

Let The Bible Speak, Series
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Guarding The Scientific Integrity of The Bible

Good morning and welcome to our program. It is good to have you with us today. We appreciate the fact that you always set aside this portion of an otherwise busy Sunday morning, to study the bible with us. Today, we want to study with you a lesson titled Guarding The Scientific Integrity of the Bible. Our text comes from 1 Timothy 6:20 which reads as follows: "O Timothy, guard what was committed to your trust, avoiding the profane and idle babblings and contradictions of what is falsely called (science) knowledge." The Bible is not a textbook on knowledge. However it is scientifically accurate. When inspired men speak of things that are scientific in nature, what they say, is in perfect harmony with established scientific fact. Today we're going to study a number of issues that will prove this to be true. The word science is from a Latin word meaning knowledge or what is known.

Many people think that everything a scientist says is scientific or factual, just because he said it. That is not so. A scientist may express an opinion knowing that what he says is actually not a proven fact, but merely his view, i.e. speculation.

Unfortunately many things are called science merely because some scientist has expressed opinions regarding such.

The evolutionary hypothesis is often called science, but it is falsely named. It is pseudoscience, or false science. A theory nothing more.

While the bible is not a textbook on material science, it is nevertheless, scientifically accurate.

Modern science has never disproved the bible in anyway.

The mind that directed the Bible put into it many thoughts that were beyond the range of human comprehension and knowledge at the time they were written.

After practically a lifetime of study, the British philosopher Herbert Spencer (1820-1903) declared that there are basically five fundamentals of science: **time, force, action, space, and matter.**

Some 3000 years prior to Spencer, in Genesis 1:1, the very first verse in the bible, Moses essentially identified those same 5 basic fundamentals when he wrote "In the beginning (time) God (force) created (action) the heavens (space) and the earth (matter).

There is something unique about the Bible. A close examination of its contents reveal startling scientific facts placed there centuries before they were known to modern scientific minds. The foes of the bible declare it to be antiquated, out of date and erroneous. A book that does not deserve serious consideration by modern man.

Robert Ingersoll "The inspiration of the bible depends upon the ignorance of the one who reads it." There is no doubt that bible writers claimed inspiration: 2Tim. 3:16-17.

If their claims were false, there are two options open to us:

1. these men were deluded. They really thought what they wrote was inspired, but it was not.

2. They were deceitful. They knew what they wrote was not inspired. They lied.

Which is correct? The only way to determine is to examine the evidence that either proves or disproves the claim. There are a number of ways in which we could test the accuracy of the Bible. Such as: prophecy, historical accuracy, or its scientific accuracy. Our study concerns the latter.

I. From The Field Of Astronomy

a. In speaking of God, Isaiah said "It is he who sitteth upon the circle of the earth." Isa. 40:22. "circle" from a word that indicates a sphere that is round, as opposed to something flat, square or rectangular. People for years taught that the earth was flat.

Columbus believed them. Magellan, sailed, on order to prove that the earth was spherical in shape. Yet the bible contained scientific foreknowledge that was centuries ahead of its time.

b. Men have always been intrigued with the number of stars in the heavens.

In about 150 BC an astronomer named Hipparchus--counted 1026

In AD 150 Ptolemy counted 1056

In AD 1575, Danish Astronomer Tycho Brahe suggested a figure of 777

In A. D. 1600 German astronomer Johannes Kepler published the number at 1005.

Today we know the figure to be much higher. Carl Sagan of Cornell University once suggested over 25 sextillion that would be 25 with 21 zeroes behind it.

Genesis 15:5 and Jeremiah 33:22 both point out that the stars of the heavens are too numerous to be counted. How did Moses and Jeremiah know this, long before the telescope was invented?

c. Greeks and Romans were advanced in knowledge, yet believed that the earth was held in place by poles, or resting on the neck of Atlas.

Some believed the earth floated on water, yet when men sailed around the earth they discovered it touches nothing. "...he hangeth the earth upon nothing" Job. 26:7 How did Job know?

d. Astronomers have discovered a great empty space in the North. No planets, No stars. Job 26:7 "He stretcheth out the North over the empty places and hangeth the earth upon nothing." Was this a guess by Job?

II. From The Field Of Oceanography

a. Solomon wrote "all the rivers run into the sea, yet the sea is not full; unto the place whither the rivers go, thither they go again." Eccl. 1:7 (this statement may not appear too profound, but is remarkable when one considers:)

The Mississippi moving at normal speed dumps approximately 6,052,500 Gal. of water, per second, into the Gulf of Mexico. That is just one river.

Where does all that water go? The answer lies in the hydrologic cycle that is so well illustrated in the bible. Eccl. 11:3 states "If the clouds be full of rain, they empty themselves upon the earth."

Amos 9:6 notes in speaking of God "He calleth for the waters of the sea, and poureth them out upon the face of the earth; the Lord is his name."

