The recent death of rock star David Bowie reminds us of the entertainment industry’s audacity at mocking God and thumbing its nose at God’s holy laws, even while holding out hope of heaven. The last Twitter account that Bowie followed before his death of cancer at age 69 was “God,” the account of the blasphemous Broadway play *An Act of God*. *Vanity Fair* called it “a sinfully funny divine comedy,” while *Hollywood Reporter* called it “wickedly funny and irreverent.” BBC observed that Bowie’s “fans are pleased he followed God and think it was a genius move” (“The last person David Bowie followed on Twitter was God,” *BBC Newsbeat*, Jan. 12, 2016). Fans pretending to be God tweeted, “David Bowie was the God I always wanted to be,” and, “Hanging out with David Bowie is even cooler than I thought it would be.” An Italian petition to God with more than 4,800 signatures protested David Bowie’s death. Bowie is extolled for his “groundbreaking firsts,” but these “firsts” were largely attempts to influence society to reject God’s laws. He was one of the first to promote androgyny with his “sexually ambiguous” Ziggy character in 1972. The irreverent Bowie enjoyed God’s merciful blessings even while shaking his fist at God, but in one of his last songs, “Lazarus,” Bowie sang, “Look up here, I’m in heaven.” It was probably done tongue in cheek, but he

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**ISRAELI CHILDREN AND THE SMARTPHONE**

Printing by moveable type was invented in 1452, and by 1500 an estimated 20 million books and materials had been printed (Christopher Anderson, *Annals of the English Bible*, I, p. lx). The publication of Bibles exploded. The first printed book was a complete Latin Bible in 1455. By 1520, no less than 199 editions of the entire Bible had appeared, and this was just the bare beginning of the Bible printing revolution. Suddenly, for the first time in church history, common people could afford to own a Bible and they were eager to do so. The printing press was little used by Muslims, though. According to Islam, Arabic is the holy language and the translation of the Quran is discouraged. Historically, Muslim nations have not been friends of printing. Consider the *Ottoman Empire* (1299-1923). The Ottomans “were no friends to public education, independent news media and the printed word” (“Arab Media: The Web 2.0 Revolution,” *Carnegie* continued on next page...
doubtless has now learned that God isn’t a joke and that no one goes to God’s heaven without being born again, as Jesus Christ so plainly stated in John 3:3. Comedian Jimmy Fallon delivered a sober tribute to Bowie, concluding with, “I’m just going to email you, David Bowie, and if you can check your email in space or heaven or wherever you are, you don’t have to email me back. ... Just read it and enjoy what I put in there.” This crowd intends to create moral anarchy on earth, then move on to heaven to continue its godless career. It wins them accolades in this wicked world, but ultimately it is a foolish and losing proposition. God will have the last laugh. “The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us. He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision” (Psalm 2:2-4).

Russia has completed a new national military facility that “can take control of the entire country in case of war” (“Russia launches ‘wartime government’ HQ,” RT.com, Russia’s 24/7 English news channel, Dec. 1, 2014). The new National Defense Control Center (NDCC) is staffed round-the-clock by more than 1,000 of Russia’s best officers. It monitors all of Russia’s military assets, including the state of oil refineries and weather conditions, and controls the ballistic missile system and the deployment of nuclear weapons. At its heart is a new computer system “with state-of-art data encryption and multiple backup sites.” Russia is engaged in a dramatic upgrade of its military in other ways, as well. It could be that the old Israel-hating Gog is unknowingly preparing for her big part in prophecy! “And thou shalt come up against my people of Israel, as a cloud to cover the land; it shall be in the latter days, and I will bring thee against my land, that the heathen may know me, when I shall be sanctified in thee, O Gog, before their eyes” (Ezekiel 38:16).
The following is excerpted from “German Professor: NASA has fiddled climate data,” Brietbart, Nov. 24, 2015: “Professor Dr. Friedrich Karl Ewert is a retired geologist and data computation expert. He has painstakingly examined and tabulated all NASA GISS's temperature data series, taken from 1153 stations and going back to 1881. His conclusion: that if you look at the raw data, as opposed to NASA's revisions, you'll find that since 1940 the planet has been cooling, not warming. According to Günter Ederer, the German journalist who has reported on Ewert's findings: ‘From the publicly available data, Ewert made an unbelievable discovery: Between the years 2010 and 2012 the data measured since 1881 were altered so that they showed a significant warming, especially after 1950. […] A comparison of the data from 2010 with the data of 2012 shows that NASA-GISS had altered its own datasets so that especially after WWII a clear warming appears—although it never existed.’ Apart from Australia, the planet has in fact been on a cooling trend … But the activist scientists at NASA GISS – initially led by James Hansen, later by Gavin Schmidt – wanted the records they are in charge of maintaining to show warming not cooling, so they began systematically adjusting the data for various spurious reasons using ten different methods. … Ewert’s findings echo that of US meteorologists Joseph D’Aleo and Anthony Watts who examined 6,000 NASA weather stations and found a host of irregularities both with the way they were sited and how the raw data had been adjusted to reflect such influences as the Urban Heat Island effect. Britain’s Paul Homewood is also on NASA GISS’s case. He shows the shocking extent of the adjustments they have made to a temperature record in Brazil which has been altered so that a cooling trend becomes a warming trend.”

