



It Couldn't Just Happen: Knowing the Truth About God's Awesome Creation

Lawrence O. Richards

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This four-color, Gold Medallion Book Award winner is a perfect tool that offers solid, biblical answers to some of the tough questions kids ask about evolution and our world.

"Did Earth begin with a 'Big Bang' cosmic explosion?"

"Does science contradict the Bible?"

"What happened to dinosaurs?"

"Is there life on other planets?"

"Did we evolve from apes?"

"What makes my body work on its own?"

Kids are daily exposed to the theory of evolution by the media and public schools. It's not safe to assume that your kids will reject that theory. It's up to us as parents and Christian leaders to make sure our children know the truth about the creation of the world. With thousands of evidences to prove He created and sustains the universe, *It Couldn't Just Happen* will fascinate kids with fun activities and examples of God's marvelous works.

It Couldn't Just Happen: Knowing the Truth About God's Awesome Creation Details

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From Reader Review It Couldn't Just Happen: Knowing the Truth About God's Awesome Creation for online ebook

Karie Hall says

The book starts off talking about galaxies and Earth, transitions into living creatures, highlights humans, and wraps up with how we know the Bible & Christianity is both true and historically accurate. At the end of each chapter are "just for fun" sections that both kids and adults will enjoy. They are not so much the typical fill-in-the-blanks type but are more of just initiated prompts for the reader to learn more. Bible is quoted at times, if your anything like me you want to look up what they're saying. This book is a good read for all ages, my mom who is lets just say in her 50's read the title and dissapeared with the book and her bible going back and forth, and she couldnt help herself of telling my aunts and cousins about it and pointing out the fact that just about every question we could asked has not only the answers but where you can see for yourself where the information came from. Love it!

Rebekah Baljet says

Excellent resources for teaching kids how to defend their faith

This book did a great job of pointing out the inconsistencies of some arguments widely accepted within modern science, and teaching how we can defend what we know based on our knowledge of the Bible.

Minda Carpenter says

Maybe the least honest book I've ever read.

Kate Matson says

Summary:

This book states the many reasons why Christianity is the ultimate religion. It lists amazing facts about God's awesome world.

Elements that I liked:

It was written super well, and I would never have thought of this amazing proof of Christianity! It was a great read for science people.

ElementsI didn't like:

It talks about animals like they don't have emotions and don't have the capacity to love, which is totally 100% wrong! This was a great book, it just took me a long time to read it because I'm not a big science enthusiast.

Teresa Kartheiser says

This actually a text book for my son but I loved it!

Elisa says

I used to love this book - before I realized how full of holes it is. It's completely inaccurate in so many ways. Like 90% of the book is fiction passed off as fact. The book does ask a lot of interesting questions, but beyond that it's rubbish.

Arika Heay says

This is one of my FAVORITE books! I've created a lesson plan around it and have taught kids using it as a guideline. I love the projects and how simple it is.

Petra X says

I've just found this book for \$2, so I've ordered it. Mad or what? LOL. It was the 'warmth' of the reviews that got me going.

Directions for reading the reviews on this book:

1. Find a long scarf.
2. Tie it around your jaw in a knot - or a bow - on top of your head.
3. Put down your coffee, but nowhere near your foot, knee or elbow.
4. Find the Goodreads reviews of this book.

Now you may read the reviews without danger of catching flies, spilling, snorking sniggering or laughing loudly in a vulgar and certainly incredulous fashion.

(view spoiler)

Zielle says

I read this book for school (I'm homeschooled), and it is a great book with lots of facts and logic that made me think. As I said, there is a lot of logic in this book, and it's such a simple explanation for creation and it's easy to understand and hard to pass off because if you only used your logic you'd know it was true. It includes bible verses, but for those people who are like me and prefer facts, those are in this book as well. After each chapter, there are some 'Just For Fun' questions (aimed at kids) to answer as well.

This is a good book for younger children and teens. It makes you think! It would be good for adults too, although a lot of the science they probably already know.

Adrienne says

I love this book. I am reading it for the second time and getting so much more out of it this time around. It really makes you think! I have even gone to my bookshelf and pulled off my highschool biology book just to verify what he says in this book is accurate. He often refers to things in biology text books and he explains how the text books are wrong. Sure enough upon viewing my biology textbook, the author is correct about the fallacies in evolution that are taught as "truth".

Sheryl Tribble says

A good introduction to Biblical creationist thought for adults who don't mind the fact that it's aimed at kids. Pretty lightweight compared to something like Denton's *Evolution, a Theory in Crisis* (which isn't technically creationist or remotely Biblical, now I think on it, but was kind of the first "creationist" book I read, in that it seriously questioned evolution and said we need to explore alternatives), but seems to me it's written more to get Christian kids thinking about alternate explanations for the various stuff they run across in school, so it doesn't work that hard to prove any particular point, just lays out some possibilities to explore.

