

简介

约拿单·萨法提博士，以关于核物理学和凝聚体物理学两篇论文荣获化学物理优等学位科学学士；并以“用分光镜对含碲环圆形状分子的分析”论文获得物理化学博士。他与人合著的关于高温超导体以及含碲环圆形状分子的论文，曾刊登在主流科学杂志上。



对创造论和进化论的争议有兴趣的人都听说过约拿单·萨法提的大名。他的著作不仅极为畅销，而且特别适合作为基督徒与赞成进化论者辩论的参考。这些书之所以成为捍卫基督教的强有力工具，是因为萨法提博士有着惊人的思路、清晰和简明的逻辑¹。他的论点常常使很多进化论的拥护者哑口无言。

基督教的合理性

有趣的是，让萨法提博士成为基督徒的原因来自逻辑推理，而不是感情上的需要或生活上的危机。当他在新西兰威灵顿维多利亚大学读书的时候，结交了一些基督徒朋友。这促使他去研究基督教的信仰。结果他发现基督徒所信的确合乎逻辑、合乎道理。正是这些发现让他在20岁时信了耶稣。后来他觉得有必要从护教、特别是从逻辑方面学习如何为基督教的信仰进行辩护。所以就和其他有同样异像的基督徒一起，成立了威灵顿卫道学社 - 为回答“有人问你们心中盼望的缘由”做好准备（彼得壹书3:15）。

刚信主的时候，他常听到一些“基督徒折衷派”（他这样称呼他们）说创造论和进化论的辩论是枝节而不是主要问题。萨法提博士却认为，如果创世记所记载的，罪与死亡进入神创造的完美世界不是真实历史，那么从逻辑上来说，耶稣基督（是神又是人）就没有理由来到世界，为拯救人类脱离那因罪而带来的惩罚。

“萨法提”的希伯来文意思是“法国人”。尽管他出身在一个非宗教家庭，但是信主后他开始研究自己的犹太“根”。作为一个得救的犹太人，他非常渴慕地阅读了很多有关教会历史和神学方面的著作²，这些都帮助他成为世界上竭力捍卫圣经权威的辩护者之一。

见过萨法提的人都确信，他不会给那些离经叛道、诋毁圣经真理的人留有任何余地。为了与这些人作战，他主动找到澳大利亚事工的

1. 参看“要尽心尽意爱主你的神：逻辑和创造”，*TJ* 12(2):142-151, 1998
2. 参看“创世记里的基督：弥赛亚的语言”DVD 录制于Creation 事工的Super Camp, Sydney, 2004

References and notes

1. See Jonathan's outstanding *TJ* article, Loving God with all your mind: logic and creation, *TJ* 12 (2):142-151, 1998.
2. See *Jesus in Genesis: the Messianic Prophecies*, DVD. Recorded at Australia's Super Camp, Sydney, 2004.
3. See Objections to homosexuality article.
4. His previous best was winning 11/11 at the Kapiti Chess Club in New Zealand; Roberts, E., *New Zealand Chess* 29(3):23, June 2003.

Recommended Resources by Dr. Jonathan Sarfati

Available from: www.CreationOnTheWeb.com



Refuting Evolution (Soft cover)

A general critique of the most up-to-date arguments for evolution.

Published by: Master books (2000)

A general critique of many of the most up-to-date arguments for evolution to challenge educators, students, and parents. Thus it provides a good summary of the arguments against evolution and for creation. It should stimulate much discussion to help students and teachers think more

critically about origins.



Refuting Evolution 2 (Soft cover)

A sequel to *Refuting Evolution* that refutes the latest arguments to support evolution.

Published by: Master Books (2002)

Evolutionists are on the attack. Are you prepared to refute the best that today's evolutionists have to offer? Respected scientist Dr. Jonathan Sarfati, author of *Refuting Evolution*, has written a sequel that refutes the

latest arguments to support evolution (as presented by PBS and Scientific American). Read world-leading evolutionists in their own words, and then find straightforward answers from science and the Bible. *Refuting Evolution 2* will prepare you to answer the best arguments thrown at you by peers, teachers, neighbors and skeptics.



Refuting Compromise (Soft cover)

A biblical and scientific refutation of progressive creationism

Published by: Master Books (2004)

With brilliant clarity, Jonathan Sarfati, author of the best-selling *Refuting Evolution* (1&2) has produced a comprehensive and biblically-based refutation of progressive creationism. He addresses such issues as:

- Death, bloodshed, and disease existed before Adam and Eve. True?
- Noah's flood was only a local event. Really?
- Man-like creatures existed before Adam and Eve, but had no spirit, and thus no salvation. Evidence?
- Six days or six ages?
- What does the biblical text actually say?
- The origin of death and suffering?

