

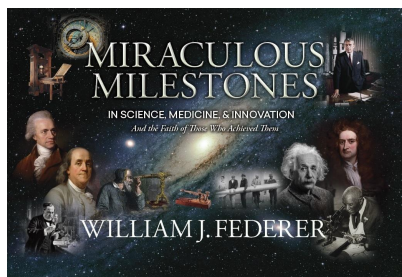
American Minute with Bill Federer Robert Boyle-Father of Chemistry & Blaise Pascal- Father of Hydraulic Engineering

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A "**Father of Chemistry**" wanted to evangelize America ... and warned of the end of the world!

Robert Boyle was born JANUARY 25, 1627 ... [continue reading ...](#)

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[MIRACULOUS MILESTONES in Science, Medicine & Innovation - And the Faith of Those Who Achieved Them](#)

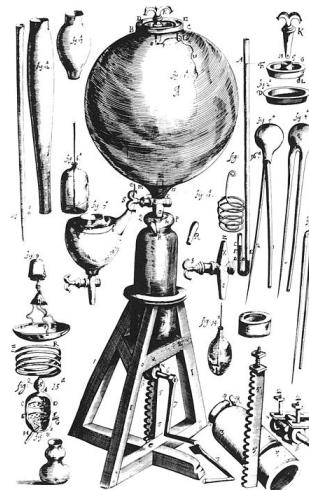
He studied **Sir Francis Bacon, René Descartes**, and other of his contemporaries of the **Scientific Revolution**, including:

- scientists **Isaac Newton** and **Galileo**,
- philosophers **John Locke** and **Thomas Hobbes**, and
- poet **John Milton**.

Robert Boyle made contributions in physics and chemistry, especially with his **pneumatic experiments** using the **vacuum pump**, putting forward the idea that **gases were made of tiny particles**.



He discovered the basic law of gas dynamics, known as "**Boyle's Law**," that if the volume of a gas is decreased, the pressure increases proportionally (**PV=c**).



An understanding of **Boyle's Law** is vital for scuba divers, who must never hold their breath while ascending, for as the **external pressure decreases**, **air volume** in their lungs **increases**, potentially causing lungs to burst like a balloon.

In 1661, **Robert Boyle** defined the modern idea of an "**element**" as "a substance that cannot be broken down into a simpler substance by a chemical reaction."

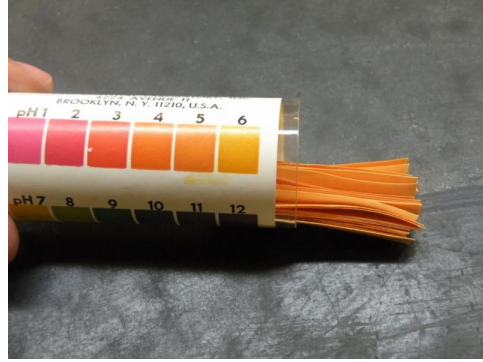
PERIODIC TABLE OF THE ELEMENTS
http://www.kj-soft.de/periodic/

(1) The first element, H, has a relative atomic mass of 1.00794. Relative atomic masses are given in atomic mass units (amu) on the periodic table. The values are rounded to the nearest integer. The values in parentheses are the atomic masses of the most stable isotopes of the elements. The values in parentheses are the atomic masses of the most stable isotopes of the elements. The values in parentheses are the atomic masses of the most stable isotopes of the elements.

This understanding was necessary for the periodic table of elements to be compiled.

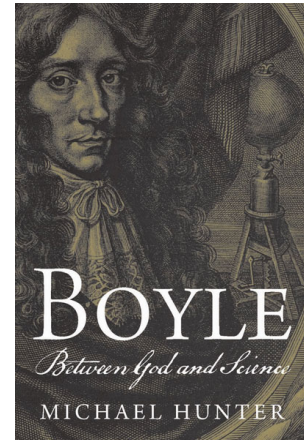
Boyle's definition of "**element**" was used for three centuries until subatomic particles were discovered.

Boyle introduced the **litmus test** to distinguish acids from bases, and was the first to use the term "chemical analysis."



