

Science and the Bible

Psalm 119:160

Introduction:

1. The Bible does not make a claim that it is a science book. Bible language is simple and understandable. The Bible is actually more about history and anything else, the history of the origins, relationships...salvation.
2. **The Bible deals with Seven (7) C's:**
 - a. Creation
 - b. Corruption
 - c. Catastrophe
 - d. Confusion
 - e. Christ
 - f. Cross
 - g. Consummation
3. As a result the Bible does not use scientific language like. If we look to the Bible to learn about science we will be disappointed. However, the Bible does make certain scientific claims that scientists struggled with for many years.
4. **“There is a very sinister idea making the rounds these days, an idea even taught in the schools as the truth. That idea is that science is grounded only in facts and religion is grounded solely in faith in the Bible.”** (Biblica, the International Bible Society)
5. When my wife was pregnant with our first child we read a lot of books (What to expect when expecting) and magazine articles about the stages of fetal growth inside the mother's womb. I wondered, how is it possible that an entire human being begins growing inside my wife? As we saw with amazement the baby kicking from inside the womb I thought, this all began with a single cell. The OBGYN doctor was adamant that my wife eat calcium rich foods to support the bone growth of the baby. Scientist call the bone formation ossification and talk about a gel-like substance coming together to form a skeleton of cartilage and eventually of bone. A baby is born with 300 bones and eventually matures to 206 bones. It's all amazing. The most wise person said, “As you do not know what is the way of the wind, or *how the bones grow in the womb of her who is with child* , so you do not know the works of God who makes everything” (**Ecclesiastes 11:5**) This was his poetic way of saying that God has simply done some things that are beyond our ability to figure out. Some things work because God made them that way.
6. There are some Biblical observations that speak about scientific ways that in days of old scientists struggled with answering how things happen, like “How big are the shoulders of Atlas?” (Gill)

Sermon points

I. Earth's free float in space

A. Different views throughout history

1. Atlas (***who/what held up Atlas?***)
2. Turtle -Hindu, Chinese and Native American cultures (Grundhauser) (***who or what held up the turtle?***)

3. Astronomers later made observations and came to the conclusion that the earth hangs on nothing.

B. **Job 26:7** (Book written approximately 3500 years ago! (Biblica – The International Bible Society)

II. The earth is round

A. Most of us are aware that for many years people thought the earth was flat. (Christopher Columbus sailed the ocean blue in 1492)

B. **Isaiah 40:22** (written 2,800 years ago): “It is He who sits above the circle of the earth.”

III. Laws of thermodynamics

A. First

1. **“This law (also referred to as the Law of the Conservation of Energy and/or Mass) states that neither matter nor energy can be either created or destroyed. There is no “creation” ongoing today. It is “finished” exactly as the Bible states.” (Comfort) “...meaning that energy can be neither created nor destroyed.” (Bahman Zohuri)**

2. **Genesis 2:1;** (after creation): “Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished.”

B. Second

1. The news media and some of our politicians do no tire in telling us that humans are ruing the earth, and if we continue in the way we are going, the earth will eventually be destroyed beyond repair. The Second Law of thermodynamics states “that in all physical processes, every ordered system over time tends to become more disordered.” (Wood)

2. Everything is running down and wearing out as energy is becoming less and less available for use. That means the universe will eventually “wear out”—something that wasn’t discovered by science until fairly recently, sometime during the early 1800’s.

3. **Psalm 102:25-26;** “Of old You founded the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands. Even they will perish, but You endure; and all of them will wear out like a garment”

IV. The hydrologic cycle

A. **The Mississippi River dumps** ≈ 6 million gallons of water PER second into the Gulf of Mexico. The Mississippi is one of thousands of rivers. (Boddy) Where does all that water go Where does all that water go? The answer is in the Hydrologic Cycle (something not fully understood until the 1700’s).