TEACHING CHILDREN HOW TO ACT IN CHURCH

As the frontline disciplers in their children’s lives, Christian parents should teach their children how to act in church and how to profit from church attendance. As soon as the children are old enough (and that is much younger than many think), parents should teach children to listen to sermons and Bible lessons instead of playing games and disturbing other people. Children can learn how to take notes, how to listen for something helpful for their own lives, how to jot down questions and seek answers. When they are old enough to read, the children should be taught to open the hymnbook and sing along with the congregation. It is dishonoring to God for older children to play around and daydream or sleep during the services. The parents should help them understand the words to the hymns and the meaning so they can sing with understanding (Psa. 47:7). I find it very sad to see reading-age children who are allowed to ignore the singing and sermons in church. This is a sin against the children, but many parents simply aren’t tuned into this. We would also warn that the parents should not be overbearing and harsh in these things so that the Bible and church and family altar, etc., become an unpleasant chore in the child’s life. Serving the Lord should not be a burdensome thing, because Christ is wonderful and His burden is light. See Matthew 28:28-30. Parents must strive to teach the children that serving the Lord is a joyful, thrilling thing, and they do that first of all by what they model in their own lives.
A LITTLE LEAVEN IN THE FOUNDING OF MODERN SCIENCE BORE BITTER FRUIT

Most of the fathers of modern science were Christians of some sort and believed in the God of the Bible, many of them believed in a six-day creation, but it should also be noted that in some cases the seeds were sown in the 17th century and earlier for the apostasy that came in the 19th century in the form of theological liberalism and Darwinian evolution. Some of the very men who were influenced by a biblical worldview and did a lot of good in the field of science also entertained incipient strains of skepticism that eventually bore bitter fruit. This reminds us of the truth of Galatians 5:9, “A little leaven leaventh the whole lump.” Consider, for example, Roger Bacon, who is known as the father of the scientific method. A Roman Catholic friar, he wrote against atheism, rejected Aristotle’s philosophy which was promoted in English universities of that day, believed in a six-day creation, and said that human knowledge should redound to the glory of God. But he also set the stage for a rationalistic approach to science with his method of investigation in that he taught that man must depend upon his own investigations rather than any other authority, including divine revelation. He said it is “folly” to “build a system of natural philosophy on the first chapter of Genesis, the book of Job, and other parts of Scripture; seeking thus the dead amongst the living” (Bacon, Novum Organum). Bacon encouraged scientists to throw away all prior certainties, which would include the Bible, as well. ‘If a man will begin with certainties, he shall end in doubts; but if he will be content to begin with doubts, he shall end in certainties” (Ibid.). This is a denial of the superiority of God’s Word over human observation and a blatant rejection of the necessity of faith (Hebrews 11:6). Bacon held the great error of compartmentalizing religion and science. He said that the Bible should be trusted in matters of the spirit, but science in matters of the physical world, ignoring the fact that the Bible has a lot to say about the physical world, such as how it originated (Genesis 1:1) and how it consists and is upheld (Colossians 1:17; Hebrews 1:3). As Carl Wieland and Jonathan Sarfati observe, “Bacon’s stance paved the way, first, for old-Earth geologists to reject the Flood and Biblical chronology in Genesis 11. And then, for Darwin to undermine the Bible completely, since Darwin expressly applied the Baconian method to biology” (Wieland and Sarfati, “Culture Wars: Bacon vs. Ham, Part 1,” creation.com).