

# Prophetic Observer

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Keeping Time On God's Prophetic Clock

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World News

*"The day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night" (2 Pet. 3:10)*

## The New Creators

In March 1997, the world's news media exploded with supposedly new startling revelations about cloning a sheep named Dolly in Scotland. Subsequent reports carried stories about a cloned boy in Belgium, and another report revealed that two monkeys had been cloned in Oregon. Ecclesiastics, and even secular sources, proposed that clones may not have souls.

Taking political advantage of the ethical uncertainty created, President Clinton addressed the nation. The March 5, 1997, edition of *USA Today* reported:

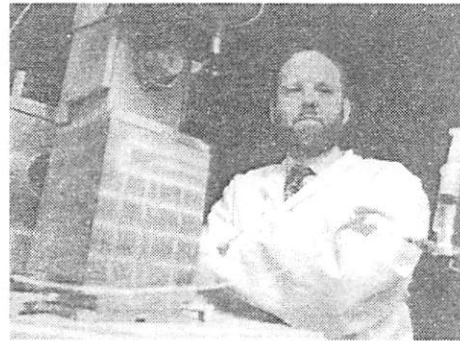
Industry leaders applauded as prudent and appropriate President Clinton's announcement Tuesday of a ban on the use of federal funds for human cloning research and his call for a [90-day] moratorium on all such research.... "We have a responsibility to move with caution and care," Clinton said, comparing recent cloning advancements to how splitting the atom started the nuclear age.

President Clinton in no way issued a presidential directive banning cloning. He only issued a directive that no federal tax money be used in cloning experiments or developments—for 90 days! Scientists could go ahead and clone to their heart's content after 90 days. Even so, this would have no affect on cloning development in hundreds of thousands of laboratories not using federal tax money; or on scientists and laboratories in the other 199 nations on earth.

Today, much of the scientific effort of mankind is being directed toward genetic engineering. Bioengineering encompasses attempts to create and duplicate present life forms, control sex and hereditary factors, and even shape the "perfect" man. Such attempts to change or control life that God has created are not new. The

first attempt, which was partially successful, is recorded in Genesis 6:4, "There were giants in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare children to them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown."

While there is much controversy among theologians as to the identity of those referred to as the "sons of God" who married the "daughters of men," the Hebrew text, without qualification, indi-



Dr. Ian Wilmut, the microbiologist who cloned Dolly

cates that they were fallen angels. This strange union produced a race of giants. It was a satanic effort directed at changing God's established pattern of life, and all subsequent ventures have likewise been motivated by the Devil.

In *The Republic*, Plato advocated controlled breeding in order to produce better animal species, and his ideas also included limiting sexual relationships between the intellectually and physically superior and the inferior. Julius Caesar gave every Roman mother who gave birth a monetary reward, but as the upper class of Roman society became more and more corrupt the birthrate declined and their children were actually inferior to those of the working class. Sir Francis Galton and his cousin Charles Darwin, who authored *Origin of Species* and *Hereditary*

*Genius*, supported genetic control of species in the survival of the fittest theory.

Perhaps the most sinister effort to produce a master race with which to challenge God was introduced by Adolf Hitler. He first proposed the liquidation of all races that he considered inferior. He began with the Jews and according to the most reliable sources was responsible for the deaths of over 6 million of them. Hitler would have eventually gotten around to the blacks and the mixed races of Africa, the United States, and South America. At the same time he established breeding camps where women were mated to the purest of the fair-haired, blue-eyed Aryan types. From all of the captured nations Hitler collected the children with Aryan characteristics to become the leaders and breeding stock. All of Hitler's schemes to produce a master race evaporated with his death in 1945.

Fifty years ago when biochemists began to experiment with DNA, the basic chemical component of life, wild predictions were made that life would be created in the laboratory within a few years. Indeed, the modern sorcerers have mixed their finest proteins and plasmas, yet the results, as far as creating life itself is concerned, have been as negative as their counterparts in the Dark Ages who thought that cheese and bread left in a dark room would create rats, mice, and cockroaches.