B. **Amos 9:6** (written 2,800 years ago): “He...calls for the waters of the sea, and pours them out on the face of the earth...”

C. **Ecclesiastes 1:7** ; “All the rivers run into the sea, yet the sea is not full; to the place from which the rivers come, there they return again”

D. **Psalm 135:7** tells us, “He causes the vapors to ascend from the ends of the earth; He makes lightning for the rain.”

E. **Ecclesiastes 11:3** states that “if the clouds are full of rain, they empty themselves upon the earth.”

V. The science of oceanography

A. The sea is a huge mass of water. But that mass of water has meaning, purpose and direction. The seas have paths.

- B. **Matthew Maury** served as a U.S. naval officer before suffering an injury which forced his retirement. He was then placed in charge of the Depot of Charts and Instruments of the Hydrographic Office of the Navy from 1841 to 1861. He was a Christian who loved the Word of God.
1. “One day, while reading Psalm 8 (Psalm 8:8), he was struck by an important truth in the 8th verse. There he read that God had given man dominion over “the fowl of the air, and the fish of the sea, and whatsoever passeth through the paths of the seas.” He immediately saw the great practical significance of that verse, recognizing that there must be currents of water in the oceans, just like vast rivers, as well as in the atmosphere (Ecclesiastes 1:6). With confidence in the accuracy of the Bible, Maury determined to discover the paths in the seas and the wind circuits, utilizing the charts and log books he had at his disposal. He did discover and plot many of the wind circuits and currents, such as the great Gulf Current, 40 miles wide and 2,000 feet deep that comes out of the Gulf of Mexico into the Atlantic; the Japanese Current, the California Current, and others. Utilizing this information, the sailing ships of his day plied these currents and wind circuits, reducing by as much as three weeks the time required to cross the oceans.” (Gish)
 2. “**On a monument erected** by the state of Virginia to his memory is found a plaque that reads as follows: “Matthew Fontaine Maury, Pathfinder of the Seas, the genius who first snatched from the oceans and atmosphere the secret of their laws. His inspiration, Holy Writ, Psalm 8:8; Ecclesiastes 1:6.” A genius? No. Just a simple Bible-believing Christian who trusted the inerrancy of the Word of God.” (ibid)

VI. The origin of life

- A. Modern scientists have many theories, and little science about the origin of life.
- B. **Genesis 2:7**; “And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.”
- C. Sir Fred Hoyle, professor of astronomy, Cambridge University; “The likelihood of the spontaneous formation of life from inanimate matter is one to a number with 40,000 noughts after it...It is big enough to bury Darwin and the whole theory of evolution. There was no primeval soup, neither on this planet nor on any other, and if the beginnings of life were not random, they must therefore have been the product of purposeful intelligence.”

VII. Origin of the sexes

A. **Genesis 1:27; Matthew 19:4**

- B. Almost all forms of complex life have both male and female - horses, dogs, humans, etc. The male needs the female to reproduce.
- C. “How is it possible that a male and a female each spontaneously came into being, yet they have complex, complementary reproductive systems? If each sex was able to reproduce without the other, why (and how) would they have developed a reproductive system that requires both sexes in order for the species to survive?” (Comfort)

VIII. How many stars exist?

- A. **Jeremiah 33:22** (written 2,500 years ago): “As the host of heaven cannot be numbered, nor the sand of the sea measured...”
- B. At one time the astronomer and mathematician Ptolemy believed there were ≈ 1100 stars. We **now** know there are billions of stars, they cannot be counted!

IX. Blood is the source of life

- A. **Leviticus 17:11** (written 3,500 years ago): “For the life of the flesh is in the blood.”
- B. The Bible is clear that life is in the blood. Without blood we cannot survive.

