

Science and the Bible E-Zine

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"Truth: That which is in accord with fact and reality."

This is written so that you may believe the bible because of science rather than in spite of science.

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1) What's Been Happening at Science and the Bible?

By Max B. Frederick, AnOldScientist

Recently I have attended creation seminars from each of the two main sides of the debate over the age of the earth. Both sides have one thing in common. Their major thrust lacks coverage of what the bible really has to say on the subject. The bible has lots to say, and most seminar speakers ignore most of it.

Almost universally, creation seminar speakers appear to accept the assumption that the six day schedule of creation is the, "official" biblical timeline, and try to reconcile that assumption with reality by either re-interpreting science to indicate a shortness of time, or re-interpreting the six days to be a long time.

So, this month an article by the controversial Rocky Foghorn is included. This article points out the problem of arguing over irrelevant issues such as interpretations of time lines, and why we should stick to the obvious truth such as reality and the facts as stated in the bible and seen in the creation itself.

2) When Reality and Religion Meet:

The following article does not necessarily represent the views or opinions of the staff or management of The Science and the Bible E-Zine. It is included here for the purpose of promoting discussion.

When Reality and Religion Meet

By Rocky Foghorn¹

*“The greatest adversary of the six day schedule of creation
is not modern science,
is not promoters of the theory of evolution,
is not the work of the devil.
It is reality as recorded in the bible itself.”
... Rocky Foghorn*

When reality and religion meet there is a crisis.

Bitter disputes arise, tempers flare, antagonism proliferates, condemnation abounds, arrogance thrives, haughtiness rules. But the truth eventually wins out. In the end the ancient scripture of the bible is proven true, and human religious interpretation is proven faulty.

Currently Christianity is facing a crisis in the realm of science and the bible.

Today’s crisis has the potential of recognizing the fact that the same truth found both in science and in the bible is in accord with reality and the opinions found in both are the source of all the discord.

It has happened before. The issues are different. But the pattern is the same. Human religious opinions lack reality. Ancient bible scripture is in accord with reality.

Even though this is a new crisis, it is not without precedence. The last such crisis resulted in the great separation of science and religion almost four hundred years ago.

Today we are at that crisis point again.

In 1632 Religion met Reality.

The year 1632 saw one of the most significant events in church history. Yet, it is not even mentioned in most church history books. That year saw the culmination of the great separation between science and religion. The great scientist Galileo published scientific reality and was later charged with heresy for teaching religion without a license. He was teaching reality that was contrary to their religious interpretation of

¹ Rocky Foghorn is the pseudonym for a Christian commentator/author who wishes to remain anonymous. Rocky Foghorn is a voice crying out in the intellectual fog warning others of the dangers that lie hidden in that fog.

the bible. That was only a little less than four hundred years ago. Only since that time, has Religion and Science become adversaries in the search for the truth.

For thousands of years, people looked to two different sources for truth about where we came from. Science and religion had long been considered two different ways of finding the same truth. Science had been the observation of evidence, the study of, reality itself. Religion had been the revelation from some higher authority concerning that same truth.

For centuries theologians had been certain they knew exactly what the bible meant in particular passages that were related to science, but they were wrong. The bible was not wrong. Theologians were wrong. But it took many years for them to come to that realization. That interpretation was not what the bible was saying. It was only an interpretation. Theologians were out of touch with reality.

For centuries science had assumed the earth was the center of the universe. Of course, theologians were delighted when their holy book said, "*the world also is stablished, that it cannot be moved.*" (Psalm 93:1) They interpreted that, and other similarly misinterpreted passages to indicate the bible taught exactly the same thing that the science of that day had observed, that the planet earth was the center of the universe.

Then science changed its mind and Galileo dared publish reality. That left religion on the wrong side of reality, not realizing the bible was on the right side of reality.

Eventually theologians realized that passage was not even talking about the planet earth. The "world" or "earth" it was talking about was the dry ground, the inhabitable parts of the planet that are surrounded by sea. The occasion was shortly after the continents rose from beneath sea level as described in the events leading up to Genesis 1:10, "*And God called the dry [land] Earth.*" This event established the dry land (continents) so that they would never again cease to exist. It never had anything to do with planetary motion.

