

### The Bible and Science

The Bible was not written from the scientific point of view, and the person who attempts to deal with it as if it were a textbook on science will be sadly disappointed. Written long before the rise of modern science, it was intended primarily for the common people not for scientists and intellectuals. Its language is that of the common people, and its subject matter is primarily religious. Had it been written in the language of modern science or philosophy it would have been unintelligible to the people of earlier ages, and in fact would also be unintelligible to multitudes in our own day.

However, while I certainly have no desire to disregard the scientific accomplishments of our day but rather to accept them and use them to the fullest. But, I must point out that it has been said by those who know a great deal more about science than I, that textbooks on science have to be rewritten at least once every generation. Also, that scientific research is so rapidly progressing in our day that most books on the subjects of science are obsolete within ten years. But, in the Bible we have a book which has had no revision for multiplied centuries and still appeals to the heart of people today as strongly as in those centuries past.

Although many criticize the Bible as being unscientific, it reveals some of the basic principles of science centuries before scientists understood them. The Bible speaks on subjects of science long before they were ever debated. To me this is one of the most amazing evidences of the divine inspiration of the Bible; it is not a science book, but it is scientifically accurate.

First of all, let us consider the field of astronomy. People have been fascinated by the stars since ancient times, and many astronomers have tried to count them. But from modern day astronomy it must be concluded that the stars cannot be numbered. The Bible said this was so before astronomers ever discovered it. "As the host (stars) of heaven cannot be numbered, . . ." (Jeremiah 33:22). Also, it was believed that all stars were alike. But, once again modern astronomy says this is not so, no two stars are alike. The Bible however, stated this also to be true before its discovery by astronomers. "There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for one differeth from another star in glory" (1 Corinthians 15:41).

Second, let us consider the physics of the earth (geophysics). This field of science deals with the shape, structure, and force of the earth. It was believed by many in the field of science that the earth was flat, and those intellectuals of a few centuries back may have thought the Bible to be unscientific at this point. But before those intellectuals were born God's Word declared the earth to be round, to which modern science agrees. "It is he that sitteth upon the circle (Hebrew word speaks of being round) of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers; that stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain, and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in" (Isaiah 40:22).

Third, let us consider the law of mass and energy conservation (the first law of thermodynamics). By the first law of thermodynamics scientists state that the total energy of the universe is constant. All energy and matter are sustained by their interplay. Therefore, no new creation of mass and energy in its total form is being created. The Bible states this fact long before it was ever discovered by science. The earth was designed to operate in an orderly fashion. Once the operating cycle of time, force, motion, space, and matter was generated and put into play, no further creation was needed. "In the beginning (time) God (force) created (motion) the heaven (space) and the earth

(matter)” (Genesis 1:1). This is the reason that God ceased from His creative activity after completing His work. “Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested (ceased His work) on the seventh day from all his work which he had made” (Genesis 2:1-2).

Fourth, let us consider the law of increasing disorder (the second law of thermodynamics). This law states that, the matrix of existence is running down and will eventually die. It is true that the total energy of the universe is constant, but it continues to be transformed into lower levels of availability. Science cannot explain this phenomenon, but the Bible is clear concerning this phenomenon. The earth was cursed because of sin, and when sin entered creation began to die. When this took place creation also began to groan awaiting its redemption. “For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit (that is to say), the redemption of our body” (Romans 8:22-23).

Fifth, let us consider the study of water properties, distribution, and circulation on the earth and in the atmosphere (hydrology). The Bible gives a detailed description of this cycle. “He bindeth up the waters in his thick clouds; and the cloud is not rent (torn apart) under them” (Job 26:8). Job could be referring to the process of Genesis 1:7. Whether Job had in mind Genesis 1:7 or not, we cannot be sure. But there is one thing for sure, Job understood the cycle of water properties. Water comes down in the form of rain, ascends in the form of vapor, and is held in the clouds until it again descends to the earth. God also has established boundaries for the rivers and oceans. “He cutteth out rivers among the rocks; and his eye seeth every precious thing. He bindeth the floods from overflowing; and the thing that is hid bringeth he forth to light” (Job 28:10:11). David said, “He gathereth the waters of the sea together as an heap; he layeth up the depth in storehouses” (Psalm 33:7). God keeps the oceans in place. David also spoke of the water cycle when he said, “He causeth the vapours to ascend from the ends of the earth; he maketh lightnings for rain; he bringeth the wind out of his treasures” (Psalm 135:7). Here David is describing the cycle of evaporation. The Bible is scientifically correct when it speaks of hydrology.

Sixth, let us notice the study of water bodies (oceans). Long before science discovered that the oceans had mountains and canyons in them, the Bible spoke of this with great accuracy. “And the channels (canyons) of the sea appeared, the foundations of the world were discovered, at the rebuking of the LORD, at the blast of the breath of his nostrils” (2 Samuel 22:16). “The waters compassed me about, even to the soul: the depth closed me round about, the weeds were wrapped about my head. I went down to the bottoms of the mountains; the earth with her bars was about me for ever: yet hast thou brought up my life from corruption, O LORD my God” (Jonah 2:5-6). In this prayer of Jonah, we find him in the belly of a great fish (whale), and he describes for us the mountains under the water.

In closing, I would like for us to note a remarkable statement that is scientifically accurate, which no one can deny. “He stretcheth out the north over the empty place, and hangeth the earth upon nothing” (Job 26:7). The earth is suspended in space and hangeth upon nothing.

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