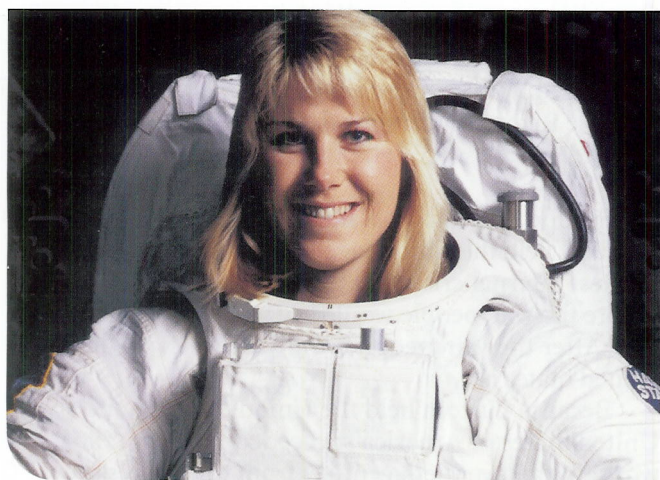


REASONS

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BREAKING THROUGH BARRIERS: AN INTERVIEW WITH LESLIE WICKMAN



No one can say Leslie Wickman leads a dull life. Dr. Wickman has worked in various aerospace ventures—including astronaut training—and serves as Azusa Pacific University’s director for the Center for Research in Science. Recently, she accepted a part-time position as a senior engineering specialist at a locally based aerospace firm where research in such areas as human space flight helps her stay current. The interview process for this job gave Wickman an opportunity to put 1 Peter 3:15 into practice.

MB: Describe what happened during the interview for this position?

LW: An interviewer who’d looked at my résumé said, “I noticed that you have been involved in studying

science and theology. How do you fit those two together? How do you reconcile a big bang origin of the universe with the Bible?” I shared briefly about the anthropic principle and how the big bang is actually a very *ordered* event, as opposed to a chaotic, random explosion many people think of it as. That seemed sufficient, and the interview moved on.

When I first started working in aerospace, I wasn’t equipped to talk about how to reconcile my faith with current findings from science. I’ve been doing much more reading and studying in this area and I feel much better equipped now to address these questions with people like the man in the interview process. I am able to give a good defense, as Peter says, for the hope that is within me.

MB: Have you had a chance to continue your discussion with that individual?

LW: He said that he’d like to talk with me about it more in depth. Now that I’m working in the same department I’ve had many follow-up conversations with him. It turns out he’s part of the Mormon Church. He’s asked me to share some of my materials with him so that he can pass them on to others at his church. He even suggested that I could come and speak to one of his groups. So, it’s really going to be exciting. >>>

See **Wickman**, Page 2

MB: As a teacher at a Christian university, what would



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“...science and theology... How do you fit those two together?”

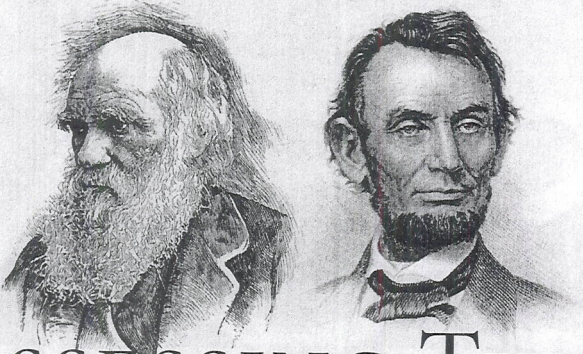
WHAT’S NEW?

>> *The Bigger Picture on Creation Answer Key* is now available at www.reasons.org/files/TBPOC-AnswerKey.pdf. For more resources for small group leaders, including podcasts and video lecture notes, visit www.reasons.org/catalog/bigger-picture-creation-study-guide.

>> In response to *2012*, a Sony Pictures film depicting the fulfillment of supposed Mayan apocalyptic prophecies, RTB offers a collection of articles, podcasts, and books that address spiritual and scientific topics related to the movie. Check it out at www.reasons.org/2012.

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THE SCIENTIST AND THE POLITICIAN: ASSESSING THEIR LEGACIES



Kenneth
SAMPLES

This double anniversary sparked a debate.

It's difficult to imagine two more important figures of the nineteenth century than Charles Darwin and Abraham Lincoln, both born on February 12, 1809.

As 2009 marked their bicentennial birthdays, prominent celebrations have been held throughout the year. This double historical anniversary also sparked a debate about which man was more important. Which one left a greater legacy to the world? Who is more indispensable to history? Was it the British scientist or the American politician?

Many articles seemed to give Darwin the advantage—and not without reason. Evolutionary theories changed the way the world thinks about life's emergence and forced people to reconsider their view of human origins. Darwin's influence was truly monumental and international in impact. He changed the scientific paradigm in biology and, thus, changed the world.

As is my habit of siding with the underdog (I argue that Wilt Chamberlain was a greater NBA player than Michael Jordan), I would respectfully assert that Lincoln has left a more impressive historical legacy. He changed America forever and, in turn, America changed the world.

President Lincoln accomplished two things that impacted the world in more enduring ways than even Darwin. First, Lincoln introduced political and

legal measures that led directly to the abolition of slavery in America. His Emancipation Proclamation of 1863 challenged the nation to live in a way that is morally consistent with what the founders proclaimed in the Declaration of Independence:

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness.”

Second, Lincoln's presidential leadership uniquely held the Union together during America's greatest internal crisis: the Civil War (1861–1865). Before the war, people would say “the United States are.” After the war, people would forever say “the United States is.”

Because Lincoln held the Union together, the United States of America succeeded in saving the world in the twentieth century from the oppressive and tyrannical ideologies of fascism and communism. Without a Union victory in the Civil War there likely would not have been an Allied victory in World War II and in the Cold War.

Lincoln directly and indirectly helped liberate oppressed peoples around the world. Between these two towering figures of history, I see his legacy as the greater one.

Wickman, from Page 1

you want your students to learn from your experience?

LW: A lot of students come into the classroom almost afraid of discussing science because it may threaten their faith. I want to convey to them that “all truth is God's truth.” Everything we discover through science gives more and more cause for awe and wonder at the Creator. I want to tear down that false dichotomy between science and faith and help people understand that science is just a method

of uncovering the truth about God's creation and how he created it. There is no real barrier between science and our faith.



To read more about how Leslie incorporates her faith with her profession, check out previous article, “A Focused Force for Faith,” available at www.reasons.org/focused-force-faith-interview-leslie-wickman.