The just-released *Refuting Compromise* is an outstanding work and Jonathan's best to date. I asked him what he wanted to achieve with it. In a softening tone he said, 'My hope is that people will see this as a positive affirmation of the Bible's history and timescale, and see that the Bible really is revelation from God our Creator.' Amen to that, Jono!

A privilege to know

For those of us who work with Jonathan every day, it would be easy to take his abilities for granted. Personally, I'm in awe of Jonathan's abilities, though more in awe of the One who made him. I'm also thankful that our great God led him to work for Creation Ministries International (www.CreationOnTheWeb.com). His example encourages us all to '... in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect' (1 Peter 3:15). In short, along with tens of thousands around the globe, I'm really glad that Jono is on our side—and the Lord's.

Origin of life

Jonathan's training in chemistry enables him to see through the flaws in chemical evolution (aka abiogenesis), the materialistic theory that life came from non-living chemicals (see Q&A: Origin of Life). In his university days, the head of organic chemistry gave three lectures defending chemical evolution, then invited Jonathan to give one lecture on 'loopholes' in these models. After the lecture, the professor admitted to the class, 'If a vote were taken, I would surely come off worse. Jonathan has raised many hurdles—major hurdles.'

But it wasn't actually so difficult—many of them came from the professor's own lucid teachings in the real chemistry lectures! This just shows how creationists and evolutionists have the same facts, but interpret them differently.

For example, many of life's chemicals come in two forms, 'left-handed' and 'right-handed'. Life requires polymers with all building blocks having the same 'handedness' (*homochirality*)—proteins have only 'left-handed' amino acids, while DNA and RNA have only 'right-handed' sugars. But ordinary undirected chemistry, as in the hypothetical primordial soup, would produce an equal mixture of left- and right-handed molecules, called a *racemate*. But even a slight impurity of the wrong-handed molecule can prevent the required long molecules from forming. [See Origin of life: the chirality problem]

Also, the supposed 'building blocks' don't combine to form the long molecules (polymers) required for life. Jonathan says, 'Rather, the reverse happens, especially in water! [i.e. the long molecules disintegrate back into building blocks.] Another huge problem, remembered from long hours in the lab, is the way the molecules don't always combine in the right way. Food chemists know, for example, how sugars and amino acids will react self-destructively. This means tedious steps of purification, adding or removing special 'protecting groups' and controlling the sequence carefully. But there were no organic chemists to do that with the alleged primordial soup!' [See Origin of life: the polymerization problem and Origin of life: instability of building blocks]

总裁卡尔·维尔兰博士，要求参与事奉。他说：“因为创造事工是这场战争的最前线，所以我要加入你们。”

卡尔在回忆当时的情景时说：“每当有博士头衔的科学家要加入我们事工的时候，我都会很留意，因为他们在自己的专业领域里都有不错的收入。但是通常我会比较谨慎，比如说，我会给他们一段时间，去专心阅读一些有关创造论的代表文章。但是在我和萨法提简短接触以后，就立刻邀请他加入我们。他是一位带有神的祝福的天才，不仅头脑极其聪明和敏锐，而且对于我们的事工充满热情。我肯定他会阅读所有关于创造论的文章，然后崭露锋芒，成为一个事奉的精英。”

卡尔还分享了一个典型例子，证明萨法提有着奇特的能力。一位相对论的专家交给我们一篇非专业人士所写的文稿。萨法提在审查的时候，指出某个数字“一定是错的”。为了解释原因，他从《爱因斯坦的宇宙》一书中复印出几页拿给我看，其中包括相对论的一个传统方程式。萨法提有些歉意地小声说：“我读这本书的时候，这个方程式就印在我的脑海中”。在卡尔的印象中，事工机构的图书馆里没有这本书，于是就问他从哪里看到这本书，他说那是他在15岁生日的时候得到的礼物。约25年之后，尽管在不同的专业学习和研究，他凭着记忆就立刻判断出文章中的数字不对，是“打字失误”！