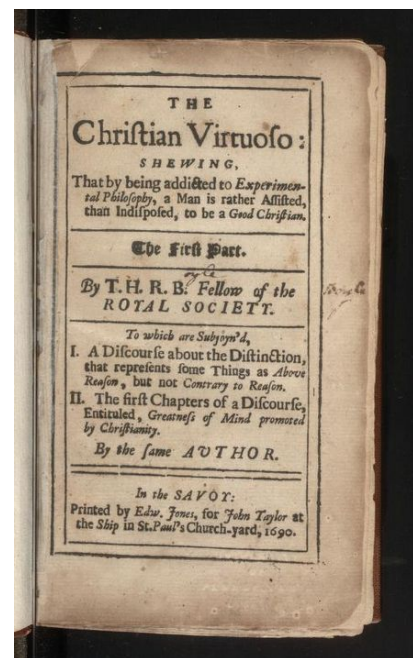
In 1660, **Robert Boyle** and eleven others formed the **Royal Society in London** to advance scientific experiments.

While in Geneva, Switzerland, during a frightening thunderstorm, **Boyle had a deepening conversion experience.**



Boyle devoted much effort to **defending and propagating the Christian religion**, writing the "**Boyle Lectures**" and numerous books, including:

- *Of the high Veneration Man's Intellect owes to God* (1684);
- *Discourse Of Things Above Reason* (1681);
- *Some Considerations touching the Style of the Holy Scriptures* (1661); and
- *The Christian Virtuoso* (1690), which John Locke reviewed in 1681, and which was a basis for Cotton Mather's work, *The Christian Philosopher* (1721).



Robert Boyle provided in his Last Will and Testament, dated

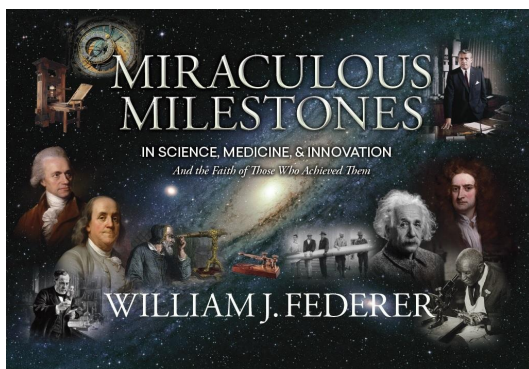
July 28, 1691:

"Fifty pounds ...
for an annual
salary so some
learned **Divine or
Preaching
Minister** ... to
preach eight
sermons in the
year, for **proving
the Christian**

**Religion against notorious Infidels, viz., Atheists,
Theists, Pagans, Jews, and Mahometans,**

not descending lower to any controversies that are
among Christians themselves ... and **encouraging** ...
**any undertaking for Propagating the Christian
Religion in foreign parts."**

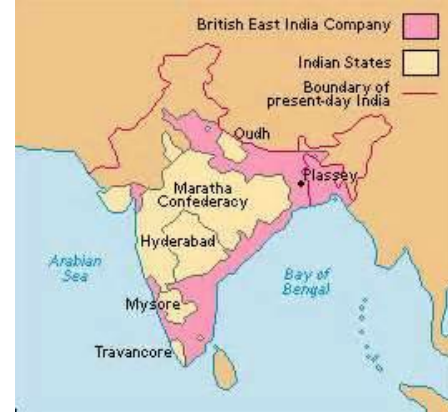
**Robert Boyle was a director
of the East India Company,**
and spent large sums
**supporting missionary
societies** in the spread of
Christianity in Asia.



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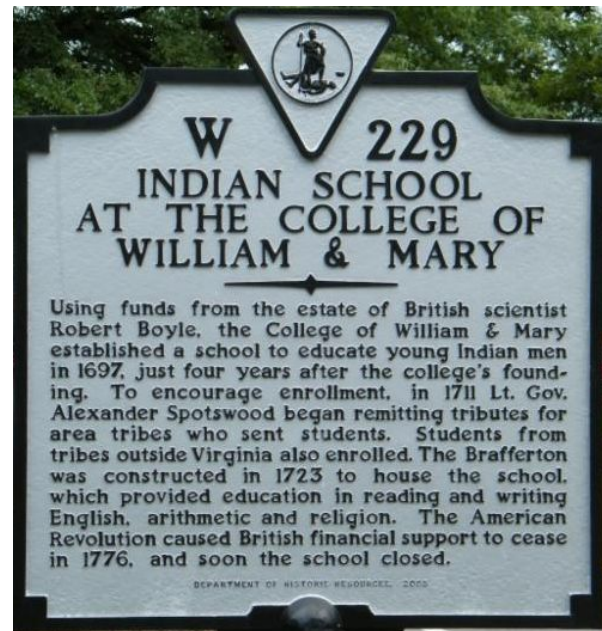
Boyle believed all races, no
matter how diverse, came from
Adam and Eve.