The idea of a complete water cycle was not fully understood or accepted until the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, by such men as Pierre Perrault and Edme Mariotte. Yet 2000 years prior to their work the scriptures had clearly indicated a water cycle. How?

b. Job was asked by God (38:16) "Hast thou entered into the springs of the sea? Or hast thou walked in the recesses of the deep?" What were these recesses or trenches of the deep? Man in previous centuries had considered the seashore as nothing but a shallow, sandy extension moving gently from one continent to another.

In 1873 a team of scientists working in the Pacific Ocean on the British ship 'Challenger' discovered a "recess" over 5 miles deep.

Almost 100 years later in 1960, the Challenger 2, found a trench over 35,840 feet deep (more than 6 miles) within the Pacific Ocean. How could the writer of the book of Job have possibly known about these recesses in the deep?

c. Matthew Fontaine Maury "the pathfinder of the seas" and founder of the science of Oceanography was a student of the Bible.

It was his teaching that caused the Annapolis Academy to be established (Naval Academy) A statue on Monument Row in Richmond, VA with bible in one hand and charts of the sea in the other.

Sickson read to him the 8th Psa. "...the fowls of the air, the fish of the sea, and whatsoever passeth thru the paths of the sea." Told to read again then "if the word of God says there are Paths in the sea, there must be, and I will find them."

Within a few years he had charted the principal lanes or paths of the sea that are still followed by Ocean going vessels today.

III. From The Field Of Medicine

a. Moses told the Israelites in Lev.17:11-14 that "the life of the flesh is in the blood." He was correct. Life is possible because red blood cells carry oxygen (thanks to the hemoglobin found within those cells).

In human red blood cells there are approximately 270,000,000 molecules of hemoglobin per cell. If any less, a person would not have enough residual oxygen to sustain life after an accident that knocks the breath out of them.

We today, know that the "life of the flesh" literally is in the blood. Yet this was unknown in George Washington's day. He died of "bloodletting."

(Often by barber---that is why the barber pole is has red in it)

Moses knew what George's DR's did not.

b. God told Abraham in Gen. 17:12 that on the eighth day newborn Hebrew males were to be circumcised. Why the eighth day?

In 1935 professor H. Dam proposed the name Vitamin K for the factor in foods that helped prevent hemorrhaging in baby chicks.

We now know that Vit. K is responsible for the production of prothrombin by the liver, and if K is not at proper levels, there will be a prothrombin deficiency and hemorrhaging

may occur. However it is only on the 5th-7th days of the newborn male's life that Vit.K begins to be produced (by various bacteria in the intestinal tract) And it is only on the 8th day that the percent of prothrombin actually climbs above 100% of normal. The only day in the entire life of the male that the bloodclotting element prothrombin is above 100% is day eight. The best day for circumcision. How did Moses know?

c. When Moses taught in Lev. 17:15 that an animal which had died naturally is not to be eaten, he provided the Israelites with what we know today as the most advanced public health hygiene regulations. It is against the law to take an animal to slaughter house to be prepared for human consumption. If the animal possessed any disease, it would be advisable for humans to consume tainted meat. How did Moses know?

IV. From The Field Of Physics

In three places in the Bible (Hebrews 1:11; Isaiah 51:6; Psa 102:26) the indication is given that the Earth, like a garment is "wearing out." According to the Second Law of Thermodynamics, energy is becoming less and less available for use.

This means that everything is wearing out or running down and that eventually the universe will experience an event designated as its "heat death" i.e. the point in time when there is no more available energy.

Bible writers knew that the earth was wearing out, yet science only discovered this fact relatively recently.

V. From The Field Of Biology

a. Moses stated more than once in Genesis (1:11, 12, 21, 24) that things reproduce "after their kind." No surprise to us today because we understand genetics and laws of heredity. Buffalo never gives rise to a horse, banana does not give rise to a tomato, a dog does not give rise to a cat etc. Things always reproduce after their own kind and even today that holds true.

But how did Moses know that, long years before the science of genetics which only began in earnest in 1900?

b. Paul stated in 1Cor. 15:39 that there are four types of flesh--those of men, beasts, birds and fishes. Today even evolutionists accept this concept as a recognized fact of science. These four fleshs are different in their biochemical make up.

How could Paul, a preacher of the gospel, have known that? The items we have mentioned could be multiplied. They represent only a meager sampling.

How could bible writers have access to such information unless God, who created the universe and everything in it, told them? The men who wrote the bible were neither deluded, nor deceitful. They were inspired. The bible possesses scientific foreknowledge. Knowledge not available to man at the time it was given, other than inspiration.

2Tim.3:16-17 Today people are beset by wild and false statements coming from the scientific community. Theories about the origin of the universe, origin of man, the age of the earth, how life began, etc. are plentiful.

Speculations run the gamut. But we should remember with David, that "The word of the Lord is right." Science, true science, has never disproved it and never will.

Our faith is founded on the "Book" of all books. The only book "inspired of God."