Without question, knowledge continues to increase in these last days as prophesied in Daniel 12:4. Although scientists have been frustrated in their attempts to create new life forms, they have learned how to clone (that is to duplicate), to produce so-called test-tube babies, to eliminate genetic flaws, and to manipulate genes so that babies will be born according to parental specifications. It has even been proposed to have animals give birth to humans, saving women the discom-

fort and inconvenience of a 9-month pregnancy.

The following was taken from *Newsweek*, March 10, 1997:

The Scottish advance adds tantalizing promise to the race to engineer animals that could produce drugs for an array of human health problems. Scientists envision cows that produce altered milk formula for premature infants, and animal organs genetically similar to human organs. All this is at least theoretically possible, and was even before last week's announcement. But the real business question is whether cloning will be a better way to build drugs—or an unreliable sci-fi adventure.

Cloning is the latest enhancement of a biotech field called transgenics. For at least a decade, a handful of transgenics companies have been altering the embryos of goats, pigs, and mice with human genes so they can produce proteins and drugs for treating cancer and other diseases....

Cloning promises to someday do all that—but quicker and more efficiently. Transgenics companies now must breed their genetically altered animals through several generations to get the right mix, a costly hit-or-miss process that could take several years. PPL spent \$4 million developing Rosie and two herds of cows in West Virginia, versus \$750,000 for Dolly. And traditional biotech firms produce proteins by altering human cells in large vats of yeast, an expensive technique, too.

But with cloning, companies could engineer the desired animal with the new drug-producing genes and replicate it hundreds of times over—a paradigm Henry Ford would recognize. And not only would there be more animals, says PPL, but each would be more efficient. Alan Colman, PPL research director, says that when using normal transgenic breeding only one or two of every 10 sheep produces a high level of the desired protein. But with cloning, he predicts, "they'd all be high-producing animals, and we'd have a production herd in the first generation."

Working mothers cannot nurse their babies. The complaint against cow's milk is, even for adults, that cow's milk is for growing a 2,000-pound steer, not a 150-pound man or a 100-pound woman. However, now with splicing genes taken from female DNA, cows or goats can produce milk comparable to mother's milk. With

the advance of medical science, hearts, livers, kidneys, etc., for transplant operations is very much in demand. To meet this demand, microbiologists claim that now human organs can be grown in animals.

In spite of all scientific knowledge and experimentation, only God has created life. Satan can copy or counterfeit, but he cannot create. Christians are exhorted to be forewarned and alert to all the wiles of the Devil (2 Tim. 2:15; Eph. 6:11). In order not to be deceived by Satan in the biochemists test-tube, we need basic knowledge about what is going on in this particular scientific field.

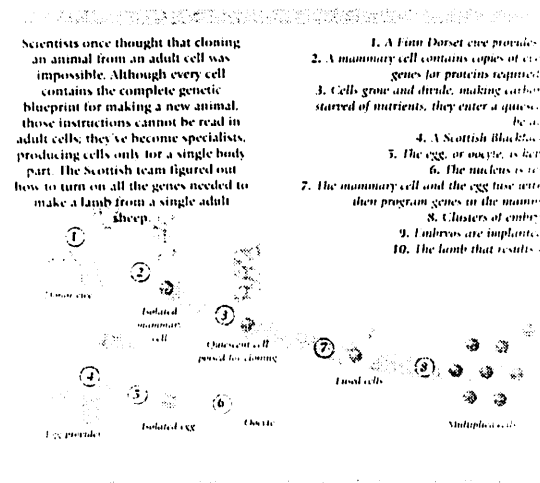
We have already noted that microbiologists are experimenting with splicing human and animal genes to grow organs for transplant procedures. But even before we get the words on paper, new imaginations of science are called to our attention. For example, why go to all the trouble of genetically engineering animal parts for human transplant operations, when medical science can genetically engineer humans to grow a new arm, liver, or other parts? Some plants and animals can replace lost or damaged parts, so why not humans? A CNN item on the Internet, entitled "Probing the Mysteries of Regeneration," dated April 3, 1997, reports:

WASHINGTON (CNN)—It may sound like science fiction, but scientists think they're well on the way to unlocking the mysteries of human regeneration—the ability to grow organs or new limbs. Doctors say it could cure countless diseases, and perhaps even become that elusive "fountain of youth."...The latest research on human regeneration appears in a special report in the journal *Science*. As scientists unlock the mysteries of human biology, they have a better understanding of the apparently infinite ability of the human liver to regenerate itself, something which could ultimately end the need for liver transplants. And with that as a starting point, there may be no end to what might be accomplished. Scientists regenerating cells in the central nervous system, for example, could reverse the damage suffered by those with severe spinal cord injuries, and crippling bone diseases could be cured. At an Allegheny University laboratory in Philadelphia, scientists are working with very young cells found in bone marrow. They call them stem cells because they function

in the same way as the stalk of a plant. That is, "fruit" and "leaves" grow from them in the same way they do on plants. What is new and significant about their work is that the scientists think that these cells are not only "forever young," but that they can be extracted and genetically manipulated. They have injected such cells into crippled mice and cured the mice of a disease that causes brittle bones. Doctors hope the same treatment could be used on humans to cure osteoporosis. There is still much research to be done before humans can actually regrow an arm as starfish do, and there are ethical questions to resolve, too. "We kind of have to rethink what does it mean to be human, to have a life span," says Arthur Caplan of the Center for Bioethics at the University of Pennsylvania. "What does it mean to be able to do things that your grandparents couldn't do, things like replacing parts?"

Included in the new science of bioengineering is the duplicating life process called cloning. In human cells the microscopic pattern of life within 46 chromosomes is mirrored. The same holds true for all other forms of animal life. Their cells likewise contain the number of chromosomes and gene package which are peculiar to their own species.

Cloning is a microscopic surgical process whereby the reproductive egg is opened and all the female chromosomes are removed. Then the chromosomes are taken from the cell nucleus of another animal and implanted into the egg. Through biological manipulation, the developing embryo will be completely void of all the characteristics of the mother who produced the egg, or ovum. It will be an exact duplicate of the animal, or human being, be it male or fe-



male, of the chromosome parent. The question arises as to whether the clone would be a person, a new and distinct individual, or only a carbon copy of the one parent? Would it have a soul, or would it be a part of the original? Would it be a spiritual monstrosity like the giants before the flood? A world dictator like the Antichrist could duplicate his best soldiers into an invincible army; the best scientists could be duplicated; the most muscular for a work force; or the best beef cattle could be copied. The potentials are endless. We quote from the January 19, 1981, edition of *Time* magazine, page 75:

In *The Boys From Brazil*, a demented Nazi doctor uses blood and tissue cells from Adolf Hitler to clone dozens of copies of the German dictator in the hope that at least one of them will seize power and conquer the world....By the mid-1950s scientists had succeeded in cloning amphibians, producing frogs that were genetically identical to each other and carried the inherited characteristics of only a single parent. Most animal cloning has been done by transplanting nuclei into egg cells to produce an entire organism from a single cell.

The article continues to relate that a breakthrough in the cloning of warm-blooded animals had been accomplished. Two men, Karl Illmensee of the University of Geneva and Peter Hoppe of the Jackson Laboratory in Bar Harbor, Maine, were successful in cloning three mice. The experiment is interesting in that mice and humans have the same number of chromosomes. The article concludes with the following:

Some variation of the Illmensee-

Hoppe technique may one day be used to clone prize bulls or even human beings. But other scientists question the ethics, as well as the scientific use, of trying to clone humans from undifferentiated cell masses. Whatever the original genetic imprint, the results would not be predictable, and mistakes would be stamped indelibly not on mice but on men.

