

Sermon Mark S. Aites
SCIENCE AND THE BIBLE

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INTRODUCTION:

1. It is a common fallacy among men to say that the Bible and science contradict one another.
2. Those who oppose religion don't want to admit the scientific accuracy of Scripture.
3. What if I could show you, in the Scriptures, a number of scientific facts which were revealed in Scripture before their discovery by scientists in recent years.
4. The skeptic would be quick to dismiss such an idea, but in fact the Bible does provide a number of these indisputable facts.
5. Now before I do present some of these facts, it seems appropriate to mention that not every scientist denies Scripture.
 - 1) Dr. Carroll Kaokalits, who holds a Ph.D. from the University of Michigan, has done vast research with the Shell Oil Company...and has directed research at the Astro-Tex Chemical Corp.
 - 2) He has openly stated, "It is reasonable to believe that the pattern of natural phenomena is consistent with belief in a Supreme Being."
 - 3) "Both biblical theism and thermodynamics point to a creation date for the cosmos."
 - 4) **Rom. 1:20** *For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse.*
6. It was Harry Rimmer who wrote:
 - 1) "The Bible does contain scientific truth, even though its facts are stated in non-scientific language."
 - 2) "The Bible does not contain the errors and fallacies of science common to the age of its production."
 - 3) "The Bible is in harmony with modern science in that it has anticipated many of the discoveries of these recent centuries."
7. Turning now to these scientific facts, we first want to consider:

DISCUSSION:

I. THE ROUNDNESS OF THE EARTH.

- A. **Isa. 40:22** *It is he that sitteth upon the circle 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.*
 1. Bear in mind that this was written approx. 750 B.C.
 2. Who told Isaiah that the earth was round?
- B. Many people in the past, and surprisingly, even some in our own day, believed the earth to be flat.
 1. When Columbus made his famous voyage there were those who thought that he might risk falling off the ends of the earth; and consider that, that was in the year 1492.
 2. But they had Scripture that told the truth of the matter.
 3. When Isaiah spoke of the *circle* of the earth, he used a Hebrew word that means

- "a ball, a circle, a sphere, something round." (B. Thompson)
3. He was not talking about something flat, but about something circular (like a basketball). (Ibid.)
 4. "We can trust the Bible because it is always right." (Ibid.)

II. THE SUSPENSION OF THE EARTH.

- A. **Job 26:7** *He stretcheth out the north over the empty place, and hangeth the earth upon nothing.*
- B. It is believed that Job was written approx. 2500 B.C., and yet revealed the truth of the suspension of the earth by gravity.
 1. In that day, there was the strange belief that the four corners of the earth were held up by elephants.
 2. Some subscribing to the theory that the earth was held up by Atlas.
 3. The truth of **Job 26:7** wasn't actually realized until about 1475 A.D. by Copernicus, 3,975 years after Job penned his words.
 4. So we return to a familiar question: Who told Job that the earth hanged on nothing?

III. EMPTINESS OVER NORTHERN SPACE.

- A. In the very same verse, **Job 26:7**, Job mentions *stretching out the north over the empty place...*
- B. This truly is amazing, that Scripture would speak of an empty space in the north without stars.
 1. As a matter of fact, this was not scientifically discovered until Lord Rosse's invention of his great telescope in the 1840s.
 2. There is no evidence, outside of Scripture, that man knew there was an area in the north that was void of stars.

IV. THE ONE BED CONNECTING THE OCEANS.

- A. **Gen. 1:9-10** *And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear: and it was so.*
1:10 *And God called the dry land Earth; and the gathering together of the waters called he Seas: and God saw that it was good.*
- B. This was penned approx. 1500 B.C. (It may be a question as to why this would be dated at 1500 B.C. and Job at 2500 B.C.)
 1. Moses is credited with writing the first five books of the Bible.
 2. Although Job may appear later in the Bible itself, it is believed that he lived much earlier than Moses.
- C. The Earth is covered by one hydrosphere or one layer of connecting water.
 1. Even though the ocean is broken up into seven ocean parts, all the oceans are connected, one flowing into the other.
 2. Apart from Scripture, this phenomenon was unknown for many, many centuries.

V. THE LANES OF THE SEAS.

- A. **Psa. 8:8** *The fowl of the air, and the fish of the sea, and whatsoever passeth through the paths of the seas.*
- B. The paths or lanes of the sea are revealed in Scripture approx. 1000 B.C.
- C. M.F. Maury, the founder of the science of oceanography, read this verse and was motivated to seek out and chart the principal lanes of Sea Travel.
 - 1. He charted these paths or lanes in approx. 1854, 2854 years after the Psalmist penned this scientific truth.
 - 2. Again, a valid question arises: Who told the Psalmist about the paths in the seas?

