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First Edition

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How did life begin?

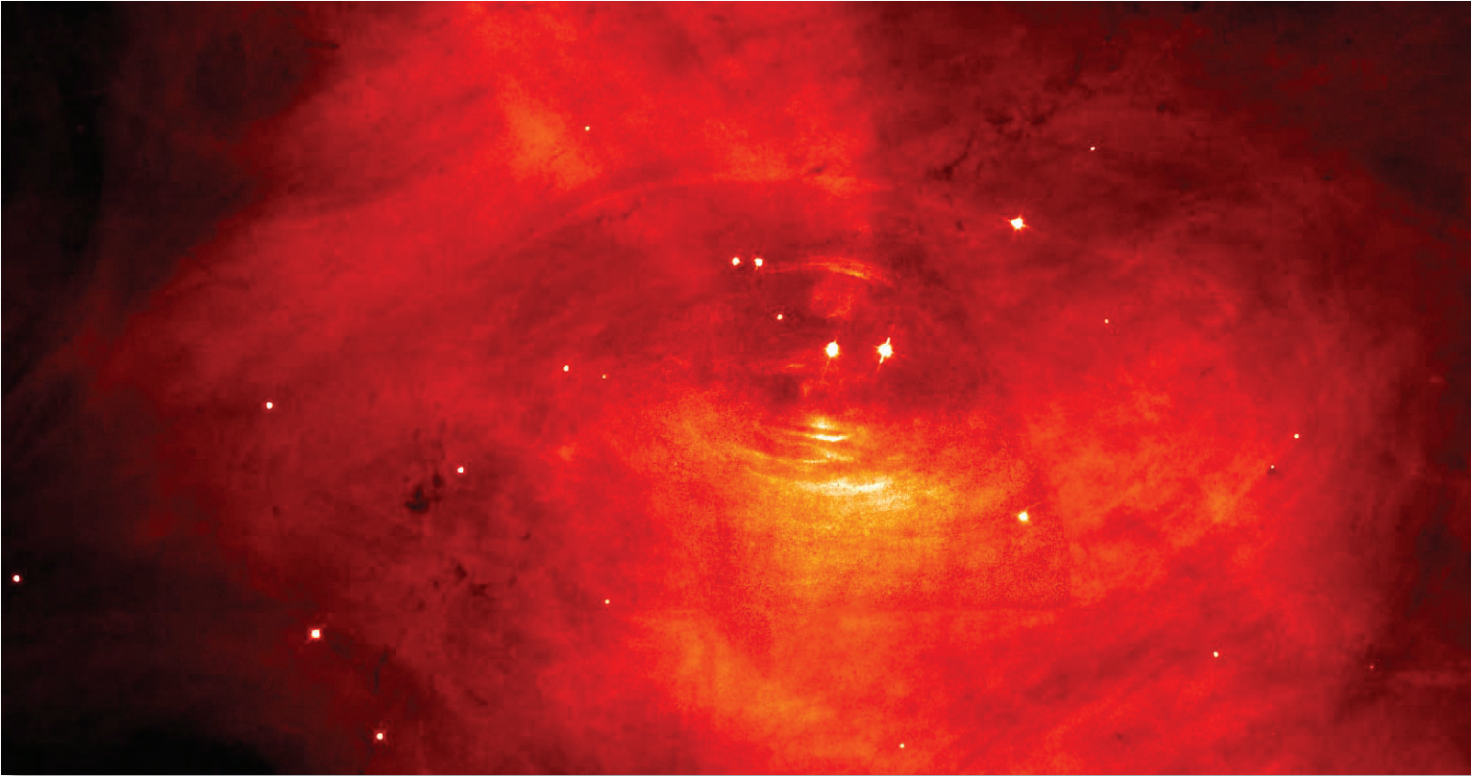
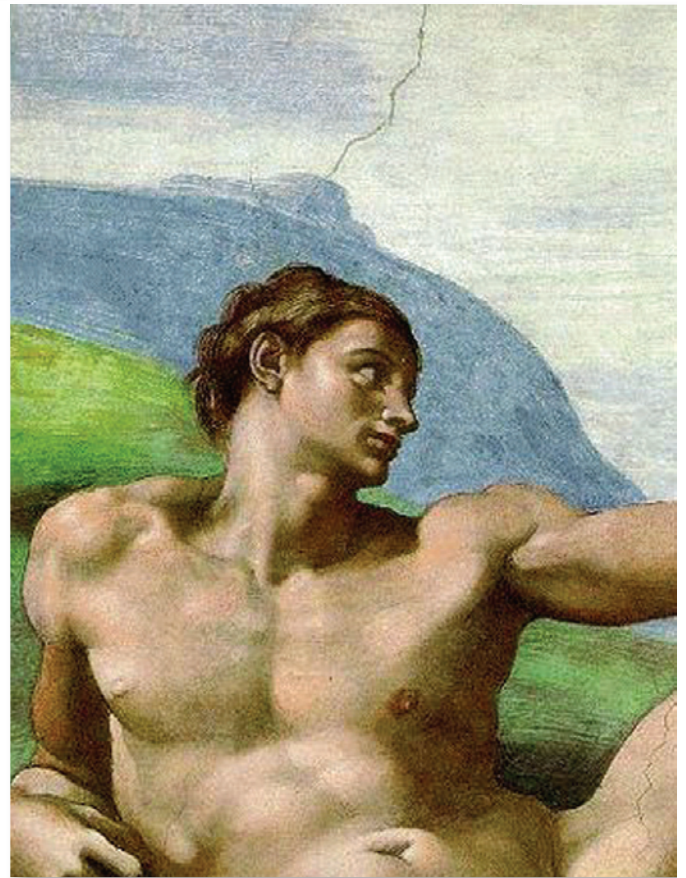


Photo depicting the idea of an explosion in space. Evolution teaches that the universe, and eventually life itself, came about as a result of the Big Bang.

