

# Space babies

By Tony Goudie

**D**id you happen to read in some papers a few months back that we have taken a giant step in being able to create Space Babies?

What? I almost choked on my cornflakes!

One no less than Stephen Hawking claimed that the future of the human race is to occupy a different planet. After all, our planet may not last, bearing in mind how we've been destroying the environment. Would this be a way out of our dilemma?

But there is a problem with Space Babies. (Only one?)

In space, radiation is apparently 100 times stronger than here on earth, so babies could not be conceived and survive. A study published in the journal *Proceedings of the Natural Academy of Sciences* sent freeze-dried mouse sperm samples to be stored on the International Space Station for 288 days to see if radiation led to embryo death or mutations. While there was some damage to DNA, the samples produced the same birth rates as if they had never left Earth, and there were no detectable problems in the mice born.

This research led by the University of Yamanashi in Japan states: 'Our study demonstrates that generating human or animal offspring from space-preserved spermatozoa is a possibility which should be useful when the "space age" arrives'.<sup>1</sup>

The researchers have hinted that this technology may 'aid in reproduction when humans reside in space for a continuous period in the near future',<sup>2</sup> and providing a possible 'doomsday vault' for Earth's species if things go really wrong.

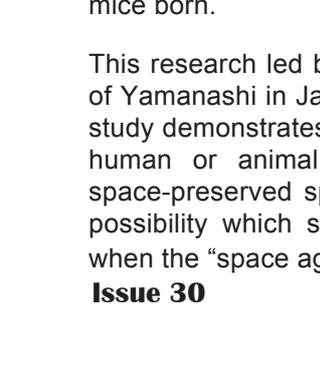
So, there we have it—our future all nicely sorted and taken care of once we have either wrecked this Good Earth or have been frozen/heated off it.

What would we do without such scientists? We should admire and appreciate the effort that goes into all of this. More research and scientific discovery provides humanity with ideas that give hope.

The only trouble is that this Space Babies answer represents a world without a loving God. If there is no such God, we still have trouble ahead. All the above is perfectly reasonable for humanity to have a future until we wreck the next planet and need to move on again.

But, what if there is a loving God? Would his solution involve Space Babies? Has he got something better for us in mind?

Well, a long time ago, so the Bible tells us, our progenitors had to make a move of their own. They were moved out of their God-given environmental paradise, called the Garden of Eden.<sup>3</sup> You see, they did a bit of wrecking all by themselves. They choose to reject God's guidance when they ate the forbidden fruit of the Tree of the



Knowledge of Good and Evil. So began all our problems. As a result, humanity's negative impact on our precious Earth led eventually to our exploring the feasibility of Space Babies for when we get to our new planet. But before we think about colonising another patch of space, is there another solution? There is, and one not of our own making.

The answer that provides us with hope is that God sent us his Son, Jesus Christ—his own unique baby, a child born for us. Jesus gives us a message of hope, the hope of a better future beyond our imagination. It's a message that does not involve Space Babies and looking for another planet so that humankind might survive.

This future is discussed in the Bible as 'a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells'.<sup>4</sup> But words fail to paint a sufficient picture of what it will be like. It's indescribable, too amazing for words: 'No mere man has ever seen, heard, or even imagined what wonderful things God has ready for those who love the Lord'.<sup>5</sup>

Our future is secure, not because of Space Babies, but because the baby Jesus was born for us so that we may be saved from the mess we've gotten ourselves into.

## Endnotes

<sup>1</sup> [www.pnas.org/content/114/23/5988.full](http://www.pnas.org/content/114/23/5988.full) .

<sup>2</sup> [www.techtimes.com/articles/208023/20170524/doomsday-vault-in-space-baby-mice-born-on-earth-withperm-stored-on-iss.htm](http://www.techtimes.com/articles/208023/20170524/doomsday-vault-in-space-baby-mice-born-on-earth-withperm-stored-on-iss.htm) .

<sup>3</sup> You can read the whole story in any Bible, Genesis chapter 3.

<sup>4</sup> 2 Peter 3:13 (NIV).

<sup>5</sup> 1 Corinthians 2:9 (The Living Bible).

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