VI. THE INNUMERABLE STARS.

- A. When the Lord God spoke to Abraham:
Gen. 15:4-5 *And, behold, the word of the LORD came unto him, saying, This shall not be thine heir; but he that shall come forth out of thine own bowels shall be thine heir. 15:5 And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be.*

Jer. 33:22 *As the host of heaven cannot be numbered, neither the sand of the sea measured: so will I multiply the seed of David my servant, and the Levites that minister unto me.*
- B. Hipparchus said there were only 1,022 stars. Ptolemy is reported to have said that there were 1,026.
 - 1. I have to admire the patience of any individual who is insane enough to stand outside and count the stars at night.
 - 2. And what do you do if you lose count and have to start over? (956, 957, oh wait, did I count those 3 over there, now where was I?).
- C. Actually it was Galileo who was the first to openly teach that the stars cannot be numbered.
- D. Of interest in our day, “the Hubble Guide Star Catalogues contain entries for 15 million stars.” And that is just the ones that have been cataloged.
 - 1. It sorts of makes you wonder what Hipparchus and Ptolemy would say to that interesting piece of information?
 - 2. Isn't it something that Moses and Jeremiah informed us the stars were innumerable long before man finally admitted it.

VII. MESSAGES SENT BY LIGHTNING.

- A. **Job 38:35** *Canst thou send lightnings, that they may go and say unto thee, Here we are?*
- B. Of interest, lightning is the only word that the Hebrews had which referred to electricity as we know it.
- C. It is fascinating to think that Job was writing about the ability to send a message in such a fashion.
- D. Who would have imagined that God would have revealed such an ability long before

the modern radio that actually proves this scientific fact.

E. Who told Job about radio waves?

VIII. THE EARTH REVOLVES AROUND THE SUN.

- A. **Isaiah 38:5-8** *Go, and say to Hezekiah, Thus saith the LORD, the God of David thy father, I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears: behold, I will add unto thy days fifteen years.*
38:6 *And I will deliver thee and this city out of the hand of the king of Assyria: and I will defend this city.*
38:7 *And this shall be a sign unto thee from the LORD, that the LORD will do this thing that he hath spoken;*
38:8 *Behold, I will bring again the shadow of the degrees, which is gone down in the sun dial of Ahaz, ten degrees backward. So the sun returned ten degrees, by which degrees it was gone down.*
- B. Mike Scott: "In Old Testament times the Hebrews believed that the sun traveled around the earth, and the earth was stationary and the center of the universe. This concept was held by most of the world at the time, and did not change for thousands of years until Western astronomers proved through the use of telescopes that the earth revolves around the sun, and that the sun is the center of the solar system."
- C. The realization of the earth revolving around the sun is again credited to Copernicus approx. 1500 A.D. some 2200 years after God revealed it through the prophet Isaiah.

IX. THE LIFE OF THE FLESH IS IN THE BLOOD.

- A. **Lev. 17:11** *For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.*
- B. Throughout history, there have been those who believed that disease and spirits reside in the blood. In fact the only remedy was to bleed the patient.
- C. In 1618, William Harvey was appointed the personal physician to James 1st.
1. His famous document regarding blood was published in 1628 and remains one of the marvels from that era.
 2. "The heart of animals is the foundation of their life, the sovereign of everything within them, the sun of their microcosm, that upon which all growth depends, from which all power proceeds."
 3. "The heart, it is vulgarly said, is the fountain and workshop of the vital spirits, the centre from which life is dispensed to the several parts of the body."
 4. "The heart, consequently, is the beginning of life; the sun of the microcosm, even as the sun in his turn might well be designated the heart of the world; for it is the heart by whose virtue and pulse the blood is moved, perfected, and made nutrient, and is preserved from corruption and coagulation; it is the household divinity which, discharging its function, nourishes, cherishes, quickens the whole body, and is indeed the foundation of life, the source of all action."
- D. It is remarkable that William Harvey came to these conclusions in 1628, centuries after Moses penned Leviticus.

X. RAIN CLOUDS ARE EVAPORATED WATER.

- A. **Ecc. 1:6-7** *The wind goeth toward the south, and turneth about unto the north; it whirleth about continually, and the wind returneth again according to his circuits. 1:7 All the rivers run into the sea; yet the sea is not full; unto the place from whence the rivers come, thither they return again.*
- B. We note that the author speaks of the winds that have regular circuits, that is, winds on every side.
- C. Also, the process of evaporation. (Taken from internet)
 - 1. In this process, the water seems to disappear from sidewalks, streets, clothing, etc. and is absorbed back into the air.
 - 2. The more that the water is exposed to the air, through wind currents, the faster the process of evaporation.
- D. This is remarkable in that Solomon revealed this long before man discovered this process in 1630 A.D.

