistakes and capital

letters, the random use of “must” and “therefore” when no actual argument has been given. Two paragraphs later, we get:

Science is not restricted merely to describing only what happens inside the material universe, any more than science is restricted to describing

events below the orbit of the Moon, as claimed by the opponents of Galileo. Like Galileo, I am convinced that the only scientific approach is to

assume that the laws of terrestrial physics hold everywhere and without exception – unless and until an experiment shows that these laws have a

limited range of application.

Compares self with Galileo! 40 points! There is really no indication that the person who wrote this was once writing perfectly sensible scientific papers.

Perhaps you will not be surprised to find that Tipler has now jumped into global-warming denialism. In just a few short paragraphs, we are treated to the following gems of insight (helpfully paraphrased):

People say that anthropogenic global warming is now firmly established, but that's what they said about Ptolemaic astronomy! Therefore, I am like Copernicus.

A scientific theory is only truly scientific if it makes predictions "that the average person can check for himself." (Not making this up.)

You know what causes global warming? Sunspots!

Sure, you can see data published that makes it look like the globe actually is warming. But that data is probably just fabricated. It snowed here last week!

If the government stopped funding science entirely, we wouldn't have these problems.

You know who I remind myself of? Galileo.

Stillman Drake, the world's leading Galileo scholar, demonstrates in his book "Galileo: A Very Short Introduction" (Oxford University Press, 2001) that it was not theologians, but rather his fellow physicists (then called "natural philosophers"), who manipulated the Inquisition into trying and convicting Galileo. The "out-of-the-mainstream" Galileo had the gall to prove the consensus view, the Aristotelean theory, wrong by devising simple experiments that anyone could do. Galileo's fellow scientists first tried to refute him by argument from authority. They failed. Then these "scientists" tried calling Galileo names, but this made no impression on the average person, who could see with his own eyes that Galileo was right. Finally, Galileo's fellow "scientists" called in the Inquisition to silence him.

One could go on, but what's the point? Well, perhaps there are two points worth making.

First, Frank Tipler is probably very "intelligent" by any of the standard measures of IQ and so forth. In science, we tend to valorize (to the point

of fetishizing) a certain kind of ability to abstractly manipulate symbols and concepts – related to, although not exactly the same as, the cult of

genius. (It's not just being smart that is valorized, but a certain kind of smart.) The truth is, such an ability is great, but tends to be

completely uncorrelated with other useful qualities like intellectual honesty and good judgment. People don't become crackpots because they're

stupid; they become crackpots because they turn their smarts to crazy purposes.

Second, the superficially disconnected forms of crackpottery that lead on the one hand to proving Christianity using general relativity, and on the

other to denying global warming, clearly emerge from a common source. The technique is to first decide what one wants to be true, and then come up with arguments that support it. This is a technique that can be used by anybody, for any purpose, and it's why appeals to authority aren't to be trusted, no matter how "intelligent" that authority seems to be.

Tipler isn't completely crazy to want "average people" to be able to check claims for themselves. He's mostly crazy, as by that standard we wouldn't have much reason to believe in either general relativity or the Standard Model of particle physics, since the experimental tests relevant to those theories are pretty much out of reach for the average person. But the average person should be acquainted with the broad outlines of the scientific method and empirical reasoning, at least enough so that they try to separate crackpots from respectable scientists. Because nobody ever chooses to describe themselves as a crackpot. If you ask them, they'll always explain that they are on the side of Galileo; and if you don't agree, you're no better than the Inquisition.

%%%%%%%%%

"The Physics of Christianity" - Frank Tipler's latest book
Review By Sean Carroll | May 30, 2007 11:29 am

It's only with some reluctance that I even mention Frank Tipler's latest book, The Physics of Christianity. But people keep telling me about it, so, it's like, my duty or something.

Now, I'm all in favor of writing about the physics of imaginary things; it can be a very enlightening exercise to compare the laws of the actual world to ones that we make up for purposes of fiction. And The Physics of Christianity is such an obvious title that you knew someone would write

such a book eventually. And Frank Tipler, in his youth, did some pioneering research on closed timelike curves in general relativity, so he has credentials as an honest physicist.

But, if there remains an interesting book to be written about the physics of Christianity, this isn't it. And I say that in full confidence, not having actually read the book. Usually I like to defer judgment about crazy-sounding books that I haven't even looked at, but in this case I'll make an exception. Reviews by Vic Stenger or Lawrence Krauss tell you everything you need to know. From Lawrence's review:

As a collection of half-truths and exaggerations, I am tempted to describe Tipler's new book as nonsense - but that would be unfair to the concept of nonsense...

Tipler, for example, claims that the standard model of particle physics is complete and exact. It isn't. He claims that we have a clear and consistent theory of quantum gravity. We don't. He claims that the universe must recollapse. It doesn't have to, and all evidence thus far suggests that it won't. He argues that we understand the nature of dark energy. We don't. He argues that we know why there is more matter than antimatter in

the universe. We don't. I could go on, but you get the point...

[Tipler] argues that the resurrection of Jesus occurred when the atoms in his body spontaneously decayed into neutrinos and antineutrinos, which

later converted back into atoms to reconstitute him.

Not much motivation for reading further than that. I've said many times (even if people don't believe me) that I have a great deal of respect for

intelligent and thoughtful religious people, even if I disagree with them on some deep truths about the universe. But man, those people don't seem to

get a lot of press, do they? The crazy stuff is much bigger box office, which perhaps is not a surprise.

Neutrinos and antineutrinos! That kills me. Everyone knows that Jesus shifted through the extra dimensions onto another brane, where he chilled for

three days before coming back.

CATEGORIZED UNDER: Religion, Science and Society

