Saturn's Moon--Does Water Equal Life?

BY FRANK SHERWIN, M.A. | THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 2006

Creation and secular scientists were fascinated by the discovery of possible geysers of water on the moon of Saturn, Enceladus, by the Cassini spacecraft on March 9th. CNN.com states that because water might be present, there is a "tantalizing possibility" that life might also be found (CNN.com 2006). Although creation scientists are as excited as their secular counterparts, there is no scientific reason to equate water with life. This is an unjustified stretch.

Although water is an integral part of virtually all life, liquid water does not equal life. Several years ago, Stephen C. Meyer wrote a detailed description of the numerous problems associated with the spontaneous origin of life on this planet—the hospitable environment of Earth [Meyer 1996]. Three years later evolutionist Trevor Palmer of Nottingham Trent University admitted, "At the present time, we are still a long way from a proper detailed explanation for the origin of life on Earth" [Palmer 1999].

In 2002, evolutionist A.G. Fisher stated, "Both the origin of life and the origin of the major groups of animals remain unknown" [Fisher 2002].

If secular scientists continue to draw biochemical blanks regarding a purely materialistic explanation for life evolving on Earth, then why should they become excited regarding merely the presence of liquid water on an inhospitable moon?

As with any amazing discovery, significant caution should be exercised. CNN.com quotes one senior scientist as saying in regard to potential life on this tiny moon: "It's certainly interesting, but I don't see how much more you can say beyond that" (CNN.com 2006). Life as we know it is so extremely complex, that even the phrase "simple life" is an oxymoron.

The fundamental law of biology seems to be still firmly in effect--life only comes from life.

References


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The Teacher

“And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient.” (2 Timo

and gentleness...

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remains to be seen. If they do find signs of life, then Enceladus might be the key to helping us understand how life started on our planet. In this article: cassini, Enceladus, moon, saturn. Saturn moon has hidden salty ocean that could support life - and is as large as Lake Superior. The ocean is buried beneath 18 to 24 miles (29 to 39km) of ice. After jets of water vapour were spotted on Enceladus' surface, scientists predicted a reservoir might be found - and it's six miles (10km) deep. Jupiter's moon Europa is also known to have liquid water under its surface and both could be possible habitats for extraterrestrial microbes. By Sarah Griffiths.

Published: 19:02 GMT, 3 April 2014 | Updated: 16:49 GMT, 4 April 2014. Haze-enshrouded Titan is Saturn's largest moon and the solar system's second-largest, and an all-around exceptional place. Titan is the only known world other than Earth where any sort of liquid collects on its surface. Earth has liquid water oceans because it orbits within the solar system's habitable zone, the range of distance from our sun that is neither so hot that oceans boil away nor so cold that they're frozen. The Saturn system is far outside of the habitable zone, and Titan's surface temperature is so cold that the moon's surface is largely water ice instead of rock. But the temperat Saturn is a very large planet, and it is not surprising that it has many moons. In fact, Saturn comes in second place. Click for more information. Dione's mass is two-thirds water ice, and the remaining is attributed to a silicate rock inner core. Some data suggests that Dione might have an internal liquid saltwater ocean, similar to Enceladus. Dione might be geologically active, and some of its surface features prove that this moon was active in the past. Ever since studies started suggesting that chemical reactions between water and rock on Saturn's moon Enceladus could provide enough energy in the water to feed microbial life, scientists have been searching for proof that the right sort of reactions really do occur. And during its last dive through the icy plumes that Enceladus erupts into space in October 2015, the Cassini spacecraft has finally managed to find it – in the form of molecular hydrogen. The finding, published in Science, means the moon can now be considered highly likely to be suitable to host microbial life. In fact, the resul