Chris says

I thought this book completely misrepresented the science of evolution. The author overlooks absolutely scads of mountainfulls of scientific evidence, while paying close attention to a few bits and pieces. On the other hand - he does try to illustrate how cool nature is, which is something everyone should be able to agree on, whether christian or not.

Gina Johnson says

AmblesideOnline year 6 book. There was a lot of good in this book but I felt like it had a bit of a tone of incredulity that people could believe in Evolution. At one point I had to remind my daughter that God tells us in the Bible that we won't see or understand His truth unless He reveals it to us. This is Him being gracious to us and we need to have the same grace to people who don't believe what we believe to be truth. If God hadn't saved us we would be in the same boat. The statistics and things like that are amazing. There is a ton of good in this book...and I would probably view more as an apologetics book than a science book, but there was also a fair amount I didn't love.

Jason says

The first question many of my friends will ask is, "Why on earth did you read this, Thom?" To that I will

answer that the creation-evolution "debate" has been central to my life since I brought home the Time-Life book on human evolution from the Decatur public library, and my parents explained to me that it was all lies because it contradicted their literal reading of the Bible. To them, as to the author of this book, you must take *all* of the Bible literally if you are to take *any* of the Bible seriously. And, just like this author, they posed what should have been a nuanced question in the terms of a dichotomous false choice: either God made the universe just like it says in Genesis chapter 1, or it "just happened." (More on my problems with that false choice below.) The resulting dilemma lead me to study biology *and* religion in college, where I was convinced of the truth of biological evolution and the absurdity of reading the Bible as a science textbook (if not of reading the Bible, period).

The book begins with some fairly tame observations about the apparent oddness of our world, in terms of its seeming "fine-tunedness" for the existence of life. Some have speculated that this implies the existence of a fine-tuner; others that there is some sort of "anthropic principle" built into the fabric of the cosmos; and still others that this simply means that the puddle that formed in a crack in the sidewalk is astonished to find that the crack was "perfectly tuned" to form that particular puddle.

Then the author goes on to remind readers that scientists are human beings, with biases and cognitive filters, and that oftentimes what is regarded as "scientific truth" to one generation is later revealed to be hogwash thanks to further exploration and experimentation. Again, by itself, this would be a welcome reminder to scientists and the rest of us to be a bit more humble in our pronouncements about "truth with a capital T"; in this case, though, the intention isn't to inspire humility but to sow doubt about the methods and conclusions of science.

As the book proceeds, this intention becomes increasingly apparent, at about the same rate as that at which the absurdities mount. On p. 81, in one of the end-of-chapter "Just For Fun" exercises, the author says, "If someone wants to know why you think Evolution cannot have happened in the plant or animal world, ask him to read [a book refuting evolution by a Bible publisher]," as if handing someone a book is the same as explaining your own thoughts on a subject. (But when you're used to mindlessly parroting "The Book," or more accurately, your pastor's reading of "The Book," this is standard operating procedure.)

The author asks for evidence of "transitional species," but when presented with a pretty clear case of one in the form of *Archaeopteryx*, the author denies that its hybrid reptile-bird characteristics provide the evidence he seeks. It was "definitely a bird," he asserts, that just happened to have a lot of reptilian qualities. (Why wasn't it "definitely" a reptile with a lot of bird qualities? And what does the author base his "definitive" opinion upon, other than inference, which he elsewhere condemns biologists for using in lieu of evidence?) What he wants to see, in terms of transitional species, is a fossil that captures the transition *in process*, which is as absurd as wanting to watch a film by looking at a single photograph. A more accurate assessment of the fossil record is that it is like a comic strip in which many panels are missing. You can infer the change from the arrangement of the panels, while the absence of many panels makes those inferences challenging and tentative.

Then the author goes off the rails completely, and reveals that he doesn't actually understand the science involved *at all* when he explains that homology is not good evidence for biological evolution. He argues that homology is simply evidence of a basic plan that is expressed in many variations; so, for example, the fins of an ichthyosaur, a shark, and a dolphin are all similar, and thus are all varying expressions of this "basic plan." But in stating this, the author clearly confuses homology with analogy; homology is where the same anatomical structures have been modified for different functions, as in the human hand, whale flipper, and bat wing, whereas analogy suggests precisely the opposite: a similar function arrived at from different anatomical structures, as in the pectoral fins of ichthyosaurs, sharks, and dolphins, which have radically

different anatomies. The similarity, for biologists, is explained by the phenomenon of convergent evolution, in which similar environmental constraints lead different structures to arrive at similar forms and functions. Of course, the author has to mock college zoologists at the end of the same chapter, apparently because those stupid zoologists try to understand their subject matter and teach it to their students!