但是，他也是一个有血有肉的人。实际上，每当他看到有些基督徒曲解圣经就很气愤。公平的讲，萨法提对无神论者在学术上的尊重，多过于对曲解圣经的人的尊重。

是谁钉死了耶稣？一位犹太人的观点

Mel Gibson新近拍摄的影片《耶稣受难记》，受到很多激烈的攻击，被称为反犹太人的影片。就此，我们询问了犹太基督徒约拿单的看法。他评论说：

“我觉得有趣的是传统的或是拉比派的犹太人不仅指责这部影片，甚至指责新约圣经是反犹太人的。新约圣经（包括路加福音—参看罗马书3:1-2）其实是犹太人所著，并且强烈的否认任何形式的反犹太主义和种族主义。谴责犹太人是‘钉死耶稣’的罪魁是很荒谬的。因为新约中清楚地表明，基督是被残忍懦弱的罗马总督判为十架酷刑；被罗马人所鞭打（犹太人没有请求这样做），被罗马的钉子钉在罗马的十字架上。显然并没有人狂热的称意大利人是‘钉死耶稣的凶手’！在被人们普遍接受的基督教正典；使徒信经（制定于二世纪）和尼西亚信经（制定于四世纪）中明确指出，是‘比拉多’而不是‘犹太人’将基督折磨后钉死的”。

“Mel Gibson在影片中突出了一个画面，就是那个手持锤子将长钉钉入基督手腕的人。通过这个特写，带出Gibson清楚的信息：是因为‘他’的过犯，耶稣才受死。在一些电视采访当中，他甚至要求那些主持人‘反省你自己吧，我也在反省’。我完全同意，基督之死不仅是犹太人和罗马人的过犯，也是我们全体人的过犯。因为我们的罪，基督才来到这个世上，来代替我们受刑罚。”

我把 Jono (约拿单的昵称) 当作同事和朋友。在我加入全时间的事奉之前, 我只是通过电子邮件和《驳斥进化论》这本书认识他。当时他给我的印象是笔锋犀利, 毫不留情。后来他逐渐成熟, 文章之中也显出仁慈和宽厚的一面。比如, 在回答事工网站的反馈信息部分中的问题时, 大家对他的敏锐性都有深刻印象。但是从他最近答复一些同性恋者提出的问题中³, 我们发现到他的这种变化。

“Jono” 与 “进化论”

许多诋毁创造论的人惯用这句老话: “真正的科学家不会相信创造论。”但萨法提不仅是真正的科学家, 而且是才华横溢的科学家之一。他曾经在许多非宗教性的刊物上发表论文, 包括在主流刊物《自然》科学杂志上发表一篇与人合作的文章, 那时他才 21 岁。

萨法提写的第一本书《驳斥进化论》, 很快成为出版史的里程碑 (已发行约 350,000 册, 其数量还在增加)。书中, 他就美国国家科学院一些激进的做法作出回应。国家科学院认为 “创造学说” 正形成气候, 所以就出版了一本《如何教导自然科学和进化》的手册, 并将它作为 “进化的最新和重要的证据”, 赠送给十万多个讲授自然科学的老教师们。

萨法提在书中有条不紊, 逐一进行驳斥。他认为基督徒有责任去反对那些误导民众的组织或机构。在圣经中, 他最喜欢的一节经文是: “将各样的计谋, 各样拦阻人认识神的那些自高之事, 一概攻破了; 又将人所有的心意夺回, 使它都顺服基督。” (哥林多后书 10:5)



尽管萨法提忙于提写作和演讲, 他还是抽出宝贵时间和两个侄女在一起。图为萨法提与萨拉和埃米在新西兰的家中。

几年前, 当萨法提在美国的时候, 有人请求他对一部耗资几百万的电视系列节目 “进化” 发表评论。这部电视节目, 由支持进化学说的人文主义者所投资, 里面有不少欺骗和鼓动的成分。更让人不能容忍的是, 一些国家科学教育中心的组织和机构, 还免费发行一本 “教会研习指南” 的手册, 公然鼓动基督徒去接受在这个节目中表达的一些观念。很明显, 他们在攻击基督教的信仰根基。所以, 在每晚节目播出之后, 萨法提就备战到凌晨, 写出综合性的评论, 刊登在事工机构当天早晨的网页上。后来事工机构将他每一集节目的评论录制成光碟, 成为有名的《创造》系列中的一部分。这套光碟在全世界已经发行了几十万套。

3. 参看对同性恋文章的异议

man-made interpretations. Many theologians and other believers take the ever-changing views of secular science and try to make the Bible fit those ideas.’ He adds, ‘This is taking a low view of Scripture. They are placing the words of men above the very words of God. If we marry the Bible to today’s science, then the Bible will be widowed tomorrow.’ (Psalm 18:30, 2 Samuel 22:31.)

It is this ‘high view’ of Scripture that motivated Jonathan’s latest project, the book called *Refuting Compromise*. He left no stone unturned in dissecting what he says is the ‘distorted eisegesis’ (reading things into the text) of Dr Hugh Ross and his Reasons to Believe ministry. When I asked Jonathan why it was necessary to critique the beliefs of another Christian organization, he said, ‘We have never accused Dr Ross of not being a Christian, and has explicitly stated that a young-earth belief is *not* a necessity for salvation. However, his ministry very much tries to reconcile the incorrect interpretations of many evolutionary scientists with the Bible, and it is leading many Christians astray from the original meaning of the Scriptures. For example, Ross believes in the big bang and its timeframe of billions of years, so he “reinterprets” Genesis 1 to mean that each “day” is a long, indeterminate period of time; that there were soulless human-like creatures before Adam, Noah’s Flood was local, and much more.’