In the God-ordained

method of procreation established in the first three chapters of Genesis, impregnation of the female by the male is the result of a sexual act. Male sperm by the thousands attack the female egg. The split second one sperm enters the egg, all others are immediately shut out. Twenty-three chromosomes from the male sperm co-mingle with 23 chromosomes in the female egg. Both sets of chromosomes from one to 23 must instantly find corresponding chromosomes, else we might have an arm where a leg is supposed to be. This, in itself, is a miracle beyond human understanding, and by itself should be enough to disprove the theory of evolution. Within the chromosomes the thousands of genes from both sexes merge. In some physical and mental characteristics, the genes from the male may dominate; in others, genes from the female may dominate. In minutes, or perhaps seconds, a new soul is born. It is instantly determined whether that soul is to be man or woman, black, brown, yellow or white, the color of eyes, etc. It is also determined that within the framework of normal environment and normal nourishment, how tall the individual will be, even the size of the shoes the person will wear. We refer to Psalm 139: 13-18: "For thou hast possessed my reins: thou hast covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well. My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them. How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! how great is the sum of them! If I should count them, they are more in number than the sand: when I awake, I am still with thee."

Another miraculous event that takes place with the merging of the chromosomes and genes is that the genetic time clock is activated. The genetic time clock programs that at 1 year old the new person should be so many inches high; at 5 years, so high; at 15 years, so high, etc. The genetic clock also programs gray hair around the temples at 40, loose teeth at 45, wrinkles at 50, kidney and liver activity slowing down at 60. At 70 the alarm on the genetic clock goes off, that is, unless inherited genetic factors, behavioral factors, or outside physical factors have shortened the time, or extended the time,

as the case may be. But according to Psalm 90:10,12, the normal time set on the genetic clock for the life of the person at conception is 70 years.

The Scriptures indicate the Antediluvians lived to be almost 1,000 years old. Then, because of sin God reset the genetic time clock so that man would live to be 120 years of age. Then again because of sin, God reset the genetic clock where man would live to 70 years as the maximum expected age.

Why do we die? Is it because our regenerative life system cannot replace worn-out cells? No, it is because we are preprogrammed by the genetic clock to live only so many years. Microbiologists are searching for the key to the genetic clock to turn it off. So far they have been unsuccessful, even as Ponce DeLeon was in his search for the Fountain of Youth.

One of the questions scientists are waiting for answers to is whether in cloning the genetic time clock starts over, or if it continues with the age of the cell donor. The recent cloned sheep, Dolly, is being examined daily to determine if there is evidence of premature aging. If cloning people is perfected scientifically, and the person being cloned is 40 years old, would the clone have an expected life span of only 30 years?

There are numerous claims regarding cloning being presented by numerous microbiologists and labs. The following report appeared in the March 9, 1997, edition of the *Sunday Oklahoman*:

### Belgian Doctor Says Boy Was Cloned by Chance

London (Reuters)—A Belgian doctor may have accidentally created the first human clone, a British newspaper reported Sunday. The unidentified 4-year-old boy living in Belgium was the result of a technique developed to improve the success rate of fertility treatment, the *Sunday Times* said. The news follows blanket coverage last week in Britain of a forecast by the scientists who created Dolly the sheep that human cloning could be a reality in one or two years if scientists wanted it to. Dolly is the world's first adult clone. The child, who lives with his parents and identical twin brother in southern Belgium, was created after scientists took a frozen fertilized egg and rubbed its surface with a glass rod. The technique is designed to improve the chances of the egg's implantation in the mother's womb. But the scientists were astounded to discover three weeks later

Summary cell for cloning decided to make a sheep, but only many cells are active. At this point all of their genes can

penetrate the egg. In a laboratory dish, from the egg. Molecules in the egg to produce the lamb embryo are grown. surrogate mother. of the donor's cell.

... mother ... genetic imprint

that the egg had developed into two embryos.

If a doctor in Belgium has cloned a human being and that person is now 4 years old, it certainly did not occur by rubbing an egg with a glass rod. It had to have occurred deliberately according to exact technological cloning procedures. Identical twins are not clones; they are the result of egg separation and not deliberate scientific procedures. Identical twins have the varying personalities of both parents, life began in each at the same time at conception, and for sure, they have identity with God as different souls. But the claim by the doctor in Belgium gives further evidence that cloning of humans may be more advanced than is generally conceded. There may be clones among us today. Why would scientists, who possessed this knowledge 20 to 30 years ago, not have been conducting experiments all along?