I don't have the time or energy to provide a point-by-point rebuttal to the author's ignorance of the biological sciences ("Here's the Proof!"). Instead, I want to return to the false choice with which I opened this review—that either God created the world or it "just happened." (I won't belabor my wife's point that the explanatory difference between "it just happened" and "God did it" is effectively zero.) The author's book is an exercise in what used to be called "natural theology," which is an attempt to prove that the universe had an intelligent designer by examining that designer's alleged handiwork. To my way of thinking, Scottish Enlightenment thinker David Hume effectively neutralized the efforts of natural theology in his *Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion*. He (or rather one of his characters in the dialogue) points out that "it's either God or an accident" is a false choice which he takes to result from a failure of the imagination—why, he asks, couldn't the universe be the literal child of a previous universe, hatched from a cosmic egg, or a structure built by a presumably *unintelligent* designer, much as a web is made by a spider without that spider having studied engineering in college. (Of course, the author would cite eggs and spider webs as further evidence of a designer, but that simply begs the question.) Modern readers could also invoke alternate explanations of causality and "creation" like Prigogine's dissipative structures, Maturana and Varela's autopoiesis, and the Buddhist notion of Pratītyasamutpāda. One of Hume's characters then asserts that, if we're using the universe as evidence for the existence of God, the presence of so much suffering and death in the world certainly argues against an omnipotent, omniscient, and omnibenevolent creator. (There are entire libraries of Christian theology that wrestle with this problem, which is known as the "argument from suffering.")

But let's set Hume aside and assume that the author is right, and that the natural world shows evidence of an intelligent designer. Nothing in the natural world supports the contention that this intelligent designer is the God of the Abrahamic faiths (and, in fact, the argument from suffering provides some good challenges to that contention). To prove that the author reverts to "revealed theology," which takes us fully outside the realm of science and back to faith. He "proves" that the Bible is absolutely true because of the 100% accuracy rate of Biblical prophecy, and he arrives at this accuracy rate by forcing prophecies and fulfillments in a Procrustean bed where all the inconvenient, erm, inaccuracies get unceremoniously lopped off. (For example, the Hebrew bible does not predict a virgin birth, because the Hebrew word used is "maiden" rather than "virgin," and it certainly failed in its prediction that the messiah would be a king in the line of David, unless we radically redefine what we mean by king, which is what the apologists do. Again, you can believe those mutilated predictions if you want, but you can't credibly cite them as "evidence.")

In short, if you want to drive your kids away from your faith, share this book with them and insist that they believe it 100%. They will realize, like I did, that the choice with which they are presented leaves them with only two alternatives: (1) believe in God and reject science, or (2) believe in science and reject God. The dumb kids will stay in the faith, the smarter ones will leave, and the lucky ones may stumble onto the vast middle ground between those two options (perhaps by studying biology *and* religion in college). And as science demonstrates its explanatory power by, well, explaining things, that choice will become clearer and clearer, if not any easier or less painful. This book, and many others like it, will create more atheists that Richard Dawkins and Sam Harris could ever dream to create. And that needn't be the case.

Danielle says

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Review posted here on my blog.

Originally published in 1987 and now updated with new text and all-new photos, *It Couldn't Just Happen* is a little book packed with lots of information proving Creation of the Bible over the theory of evolution. Richards starts with the Creation event itself and follows with amazing facts about the human body, animal and plant life, fossil records, weather events, and nature's impossible-to-ignore reflection of its Creator. Throughout, he uses Scripture proofs and without hesitation says the Bible is the inspired, inerrant Word of God, and that there is no room for doubting its validity when it comes to Creation, historical Adam and Eve, and the proof of God's handiwork in humans and nature.

If the book falls short for me, it's that it doesn't state definitively how long Creation took. Richards leaves the door open for the day-age theory, which states we cannot know how long a "day" in the Creation story is. Perhaps it is a strict 24-hour period, as we know a day to be, or perhaps a "day" could have been millions of years long, which would allow for gradual changes we collectively call evolution. Myself, I'm a strict six-day Creationist. The word for "day" in Genesis, in the Creation story, is the same Hebrew word used for a 24-hour period elsewhere in the Old Testament. God is not a god of confusion or doubt, leaving us stranded without critical pieces of information. We know all we need to know in this life on Earth about Jesus, heaven, miracles, prophecies, and so forth, so why would He keep from us the full truth of our very origins?

Despite this personal quibble, which is easily a teachable moment for my son once it's time to teach him in-depth about these things, *It Couldn't Just Happen* is an invaluable resource for Christian parents. The Scripture texts used throughout are appropriate for the topic at hand, and each chapter ends with a "Just for Fun" page of questions and activities designed to challenge thinking and look at Creation in a fun and imaginative way. I would not use this as the primary text for teaching my son or a class about Creation, but I will certainly keep it around and use it as a supporting text.
