

On The Frontier

“For the glory of God and the furtherance of the Gospel”

Their Folly Shall Be Manifest

by Linus A. Mathis III

I was amused to learn that the European scientist who purportedly cloned a sheep has publicly questioned the authenticity of his "experiment." He now says that this may not have been an actual cloning. It seems he's not certain of the origin or type of cells he used. He says it's possible that they were from an embryo, which would make the entire matter little more than an *in vitro* procedure. I may not be a scientist, but I knew all along that "cloning" is science fiction with a strong emphasis on fiction.

Up here in Alaska, where I live, folks love to fish. It's a common practice to freeze your catch. Salmon, trout, dolly varden, arctic char, grayling or halibut, smoked or not, most of it gets frozen. At least for a little while. There's a lot of variety in the preparation, but the one thing that every fisherman is careful to do is label his catch. He's conscientious to put the date, type of fish, method of preparation (if any) and sometimes even his name, e.g. king salmon caught by Caribou Jack in the Kenai river on 8/12/97. One would think that our super-scientists would adopt a like approach. Personally I think they have. I may not have been there, but I'll speculate that those involved in this so-called cloning knew all along what cells and what procedure they were using. Perhaps the desire for notoriety and the grants that often accompany it out

weighed honesty.

As for this whole genetic engineering business, it's been around for about 2,000 years. This is not a new concept to farmers. Men have manipulated both crops and livestock for a very long time. The difference today is in the spin put on things. There is a striving to be like God, to duplicate His handiwork and deny Him the credit. Do you suppose that's new?

Back to cloning. I'm not a scientist, a biologist or a doctor. I'm a minister. But, I have the benefit of God's wisdom because I believe His Word. I know who's responsible for the creation and everything in it. It's ALL by Divine Design, every bit of it. The best we men can do is discover how things work and when you are talking about reproduction, things work very precisely. All the cells in the body (human or animal) can reproduce themselves through the process known as *mitosis*. This is a form of cell division which leads to the production of two new cells with identical genetic composition. This is even true to a degree in plants. Even a slight error in the *mitotic* process will lead to the death of a developing embryo or various malformations. However, there are only two cells which have the complete DNA coding (or whatever it is that God put in them) to reproduce ALL the other types of cells found in the human (or animal) body. They are the sperm and the ovum. Independent of one another, they are powerless to begin the *mitotic* process.

During the first division, the *zygote* (that which develops into a fetus) doesn't increase in size. Instead, each cell division reduces the egg into smaller parts. By the time 16 cells are formed the *zygote* has become a solid sphere known as a *morula*. The *morula* divides further and becomes a *blastula*, which is a hollow sphere comprising a single layer of cells. This is followed by *cleavage* and the result is called a *blastomere*. For a while each of the cells produced by these divisions has the code necessary to produce cells for EVERY organ and tissue in the body. At some point in this advancement the individual cells are changed and lose the ability to produce any cell type other than their own. A liver cell will forever be a liver cell capable of producing only liver cells. Likewise with brain cells, bone cells, stomach cells, skin, hair, teeth, mucus membrane, etc.. Therefore, cloning is really a misnomer. That is, if you want to reproduce a human (or animal) you must go back to the original two cells (or at least the sixteen that they initially become). You cannot use a blood cell for it lacks the ability, or a kidney cell, or anything other than an ovum and a spermatozoa. Furthermore, once the sperm penetrates the ovum the entire corporation seals off to prevent other sperm from entering thus avoiding the formation of a *zygote* with more than the normal number of chromosomes. As if that weren't enough, there are even two category of sperm. Those with the primary mission of fertilization and "killer" sperm designed to eliminate the

sperm remaining after conception. Isn't it awesome how all of this could take place as a result of a big unsupervised explosion! It's silly to even consider that, isn't it?

Man, it seems, is bent on playing God. He wants to credit himself from the fruit of God's creativity. This really isn't a new concept. The devil used it to lure Adam into disobeying God in the Garden of Eden.

Genesis 3:3-5

But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.

And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:

For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

It's really a shame that a man's intelligence and ability can work against him so. But, then pride sets us up for destruction.

Proverbs 16:18

Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.

Not long after I heard the "confessions of a cloner," another bit of scientific swagger surfaced. It seems this woman gave birth to, are you ready for this, the oldest new born on record. How could this be? Well, seven years previous she underwent the *in vitro* process and ultimately gave birth to a child (the gender is not at issue). As is common with *in vitro* more than one ovum is

removed and fertilized. This is done because the success rate is very modest, not more than 20% go full term. At any rate, time goes by and they find this fertilized egg which they forgot they had (don't forget the Alaskan fisherman). She was informed and thought it would be a good idea to have another child. So, once again she undergoes the *in vitro* procedure. Another baby is born, said to be the fraternal twin of the child born seven years earlier. How irresponsible to publish such claims! Boasting that, since the egg was seven years old before *in vitro*, the impossible has occurred. So we assign this unborn fetus it's seventh birthday before delivery. The way I understand it, women don't produce ovum, they release them. I've been told by some that a baby girl has as many as 250,000 in each ovary. That makes for an incredible potential of 500,000 births. Of course she'll never realize that, praise God, but the abundance exists making each egg as old as she is. Just because you remove one, manipulate it or whatever, it shouldn't be considered to be any older than if left alone. Time is time! Right? Man is something, master of time and space! Seems it's only personal time and space he can't master.