Jonathan adds, ‘Such views completely undermine the gospel of Christ, as my book explains. How could God declare his creation as “very good” if there was death and disease before Adam, especially when Paul calls death “the last enemy” (1 Corinthians 15:26)? Sadly, Dr Ross tries to spiritualize “death”, as he does many other straightforward teachings in the Bible.

Jonathan’s favourite scientific evidences for a Designer

Jonathan has written a number of articles for *Creation* and *Journal of Creation* [formerly *TC*] on the amazing designs in creation (also posted at Q&A: Design Features). Some of his favourites are those that are giving human designers great ideas, a field called *biomimetics*. Some examples are the geometric eyes of lobsters inspiring X-ray telescope design, the drag-only’s pursuit system that can make it appear stationary, spider silk giving lessons to chemists preparing ultra-strong materials, a sponge’s spicules that are almost unbreakable optical fibres, geckos’ sticky feet inspiring powerful and self-cleaning adhesives, the world’s tiniest motors (inside a cell), and the sense of smell that likely works on the principles of his own specialist area, vibrational spectroscopy.

‘This is serious, because Paul contrasts the death that Adam brought with the resurrection from the dead that the Last Adam (Christ) introduced, which all orthodox Christians must believe was bodily or physical (1 Corinthians 15:21–22, 45). Ross’s “spiritualization” of such basic tenets causes the Bible to become increasingly meaningless and irrelevant to those who are dying outside of Christ.

‘What is even more worrying is that Ross’s ideas have influenced some Christian leaders and Bible colleges. I believe such views are, in fact, one of the greatest dangers to Christianity.’

believed would be a 'knockout blow' to the creationist cause. Their editor, John Rennie, wrote a multi-page lead article entitled *15 Answers to Creationist Nonsense*. It was poorly researched and full of fallacious arguments. Once again, Jonathan worked furiously to produce a brilliant response which appeared on the ministry's website within a few days (see 15 ways to refute materialistic bigotry: A point by point response to *Scientific American*).

The gossip on the skeptics' own websites suggested that SciAm had suffered a financial downturn as a result of their 'mistake'. SciAm even made lame noises about legal action. Jono's SciAm response went on to form the basis of his second book, *Refuting Evolution 2*, which has also become a best-seller and powerful witnessing tool.

Audiences in awe

One of Jonathan's other passions is chess, and like most things that he undertakes, he sets a standard few in the world can match. A former New Zealand Chess Champion, he represented New Zealand in three Chess Olympiads, and he has drawn a tournament game with former world champion Boris Spassky. The International Chess Federation (F.I.D.E.) awarded him the title of F.I.D.E. Master (FM) in 1988.

At many CMI conferences and camps, he has become famous for his 'chess challenges' against multiple players simultaneously—while blindfolded, with his 'seeing' opponents' moves called out to him. At a recent ministry's event in Sydney, Australia, he achieved a 'personal best' by playing 12 opponents at once in this way.⁴ A visiting creationist, a full professor at a leading United Kingdom university, was 'text messaging' his wife, saying 'this is astounding—world-class—the world's media should be here!'

A day later, another creation scientist told Jonathan what one of the competitors (no slouch at chess) had said after the game. He felt helpless against 'what was obviously a formidable mind—but with a keenly developed sense of humour'. The scientist mentioned (mistakenly) that it was the competitor on board number 'X'. In a flash Jonathan replied, 'No, it must have been the game one further to the left.' With only this sketchy abstract opinion about his supposed strategy, he had correctly identified which game it was!

Jono has done this sort of thing many times over the years, so far undefeated. It is truly astonishing to watch—every position and move retained in his head over grueling hours, responding within seconds to his opponents' every move. For most 'mere mortals' like me, this kind of 'brain power' is an almost unimaginable gift.