He funded translations of the **Bible** to make it available in **people's vernacular language**, in contrast to the prevailing Latin-only policy.



He funded an **Irish edition of the Bible** (1680-1685) for commoners, which was thought ill of by English upper class.

Robert Boyle was concerned about **propagating the Gospel to natives in New England** and the rest of **America**, as he wrote in a letter to Mr. Clodius.



He wanted to translate and print the **Bible** in **American Indian languages**.

A historical marker, "**W 229 Indian School at the College of William & Mary**" stated:

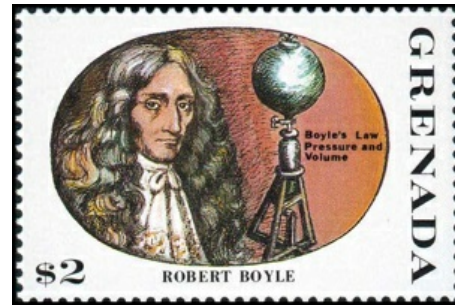
"Using funds from the estate of British scientist **Robert Boyle**, the **College of William & Mary** established a school to **educate young Indian men** ... which provided education in reading and writing English, arithmetic and **religion.**"

Robert Boyle wrote:

"**Our Saviour** would love at no less rate than death; and from the super-eminent height of glory, stooped and debased Himself to the sufferance of the extremest of indignities, and sunk himself to the bottom of abjectness,

to exalt our condition to the contrary extreme."

Boyle wrote in *Some Considerations Touching the Style of the Holy Scriptures* (1661):



"The **Books of Scripture** ... expound each other; as in the mariner's compass, the needle's extremity, though it seems to point purposely to the north, doth yet at the same time discover both east and west, as distant as they are from it and each other, so do some **texts of Scripture** guide us to the intelligence of others."

Boyle wrote:

"There are divers **truths in the Christian religion**, that reason left to itself would never have been able to find out ...

Such as ... **free will** ... that the **world was made in six days**, that **Christ should be born of a virgin**, and that **in his person** there should be **united two** such infinitely distant **natures as the divine and human**;

and that the **bodies of good men** shall be **raised from death** and so advantageously changed, that the **glorified persons shall be like or equal to, the angels.**"

Boyle wrote of the last days and the "sinful world's ruin":

"In **Noah's time a deluge of impiety** called for a **deluge of waters** ... and so when (**in the last days**) the earth shall be replenished with those **scoffers** mentioned by St Peter, who will **walk after their own lusts**, and deride the expectation of **God's foretold coming to judge and punish the ungodly**,

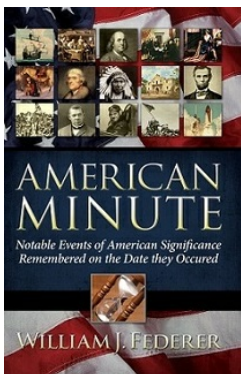
their **impiety shall be as well punished** as silenced by the unexpected flames ... that shall either destroy or transfigure the world.

For as by the **law of Moses** the **leperous garment** which would not be recovered by being washed in water, **was to be burnt in the fire**, so the world, which the **Deluge could not cleanse**, a **general conflagration must destroy.**"

Robert Boyle wrote of the destruction of the world by fire at the end of this age:

"The present course of nature shall not last always, but that one day this world ... shall either be abolished by annihilation, or which seems far more probable, be innovated, and as it were transfigured, and that, by the intervention of that fire, which shall dissolve and destroy the present frame of nature:

so that either way, the present state of things, (as well natural as political) shall have an end."



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A contemporary of Robert Boyle was the French physicist, mathematician and philosopher, **Blaise Pascal**, born June 19, 1623.



Blaise Pascal helped develop the **barometer**, and pioneered **hydrodynamics** and **fluid mechanics**.

He discovered "**Pascal's Principle**" which is the basis of **hydraulics**.



He is considered a **father of the science of hydrostatics** and **hydraulic engineering**.