What are we to believe?

How did life begin? One view is that an all-powerful God created the universe and all forms of life. Another view proposes that the universe began billions of years ago as a result of the Big Bang. Later, life in the form of a bacterium-like organism arose spontaneously from a mixture of chemicals. Subsequently, this single-cell organism slowly began to evolve into all modern life forms. A third view is that life evolved but God formed the first living organism and then helped the process along.



The Origin of Life

How life came about has been the subject of debate for almost as long as mankind has existed. Did life originate as a result of the intervention by a supernatural deity? Or did life come about as a result of natural laws acting over time? Scientists continue to search for a definitive answer to these questions.

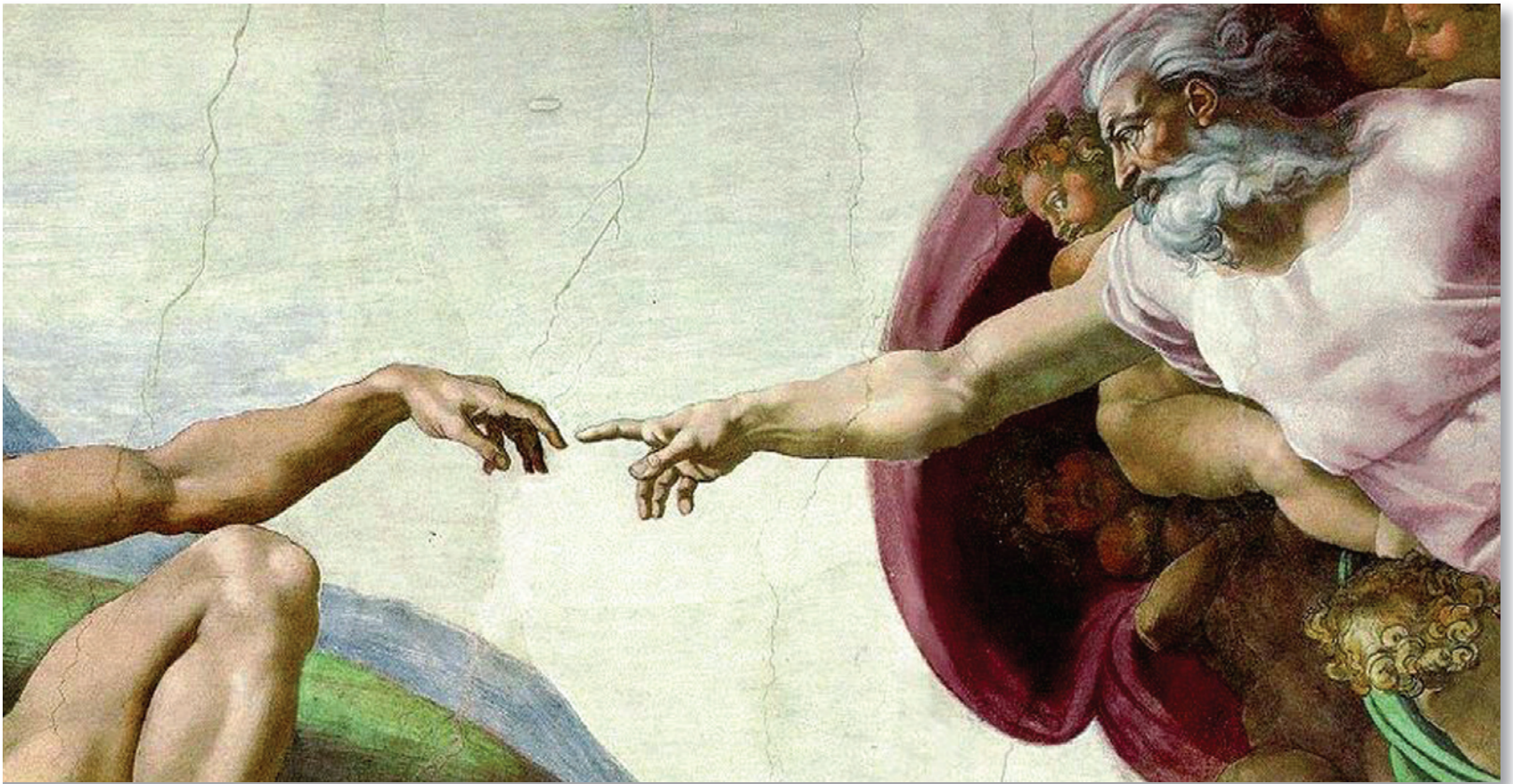
The publication of Darwin's theory of evolution in 1859 was a significant catalyst in propelling man's search for a natural understanding of past and present life. Unraveling the mystery of how life began and how life may have changed over time has been the focus of many scientists. Since Darwin's theory was first made public scientists have collected over 200 million fossils, described the structure of DNA, and

identified how genes are passed on to the next generation. These major scientific developments provide us with relevant and thought-provoking information. They lead us to pause and examine our ideas in view of today's ever increasing and heated debate over the history of life on earth.

The purpose of this book is to address these important scientific discoveries and present the reader with rare and remarkable facts concerning the origin of life—from spontaneous generation, through Darwin's ideas on evolution, to the present-day understanding of mutations and natural selection.



Michelangelo's painting depicting God creating man (from the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel).



Americans are split on their beliefs.

According to a Gallup Poll taken in 2006, many Americans believe that God created man in the last 10,000 years. This is surprising given the fact that scientists have been teaching evolution for more than a century.

Do most Americans not believe the theory of evolution because it is implausible? Do they not believe evolution because of their religious views? Or, do they not believe in the theory because they are unfamiliar with its concepts?



What Do You Think?