Restoring the foundations

Jonathan's mission is to help restore the church to its biblical roots. He says, 'When Christians start on the right foundations and apply the correct chronological timeframes to God's Word, they will be less prone to accepting faulty

还有一一

萨法提那种“难以对付”的价值不可低估：他对很多问题，特别是对那些所谓的、一系列的“进化事实”，那些能够阻拦绊倒基督徒的问题，给出肯定的答案。每当进化论者又提出谬论时，他总能“化腐朽为神奇”。世界著名的杂志《科学美国人》发表了自认为是对创造论“致命一击”的文章：“回应创造谬论的15个问题”。这是由他们的一位编辑约翰·瑞内 (John Rennie) 发表的长篇大论。面对这样的挑战，萨法提再次投入紧张的工作，短短几天就写出了一篇卓越的文章，刊登在事工机构的网页上(请参考“驳斥物质主义偏见的15种方法：逐一回应《科学美国人》”)。

在无神论者的网上传闻说：《科学美国人》杂志因他们所犯的“错误”，而遭受经济损失。甚至听说他们“有气无力”的还要进行法律诉讼。Jono的这篇文章奠定了他第二本著作的基础：《驳斥进化论之二》。这本书不仅再次成为畅销书，也成为捍卫基督教强而有力的见证。

观众的敬畏

萨法提的业余爱好之一是国际象棋，就像他做的其它事情，具有相当高的水平。他曾获得新西兰国际象棋冠军，代表新西兰参加过三届奥林匹克国际象棋比赛，并且曾与国际象棋冠军 Boris Spassky 大师打成平局。1988年，世界国际象棋协会授予他国际象棋大师的称号。

在CMI的会议或营会中，非常有名的是萨法提可以蒙着双眼由人念出对手的棋步，同时与多人对阵。在近期澳大利亚悉尼的会议上，他创下了个人历史上的最高记录：一人对十二人⁴！一位到访的创造论者、英国名牌大学的教授，给他的妻子当场发短信息说：这太惊人了！世界一流！各国的记者应该到这里来采访！



CMI营地的特色：JONO把双眼蒙住，同时与多人对垒，并保持至今不败的纪录。

第二天，另一位创造论的科学家告诉萨法提，其中一位相当不错的棋手评论他：“既可畏、又幽默。”。当这位科学家提到那个棋手的编号的时候，萨法提在瞬间回答说：“不对，一定是靠左边的那个。”仅仅凭着这样简短的评论，他就可以准确地判断出是哪一盘棋的棋手。

4. 约拿单以前保持的最佳纪录是在新西兰的Kapiti Chess Club，赢得与11名棋手同时下的比赛。Roberts, E., *New Zealand Chess* 29(3):23, June 2003

在过去的几年当中,萨法提经常这样与人对垒,至今保持不败的记录。在使人筋疲力尽的几个小时之中,他的脑海里印着每一只棋的位置,每人走的每一步,而且可以在几秒内作出反应。真是令人惊异的头脑!对大多数象我这样的没有天赋的人来说,简直是不可思议。

回到根基

萨法提的使命是帮助教会回到圣经的根基上。他说:“如果基督徒从正确的根基上开始,再经过正确有序学习神的话语,就不会轻易接受其他人错误的解经。许多神学家和基督徒企图让圣经适用于多变的世俗科学,”他补充说:“这就轻看了圣经。他们将人的话置于神的话语之上。如果今天我们将圣经‘嫁’给科学,那么明天圣经就会成为‘寡妇’。”(诗篇 18:30; 撒母耳记下 22:31)

正是这种“高举”圣经的动机,他又撰写了一部新作:《驳斥折衷派》。书中他毫不留情地攻击休弗·罗斯(Hugh Ross)博士及他的“信之理”事工。他认为罗斯以及他的事工是在对圣经“肆意诠释”(即凭个人意见而不按经文曲解圣经)。当我问萨法提有什么必要批评一个基督教机构的时候,他说:“我们从没有指责罗斯不是基督徒。我们明确地强调,相信地球并不古老不是得救的必要条件。但是在很大程度上,他的事工是在圣经和相持进化论的科学家中间妥协,这就导致很多基督徒背离了圣经的本意。比如,罗斯相信(宇宙)大爆炸发生在几十亿年前。所以,他就把《创世记》里的一日解释为不确定的段时间;还有诸如在亚当之前存在没有灵的类人动物;诺亚时代的洪水是区域性的,等等。”

萨法提补充说:“就像我在书中的解释,这些观点完全削弱了基督的福音。如果在亚当之前就有死亡和疾病,那么在神怎么会宣告他的创造是美好的?为什么保罗称“死亡”为“最后的敌人”(哥林多前书 15:26)?可悲的是,罗斯想从灵意上解释死亡,就象他对圣经其他的、直接的解释一样。“这是个很严肃的问题。因为保罗在对比由亚当带来的死,和由后来的亚当(基督)带来的从死里复活。我们正统的基督徒都认为,这种从死里复活的“死”是肉体上的(哥林多前书 15:21-22,45)。罗斯如果把这个“死”的基本信条灵意化,那么圣经对于那些不认识基督的人的死,就显得毫无意义和关系了。”