Articles relating to cloning are blossoming internationally on the Internet, in newspapers, magazines, and periodicals with headlines: "Today the Sheep—Tomorrow the Shepherd"; "Now the Lamb, Will Mary Follow?" Homosexual and lesbian organizations have been quick to approve cloning as the best acceptable method of preserving the human race when everyone becomes either a homosexual or a lesbian. As reported in a *Newsweek* report, dated March 10, 1997, scientists are wondering what all the fuss is about and why the cloning of a sheep called Dolly deserves much attention. In 1993, embryologists at George Washington University cloned 17 human embryos, and were successful in getting the cloned cells into 32 separations in a lab dish. These cloning entities could have, at that time, been placed in a mother's womb for complete development. This again brings up the possibility that there may be walking and talking clones around us today.

As mentioned in the *Newsweek* item, in the 1970s thousands of university students in Europe and the U.S. predicted that clones would provide spare parts for transplant operations, that infertile couples could use cloning for children, that elitist in the arts and scientists could be reproduced for future generations, etc. Many scientists, politicians, and church leaders have voiced severe objections to cloning as being a Pandora's box of unknown evil. But the usually conservative *U.S. News & World Report* surprisingly came out with an editorial by Ruth

Macklin strongly in favor of unlimited cloning in its March 10, 1997, edition. The last paragraph in the editorial concluded:

Even if human cloning offers no obvious benefits to humanity, why ban it? In a democratic society we don't usually pass laws outlawing something before there is actual or probable evidence of harm. A moratorium on further research into human cloning might make sense, in order to consider calmly the grave questions it raises. If the moratorium is then lifted, human cloning should remain a research activity for an extended period. And if it is ever attempted, it should—and no doubt will—take place only with careful scrutiny and layers of legal oversight. Most important, human cloning should be governed by the same laws that now protect human rights. A world not safe for cloned humans would be a world not safe for the rest of us.

Even if there were a national "ban on cloning" law, it would not be authoritative in other nations. Scientists would simply go to Uganda or Sri Lanka to continue their work.

### Conclusion

That flaws occur geologically, environmentally, and genetically, is obvious. These creation abnormalities occur not by the will of God, but rather because of the failure of man to fulfill his role as the keeper of this creation on earth. Sinful rebellion of man against the Creator results in opposition of the creation (Rom. 1:19-23).

However, science has a new tinker toy to try to build on the present order of life, or create entire new life beings according to man's own choosing. Scientists today look into their microscopes and delve into their test tubes and see the miracles of God revealed in the mystery of life. Yet, they are like those referred to in Romans 1:21-24: "Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things. Wherefore God also gave them up."

In verse 20 we read "the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen...so that they are

without excuse." Things that are seen are made from things that previous to this generation could not be seen. But now they are seen, so we are without excuse, above all who have lived since Adam.

If man, through his own knowledge can manipulate life, change life, duplicate miracles, or even seemingly bring life out of nothing, then why would he need God, as he will in his own mind become as God. Paul wrote to the bishop of the churches in Asia Minor: "O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called" (1 Tim. 6:20).

There is great concern, even among microbiologists, as to where uncontrolled genetic engineering and cloning will eventually lead. It may be compared to the man who attempted to fix a dent in the fender of his car and ended up overhauling the motor. The main problem was that he could not put the motor back together, because he could not remember where the parts fitted.

We are told in Scripture that when Jesus Christ returns He will repair the dents; but now, this creative order still works fine, so why try to fix it?

— N. W. Hutchings

## The New Creators

by N. W. Hutchings

Cloning, Genetic Engineering, and In Vitro Fertilization



The New Creators

Dr. N. W. Hutchings

We read in Revelation that one reason for the coming Tribulation is that Satan attempts to counterfeit life and rob God of His glory as Creator. What is cloning and genetic engineering? Are there human clones today? Will clones be able to reproduce? Will they have souls? Order extra copies to give to others.

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