Pascal made invaluable contributions in the areas of probability and differential calculus, with the invention of **Pascal's triangle** for calculating the coefficients of a binomial expansion.

His influential religious works, emphasizing "the reasons of the heart" over dry logic and intellect, were titled *Lettres Provinciales*, 1656-57, and *Pensees Sur La Religion*, published posthumously in 1670.



In *Pensees*, 1670, **Pascal** wrote:

"Men blaspheme what they don't know."

"People are generally better persuaded by the reasons

which they have themselves discovered than by those which have come into the mind of others."

Blaise Pascal was known for "**Pascal's Wager**," which stated:

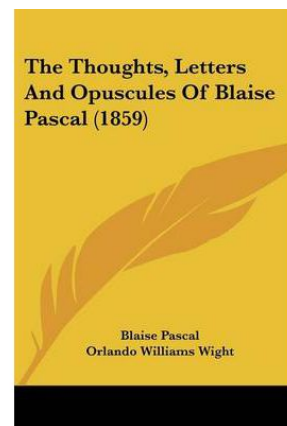
"How can anyone lose who chooses to become a **Christian**?

If, when he dies, there turns out to be no **God** and his faith was in vain, he has lost nothing -- in fact, he has been happier in life than his non-believing friends.

If, however, there is a **God** and a heaven and hell, then he has gained heaven and his skeptical friends will have lost everything in hell!"

In the work, *Thoughts, Letters and Opuscules*, **Blaise Pascal** is recorded as stating:

"We know **God** only through **Jesus Christ**. Without this **Mediator**, is taken away all communication with **God**; through **Jesus Christ** we know **God**.



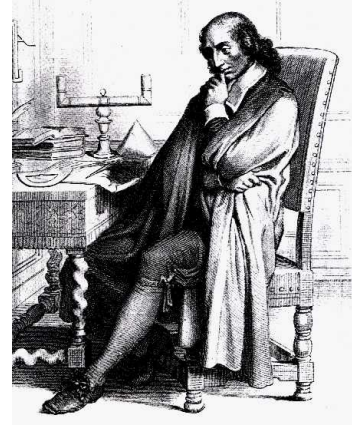
All those who have pretended to know **God**, and prove Him without **Jesus Christ**, have only had impotent proofs.

But, to prove **Jesus Christ** we have the prophecies which are good and valid proofs.

... And those prophecies, being fulfilled, and truly proved by the event, indicate the certainty of these truths, and therefore the truth of the divinity of **Jesus Christ**.

In Him, and by Him, then, we know **God**.

Otherwise, and without **Scripture**, without original sin, without a necessary **Mediator**, we cannot absolutely prove **God**, nor teach a good doctrine and sound morals.



But by **Jesus Christ** and in **Jesus Christ**, we prove **God** and teach doctrine and morals. **Jesus Christ**, then, is the true **God** of men.

Not only do we know **God** only through **Jesus Christ**, but we know ourselves only through **Jesus Christ ...**"

Blaise Pascal continued in *Thoughts, Letters and Opuscules*:

"We know life, death, only through **Jesus Christ**. Except by **Jesus Christ** we know not what life is, what our death is, what **God** is, what we ourselves are.



Thus, without **Scripture**, which has only **Jesus Christ** for its object, we know nothing, and we see not only obscurity and confusion in the **nature of God**, but in nature herself.

... Without **Jesus Christ**, man must be in sin and misery; with **Jesus Christ**, man is exempt from sin and misery.

In Him is all our virtue, and all our felicity. Out of Him, there is nothing but sin, misery, error, darkness, death, and despair."



After **Pascal's** death, August 19,

1662, a note found among his person effects stated:

"The **God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, the God of Jacob,**' not of philosophers and scholars."

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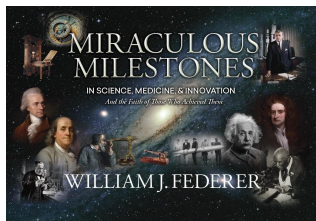
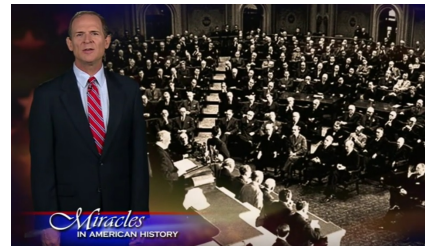
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