让我感到更加不安的是,罗斯的想法已经影响到一些基督徒领袖和圣经学院。所以我认为这个观点对基督教具有极大的危害性。”

萨法提刚刚出版的《驳斥妥协论》,是一部相当杰出的佳作。我曾问他写这本书的目的是什么,他柔声回答说:“希望人们在这本书中,能看到对圣经的历史性和时间性的正面肯定,并且认识到圣经是

state of disbelief at the man's recall of information and his 'take-no-prisoners' style of writing. He has mellowed somewhat, and his approach overall is not without a measure of grace. This was demonstrated recently when he answered some criticisms from a homosexual man in the feedback section of the ministry's website,³ for which he received many positives for his sensitivity.

Going 'Jono' on evolution

Many detractors still quote the old canard 'No real scientist believes in creation.' But Jonathan definitely fits the description of a real scientist, and a brilliant one at that. He has published in a number of secular journals, including co-authoring a paper in the major journal *Nature* when only 21 years old.

His first book quickly became a landmark publication (about 350,000 copies and still growing). *Refuting Evolution* was a response to the aggressive action of the National Academy of Sciences in America. Convinced that creation was gaining a foothold, they produced a handbook of the 'latest and greatest' evidences for evolution. Called *Teaching About Evolution and the Nature of Science*, it was distributed free to over 100,000 US science teachers.

Jonathan's response systematically demolished their arguments. He believes that it is a Christian's duty to destroy any fallacies that have the potential to lead people astray. One of his favourite Bible passages is 2 Corinthians 10:5: 'We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.'

Some years ago, while in America, Jonathan was asked to produce a response to the multi-million-dollar PBS/Nova television series, *Evolution*. This was backed by prominent evolutionary humanists who invested millions, and launched with much hype and fanfare. Rabidly anti-creationist groups like the National Center for Science Education even had the audacity to entice Christians to accept the ideas presented in the programs by producing a free 'church study guide'. It was clear they were on the attack, their weapons aimed right at the very foundations of the Christian faith. So after each evening broadcast Jonathan worked into the early morning hours producing a comprehensive critique, which appeared on the ministry's website later that morning. His collection of responses to each episode of the series eventually formed a major part of our ministry's famous CD-ROM. Tens of thousands have been distributed all over the globe.

But wait, there's more

The value of having a formidable talent who can quickly provide such solid answers—especially to Christians who feel intimidated by a barrage of the so-called 'facts' of evolution—cannot be overestimated. When the next evolutionary assault came, the Lord again turned what was meant for evil into good. The world-famous journal *Scientific American* (SciAm) produced what they

fully in cutting-edge creation literature. However, after a very brief interaction with Jonathan, I was immensely keen to hire him. Here was someone the Lord had blessed with a brilliant mind like a steel trap, and with a burning passion for what we were doing. I had no doubt that he would quickly do what he did, which was to devour everything worthwhile ever written on creation, and surge ahead of the pack.'

Carl shared a typical example of Jonathan's amazing abilities. Reviewing a layman's article recently submitted by an expert on relativity, Jonathan circled a number which 'had to be wrong'. To explain why, he had attached photocopied pages, containing one of the classic equations of relativity, from a book, *Einstein's Universe*. Half-apologetically, Jonathan murmured, 'This equation stuck in my mind since reading the book.' Not recognizing the title from the ministry's library, Carl asked where he had obtained it. 'It was given to me on my birthday', was the reply. Which one? His fifteenth. His c. 25-year recall of an equation outside his specialist field instantly told him the article's number was a 'typo'!

But prick him and he does bleed, in fact, one of the things that genuinely upsets him is seeing Christians "twisting" scripture. It would be fair to say that he has more intellectual respect for an 'out and out' atheist than from someone who reinterprets God's Word away from its intended meaning.

I now regard 'Jono' (as he has become affectionately known) as a friend as well as a colleague. But before I joined the creation ministry full-time, my own introduction to him was via email contact and from reading his *Refuting Evolution*. I can remember almost being in a

Who killed Jesus? A Jew's perspective.

Mel Gibson's recent movie, *The Passion of the Christ*, has certainly stirred up a lot of 'passion' with claims of anti-Semitism levelled against it. We asked Jonathan, as a Jewish Christian, what he thought. He said:

'I find it very interesting that traditional or Rabbinical Jews have accused the movie, and even the New Testament, of anti-Semitism. The New Testament (including Luke—see Romans 3:1-2) was of course written by Jews. And it strongly repudiates anti-Semitism and racism of all forms. It is absurd to persecute the Jews on the grounds that they are "Christ-killers" —the New Testament clearly states that Jesus was sentenced to an excruciating death by a cruel and spineless Roman governor, flogged by a Roman whip (though no Jew asked for this), fastened to a Roman cross by Roman nails, but no one is crazy enough to persecute Italians as "Christ-killers"! The widely accepted early Christian creeds, the Apostle's (2nd century) and Nicene (4th C) makes this clear. They say that Jesus suffered/was crucified "under Pontius Pilate", not "under the Jews".