Anyway, all of this led me to think about Moses and the children of Israel. Moses, you'll recall, was sent by God to deliver Israel from the bondage of Egypt. However, Moses and his brother Aaron met with some resistance. Not only from Pharaoh, but also from his sorcerers and magicians. Pharaoh was hard-hearted and his cronies worked diligently to steal God's glory. They zealously desired to appear as impressive as God himself, but they were greeted with defeat on every

occasion.

Exodus 7:10-12

And Moses and Aaron went in unto Pharaoh, and they did so as the LORD had commanded: and Aaron cast down his rod before Pharaoh, and before his servants, and it became a serpent.

Then Pharaoh also called the wise men and the sorcerers: now the magicians of Egypt, they also did in like manner with their enchantments.

For they cast down every man his rod, and they became serpents: but Aaron's rod swallowed up their rods.

They tried to reproduce the miracles of God. They just forgot one essential factor, God! They were nothing more than impostors.

Exodus 7:19-24

And the LORD spake unto Moses, Say unto Aaron, Take thy rod, and stretch out thine hand upon the waters of Egypt, upon their streams, upon their rivers, and upon their ponds, and upon all their pools of water, that they may become blood; and that there may be blood throughout all the land of Egypt, both in vessels of wood, and in vessels of stone.

And Moses and Aaron did so, as the LORD commanded; and he lifted up the rod, and smote the waters that were in the river, in the sight of Pharaoh, and in the sight of his servants; and all the waters that were in the river were turned to blood.

And the fish that was in the river

died; and the river stank, and the Egyptians could not drink of the water of the river; and there was blood throughout all the land of Egypt.

And the magicians of Egypt did so with their enchantments [I can't imagine what they thought they were going to accomplish here]: and Pharaoh's heart was hardened, neither did he hearken unto them; as the LORD had said.

And Pharaoh turned and went into his house, neither did he set his heart to this also.

And all the Egyptians digged round about the river for water to drink; for they could not drink of the water of the river.

These dudes could not abate the power of God nor protect themselves from the plagues. This proves conclusively that the power of God far exceeds that of man, even when man has satanic assistance.

Exodus 8:1-7

And the LORD spake unto Moses, Go unto Pharaoh, and say unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Let my people go, that they may serve me.

And if thou refuse to let *them* go, behold, I will smite all thy borders with frogs:

And the river shall bring forth frogs abundantly, which shall go up and come into thine house, and into thy bedchamber, and upon thy bed, and into the house of thy servants, and upon thy people, and into thine ovens, and into thy kneadingtroughs:

And the frogs shall come up both on thee, and upon thy people, and upon all thy servants.

And the LORD spake unto Moses, Say unto Aaron, Stretch forth thine hand with thy rod over the streams, over the rivers, and over the ponds, and cause frogs to come up upon the land of Egypt.

And Aaron stretched out his hand over the waters of Egypt; and the frogs came up, and covered the land of Egypt.

And the magicians did so with their enchantments, and brought up frogs upon the land of Egypt.

Well, that's a nice touch. Thank you so much for the extra frogs! As if they didn't have enough of them.

Exodus 8:16-19

And the LORD said unto Moses, Say unto Aaron, Stretch out thy rod, and smite the dust of the land, that it may become lice throughout all the land of Egypt.

And they did so; for Aaron stretched out his hand with his rod, and smote the dust of the earth, and it became lice in man, and in beast; all the dust of the land became lice throughout all the land of Egypt.

And the magicians did so with their enchantments to bring forth lice, but they could not [their folly was evidenced, it was clear they were powerless] : so there were lice upon man, and upon beast.

Then the magicians said unto Pharaoh, This *is* the finger of

God [it's about time they admitted this, oh well better late than never]: and Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he hearkened not unto them [he still doesn't get it, thick isn't he]; as the LORD had said.

Sooner or later God gets the glory and man realizes (hopefully) that he isn't God after all. The fact of the matter is, as the man said, our arms are much too short to box with God.

With all the evidence presented by the creation one would think that the greatest believers would be scientists. That, sadly, is not the case. Science continues to deny the existence of God as they search (in futility) for alternate explanations to life's mysteries. As bad as pride and presumption can be there is indeed something a bit worse. That is, the rejection of the Truth by those who know it. This too is not new.

II Timothy 3:1-9

This know also, that in the last days [the time between Jesus Christ's ascension and his Return] perilous times shall come.

For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,

Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;

Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from

such turn away.

For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts,

Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Now as Jannes and Jambres [so that's their names] withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith.

But they shall proceed no further: for their folly shall be manifest unto all *men*, as theirs also was.

Isn't it comforting to know that all the madness we see in the world will one day become conspicuously ridiculous!

Stick to your guns dear reader, our God and His Word are NEVER wrong.

Titus 1:9

Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.

I John 2:24

Let that therefore abide in you, which ye have heard from the beginning. If that which ye have heard from the beginning shall remain in you, ye also shall continue in the Son, and in the Father.

Don't ever get talked out of the wonderful Truth that set you free. No matter how advanced technology

becomes, you still can't stand in an open field and throw mud at the Sun.

I Peter 4:11

If any man speak, *let him speak* as the oracles of God; if any man minister, *let him do it* as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.