1. Blood carries water and food to every cell, removes waste from the body and maintains the body's temperature. If you lose too much blood you will die.
2. Bloodletting was a common form of relieving the body of "bad" blood. George Washington died on 12/14/1799 as a result of his doctors bleeding him to death. They thought he would breathe easier if he did not have all "that blood weighing on his lungs." (Inglis-Arkell)

X. Laws of hygiene

- A. **Leviticus 15:13** (written 3,500 years ago): "And when he who has a discharge is cleansed of his discharge, then he shall count for himself seven days for his cleansing, wash his clothes, and bathe his body in running water; then he shall be clean."
- B. "Cleanliness is close to Godliness" It is believed that someone came up with the slogan in the 18th century to sell bath soap. (Veith, Jr.)
- C. The Bible does teach that one should wash in running water. Why running water? The same reason I don't like to use jacuzzi's or hot tubs at hotels. All that stuff becomes a hot, sweltering stew of filth.
- D. **"Until the 1800s doctors** washed their hands in a basin of still water, leaving invisible germs and resulting in countless deaths. We now know to wash hands under running water. The *Encyclopedia Britannica* documents that in 1845, Dr. Ignaz Semmelweis in Vienna was horrified at the terrible death rate of women who gave birth in hospitals. As many as 30 percent died after giving birth. Semmelweis noted that doctors would examine patients who died, then go straight to the next ward and examine expectant mothers. This was their normal practice, because the presence of microscopic diseases was unknown. Semmelweis insisted that doctors wash their hands before examinations, and the death rate immediately dropped to 2 percent." (Comfort)

XI. Laws of quarantine

- A. **Leviticus 13:46** (written 3,500 years ago): "All the days he has the sore he shall be unclean. He is unclean, and he shall dwell alone; his dwelling shall be outside the camp."
- B. In 1490 BC the Bible tells what to do if someone has leprosy (any skin disease). Not until the 17th century did doctors realize how important it was to quarantine those with infectious diseases.
- C. "During the devastating Black Death of the fourteenth century, patients who were sick or dead were kept in the same rooms as the rest of the family. People often wondered why the disease was affecting so many people at one time. They attributed these epidemics to 'bad air' or 'evil spirits.' However, careful attention to the medical commands of God as revealed in Leviticus would have saved untold millions of lives. Arturo Castiglione wrote about the overwhelming importance of this biblical medical law: 'The laws against leprosy in Leviticus 13 may be regarded as the first model of sanitary legislation'" (Jeffrey)

XII. The Gospel of Christ -video

- A. Man is an interesting creation, always inquisitive, looking to push the envelope, and celebrates when he has made a new discovery.
- B. Solomon says that there is nothing new under the sun. (Ecclesiastes 1:9)
- C. God the Holy Spirit has made sure that the Word has been protected and preserved for our salvation. (John 16:13)
- D. So although the Bible is not a scientific treatise, it is our guidebook for life. It teaches us amazement in the face of life's mysteries. On our sickbed when all the answers of science have been exhausted, we throw ourselves on the hope so wonderfully

described in the Bible. We live here by faith and reach for life beyond the grave. In its pages we find the story of our origin and destiny. Has it become your guidebook, too?

Conclusion:

1. There is nothing wrong with studying science. Thank God for all the sciences that have allowed us to have a better understanding of nature, medicine, life, etc.!
2. The Bible does not depend on science, Science depends on the Bible.
3. Plan of Salvation (Romans 10:13; Romans 10:17; Romans 10:9. Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16)

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always been true. Blood actively maintains life by providing a vital function for all cells, tissues and organs, and thus the life of the whole body. The more we find out about the astounding functional design and complexity of blood, the more marvellous it becomes to us, and the more honour and praise is due its Creator.

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Ver. 160.— Thy Word is true from the beginning; rather, the sum of thy Word is truth. (So

Hengstenberg, Kay, Cheyne, and the Revised Version.) “After examining the Divine

Word, and estimating the value of its several parts, the psalmist found that the final sum

was ‘truth’ —pure, absolute truth” (Kay). And every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever. An emphatic repetition of the statement made in ver. 144.

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