'Something even more important is highlighted by the cameo appearance of producer/director Mel Gibson's hand as the one holding the nail or spike hammered into Jesus' wrist. Gibson has clearly stated that he did this to show that it was his fault that Christ died. In several shows, he even challenged interviewers by saying, "Look at yourself, I look at myself." I completely agree. It was not just the Jews' fault, nor the Romans' either. It is our fault—all of us. Because of our sin, Jesus came into our world to pay the penalty of sin that was our due.'

我们的造物主一神的直接启示。(诚如所愿, Jono!)

很荣幸认识他

对于那些每天与萨法提一起工作的人来说, 对于他的才华可能习以为常。但是我仍然十分钦佩他, 并敬畏那创造他的神。非常感谢神带领他来到 *Creation Ministries International* (www.CreationOnTheWeb.com), 他激励我们“只要心里尊主基督为圣。有人问你们心中盼望的缘由, 就要常作准备, 以温柔敬畏的心回答各人”

(彼得前书 3:15)。简而言之, 在地球上的千千万万的人当中, 我非常高兴萨法提站在我们、神的这一边。

智慧设计的证据

约拿单为 Creation 和 T.J. 著写过一些文章, 介绍受造物奇妙的设计。(参看《问与答》设计的特征)。他所喜爱的学科包括那些让人类设计者产生伟大的发明的学科。其中一个仿生学。比如龙虾的几何眼睛, 让人发明出 X 光望远镜; 蜻蜓的跟踪系统让它看上去成静止状态; 蜘蛛让化学家设计出一种异常坚固的海绵针状体; 一种近似折不断的光学纤维; 壁虎脚上的粘液让人发明出一种强力又不留痕迹的粘合剂; 世界上最小的发动机是在细胞里; 还有嗅觉, 在某种程度上与振动光谱学的原理有关, 这也是约拿单所钟爱的学科之一。



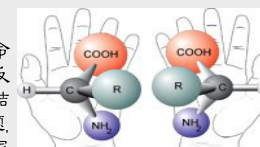
生命的起源

因为约拿单在化学方面渊博知识, 所以他深知“化学进化论”(aka abiogenesis) 的缺陷。“化学进化论”是唯物主义的理论, 认为生命来自无机的化学分子(参看问与答: “生命的起源”)。当约拿单还在大学的时候, 生化系的系主任在讲授了第三节“化学进化论”的课以后, 让约拿单用一节课的时间辩解出这些模式中的“漏洞”。下课后, 这位教授不得不向全班的学生承认, “如果投票, 我一定是输的一方。约拿单提出了很多难以跨越的障碍。”

这样的辩解实际上并不困难 — 因为很多都来自于教授自己在实际化学课中清晰的讲解。由此表明, 创造论和进化论包括相同的事实, 但是却来自不同角度的解释。

比如, 很多生物化学物来自两种形式: “左手式(左旋)”和“右手式(右旋)”。生命的形成需要许多拥有共同旋转方式(相同手性)的结构单元聚合而成。象蛋白质只含有左旋氨基酸, 而 DNA(脱氧核糖核酸)和 RNA(生核糖核酸)只含有右旋的核糖。但是, 处在假定的原生汤中普通的, 未经定向引导而合成的化学物, 只能产生等量的左旋和右旋的混合物, 叫做消旋化合物。如果出现微量不纯的错误旋转式的分子, 就会抑制大分子合成的产生。(参见《生命的起源》: “空间的螺旋特性之难题”)

还有, 如果这些假定的“结构单元”不能结合而形成生命所需的大分子(聚合物), 约拿单继续说: “就会出现相反的结果, 特别是在水里! (就是说, 大分子又被分解回成结构单元)。从实验室的长期纪录中, 发现到另一个大的问题, 即分子并不总是按照正确的路径合成。比如, 食品化学家都知道, 如果把核糖和氨基酸混合在一起, 将产生自我破坏的反应。这意味着需要复杂的提纯步骤, 加上或去掉某种特殊的‘保护基团’以及非常小心地控制顺序。但是没有任何有机化学家曾经在原生汤中做过这样的试验”(参看《生命的起源》: 聚合之难题 & 结构单元的不稳定性)。



