

Christian voice Article for the 'Midweek'

Epigenetics and the Bible - part 2

The Creator said in Jeremiah 30:17 'For I will restore health to you and heal you of your wounds'. Let's discuss this in continuation of part 1 published recently in the 'Christian Voice'. The new biological science called 'Epigenetics' is revealing fascinating evidence that we have received a lot more than a genetic code from our parents. Epigenetics is the intelligence that determines what our cells become and what they carry or don't carry. Fear and anxiety can be passed on through the genes, so can the effects of abuse and trauma and obesity.

Audrey Hepburn, the great movie star, was a survivor of an event in the Second World War known as the Dutch Hunger Winter. It ended when she was sixteen but the after-effects of this event including poor health stayed with her for the rest of her life. Pregnant mothers suffered terribly when the Germans cut off the food supply to the Western Netherlands. Dutch epidemiologists have studied the effects on their babies ever since and on their children and grandchildren. They found high levels of obesity and mental problems passed on from their malnourished grandmothers!

Scientists are excited about developing new drugs to 'epigenetically' switch on or off genes to correct inherited genetic diseases.

But Christians have known for 2000 years that God can and does heal sicknesses passed on from generation to generation. Jesus declared that all authority was given unto Him and commanded his disciples to go and tell the good news and to heal the sick (Matthew 28:18; Mark 16:18).

Clair Weaver wrote in her February Women's Weekly article on epigenetics 'it turns out our genes are not fixed entities...which is good news, it means we are not hostage to predetermined biology. Instead, our genes are malleable and open to change'. In the hands of Jesus, I say amen to that.

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