XI. TO COMBINE CHEMICALLY, SUBSTANCES MUST BE MEASURED IN EXACT PROPORTION.

- A. **Isa. 40:12** *Who hath measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, and meted out heaven with the span, and comprehended the dust of the earth in a measure, and weighed the mountains in scales, and the hills in a balance?*
- B. God has carefully measured and weighed the ingredients of every substance that He has created.
 - 1. What is remarkable in this, is that substances will only chemically bond if they are in exact proportions.
 - 2. Actually, it was more of a recent discovery that chemists accepted this truth, i.e. that all substances must be exact in proportion to combine.
- C. And yet, God alluded to this through the prophet Isaiah some 700 years before Christ walked the face of this earth in His public ministry.

XII. NOAH'S ARK, THE PERFECT RATIO.

- A. We learn in **Gen. 6:15**, that God commanded Noah to build an ark that was 300 cubits long, 50 cubits wide, and 30 cubits high. (Following from Kyle Butt)
 - 1. "This is a ratio of 30 to 5 to 3 (length to breadth to height).
 - 2. Until about 1858, the ark was the largest floating ship ever created. In terms that we understand better, the ark was about 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high.
 - 3. In 1844, a man named Isambard K. Brunel built his giant ship, the *Great Britain*. He used almost the exact ratio of the ark—30:5:3. As it turns out, these dimensions are the perfect ratio for a huge boat built for seaworthiness and not for speed.
 - 4. Obviously the ark was not built for speed, since it had nowhere to go!
 - 5. What is more, shipbuilders during World War II used that 30:5:3 ratio to build a

boat that came to be known as “the ugly duckling”—a barge-like boat built to carry tremendous amounts of cargo, and one that had the same ratio as the ark.

6. Question: How did Noah know the perfect seagoing ratio to use in building the ark? Brunel and others like him had many generations of shipbuilding knowledge to use, but Noah’s literally was the first of its kind.”
7. Where did he get such information? From the Master Builder!

XIII. THE STARS MOVE THROUGH SPACE.

- A. **Job 38:31-33** *Canst thou bind the sweet influences of Pleiades, or loose the bands of Orion?*
38:32 *Canst thou bring forth Mazzaroth in his season? or canst thou guide Arcturus with his sons?*
38:33 *Knowest thou the ordinances of heaven? canst thou set the dominion thereof in the earth?*
- B. Job alludes here to the fact that the stars move through space.
 1. This was not actually an accepted fact until the 19th century.
 2. Job did not possess a telescope, nor have an observatory to go and monitor the heavens.
- C. Dr. Odenwald: “In the Milky Way, stars can move as fast as 500 kilometers per second if they live in the halo, or in the nuclear regions of the Milky Way, or as slowly as a few kilometers per second if they live in globular clusters. Of course, all motion is relative so we have to specify what our local standard of rest is. For the halo/core stars we can choose the core of the Milky Way, for globular clusters it is the center of mass of the cluster. Our own Sun is moving through space at about 30 kilometers per second in the direction of the star Vega. Of course, the entire solar system is moving with this same speed and direction so we experience nothing out of the ordinary except that astronomers notice a small but systematic parallax due to the solar motion. In 10 years, the sun's motion towards Vega amounts to about 900 million kilometers. The corresponding parallactic angular shift can be seen in the positions of nearby stars.
- C. All of this is fascinating information, yet one has to wonder, how did Job know this was the case?

CONCLUSION:

1. These examples, and many more, show that Scripture does indeed provide scientific information, and at that, accurate information.
2. How did the Bible writers know these things?
 - 1) Did they arrive at their conclusions by sheer accident?
 - 2) As one writer suggests, that would be the greatest miracle of history.
3. If in fact these matters were all of coincidence, and were simply the product of the minds of men doing guess work, then we would expect to find a mistake.
4. If a mathematician were to calculate the probability of each of these scientific discoveries being 100% accurate, I am sure we would be astounded at the odds that he or she would

state for this to be the case.

5. **Heb. 11:1**, *Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*
6. Man holds to theories which are leaps in the dark, and require absolute faith without any basis whatsoever.
7. Christianity, however, is not a baseless faith. We have abundant evidence to believe that God is real, and that the Bible is His Word.
2 Pet. 1:20-21 *Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.*
1:21 *For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.*
8. **Rom. 1:20** *For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse.*
9. **Psa. 19:1** *The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.*
10. The evidence for God is overwhelming. What is holding you back from giving your life to Him, and yielding to His will?
11. Plan of Salvation