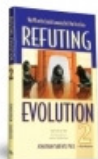
约拿单·萨法提博士的主要著作

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《驳斥进化论》(普通版) - 反驳常见的进化论论点汇编
出版社: Master Books (2000)

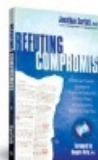
<驳斥进化论>一书包含了驳斥一些普遍的进化论观点的文章,并就这些观点向教育家,学生和家提出质疑。这部著作概括了赞同创造论和反对进化论要点,可以激发并帮助学生和教师们更深刻的思考和讨论生命的起源。



《驳斥进化论2》(普通版)-《驳斥进化论》的续篇。挑战近期进化论支持者的新论点。

出版社: Master Books (2000)

进化论者又卷土重来了。你是否已经装备好,和最新的进化论观点来辩论? *AIG* 科学家,畅销书《驳斥进化论》的作者,尊敬的约拿单·萨法提博士已经写好续着,反驳支持进化论的最新理论(代表刊物为 *DBS* 和《科学美国人》)。阅读出自这些居于世界领导地位的,进化论者的话语,在科学和圣经里找到答案。若是你听到周围的同事、老师、邻居或无神论者也持有同样的观点,《驳斥进化论2》将会告诉你如何去争辩。



《驳斥折衷派》(普通版) - 用圣经和科学的观点来反驳渐进创造论学说。作者使用强有力的圣经和科学作为武器,捍卫在《创世记》中记载的、有史以来最简单明了的创造学说。

出版社: Master Books (2004)

畅销书《驳斥进化论》第一部和第二部的作者约拿单·萨法提,再次出版了一部驳斥折衷派的著作。在书中,他思路清晰、综合全面、运用圣经的原则提出了一些诸如以下的问题:

- * 在亚当和夏娃之前已经存在死亡、流血和疾病。真的吗?
- * 诺亚时代的大洪水只是局部的。真的吗?
- * 在亚当和夏娃之前已经存在类人动物,只不过没有灵魂,所以也不存在救恩。证据是什么?
- * 是六天还是六个世纪? 圣经中到底是怎样说的?
- * 死亡和痛苦的根源?
- * 还有更多...



Summary

Dr Jonathan Sarfati obtained a B.Sc. (Hons.) in Chemistry with two physics papers substituted (nuclear and condensed matter physics). His Ph.D. in Chemistry was awarded for a thesis entitled 'A Spectroscopic Study of some Chalcogenide Ring and Cage Molecules'. He has co-authored papers in mainstream scientific journals on high-temperature superconductors and selenium-containing ring- and cage-shaped molecules.

Very few people interested in creation/evolution issues would not have heard of Jonathan Sarfati. His books have become best-sellers—standard fare for Christians wishing to engage those who hold to evolutionary/long-age ideas. One of the reasons they have become such a powerful tool for Christianity is the amazing flow of his clear, crisp trademark logic,¹ which has 'skewered' and silenced many an evolutionary detractor.

Christianity makes sense

Interestingly, it was logical reasoning, not an emotional need or life crisis, that led Jonathan to become a Christian. While studying at Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand, some Christians befriended him. This caused him to investigate the claims of Christianity, which he found logical and entirely defensible. This ultimately led to his conversion at age 20. However, he still had much to learn in the field of *apologetics*, or logically defending the faith. He and a group of like-minded Christians, seeing the need for Christians to be prepared to give reasons for their faith (1 Peter 3:15), co-founded the Wellington Christian Apologetics Society.

Early in his Christian walk, he experienced many 'Christian compromisers' (as he calls them) who said the creation vs. evolution debate was a side-issue. Logically, Jonathan realized that if the Genesis account of the entrance of sin and death into God's perfect world was not real history, then it eradicated the very reason why Christ (the God-man) had to come to earth to save mankind from the penalty their sin justly demanded.

'Sarfati' means 'Frenchman' in Hebrew. Despite having no religious upbringing, Jonathan was driven to investigate his Jewish roots after his conversion. As a Messianic Jew, he has also passionately imbibed knowledge about church history and theological issues.² This has helped make him one of the world's most powerful defenders of the authority of the Bible.

People who meet Jonathan are left in no doubt that he has little time for those he feels distort, and therefore damage, the integrity of the Word of God. This led him to approach Dr Carl Wieland in Australia to work for the ministry. Jonathan remarks, 'I saw the creation ministry at the cutting edge of this war, and I wanted to be part of the battle.'

Carl recalls that time: 'It always gets my attention when Ph.D. scientists offer their services to the ministry, considering they could often earn a substantial income in their specialist fields. But normally, I would be more cautious. For example, giving time for someone to immerse themselves even more