It was not until 1992, after over 350 years of being on the wrong side of reality, that the church finally admitted their error and formally apologized² to Galileo.

But it had resulted in completing the great separation of science and religion.

Ever since that event, nearly four hundred years ago, bible scholars have been forced to choose between science and religion. As a result, many religious leaders have refused to even consider science because they are convinced that science is deceiving. And science has had little to do with religion because religion has been so out of touch with reality.

The tragedy then was the same as today.

The result was the loss of many souls. As religion dogmatically clung to a non-realistic interpretation of the bible, people turned to reality as presented by science.

² October 31, 1992 the Catholic Church issued an apology and formal vindication of Galileo—over three hundred-fifty years after he was convicted of heresy on June 22, 1633

It was not the bible, not science, but religion clinging to an erroneous, traditional, non-realistic interpretation of the bible, that led to the loss of thousands of souls.

In the centuries since Galileo, scholars, believing the theologians interpretations are what the bible really says, have wrestled over the decision to go with that non-reality of religion, or with the reality as presented by science. Not willing to be guilty of believing something they know is not true, many have chosen reality, forced to abandon the bible by the unrealistic religious dogmatism of theologians.

It has been said that the study of science does not lead anyone to Christ. But I say, ignoring reality has lead to the loss of many souls. When religious misinterpretation strays from reality, it discredits the bible. The enemies of Christ use it as a tool to pry Christians away. And their success rate is high, some estimate seventy-five percent of young people lose their Christianity the first year of college. They do not become less religious, their religiosity is just re-directed toward humanistic endeavors.³

All this can be traced directly back to the meeting of reality and religion at the time of Galileo, and the religious clinging to unreality in the years since.⁴

History Repeats Itself:

Today we are at that crisis point again.

Reality is meeting with religion.

In 1633, Galileo was convicted of heresy and excommunicated⁵ by the church for revealing reality.

In Jesus time, the Pharisees were more influenced by their traditional religious interpretation than by the reality of what the ancient scriptures actually said.

Today, theologians and masses of their followers are more influenced by religious pontifications by authorities than by the facts recorded in the ancient scripture. In

³ On February 5, 2007, a preliminary report entitled: *How Corrosive Is College to Religious Faith and Practice?* Was published by researchers at the University of Texas at Austin. Later that year, along with another researcher from the same university, the final version, *Losing My Religion: The Social Sources of Religious Decline in Early Adulthood*, was published in *Social Forces*, Volume 85, Number 4, June, 2007.

⁴ Just to make it clear, I am not promoting evolution taking the place of the creative feats of God. While many scientists maintain that the rise of a new species can be spontaneous and explained by mechanisms attributed to evolution, the bible clearly states that we were made by God, we did not make ourselves, “*Know ye that the LORD he [is] God: [it is] he [that] hath made us, and not we ourselves.*” Psalms 100:3 (KJV) A very conservative interpretation of that statement would be that when the new species that we are came into existence, it may have been the result of all that had gone before, but it did not happen without the infusion of some kind of intelligent interaction directly from God. Both the bible and evolutionists agree that there have been complex species in the past that have gone extinct and other newer species arose to fill their ecological niche. But the bible and evolutionists differ in that the bible attributes the appearance of a new life form to the creativeness of God while evolutionists attribute it to spontaneous generation. Therein lies the disagreement.

⁵ Which means he was considered unsaved, and doing the work of the devil.

like manner, scholars of today who dare to reveal what the bible really says, are ostracized and shunned by those who claim their interpretation of the bible must be believed, or the bible cannot be true.

Today, again, we see religious factions looking upon others with haughty eyes⁶, a condescending, “holier than thou” attitude of rejection. Holding their own interpretation to be the word of God, they put down others by saying things such as, “they are doing the work of the devil,” or “If you can’t believe this is what the bible says, you cannot believe anything the bible says and your salvation is in jeopardy.”

Even now, we are a generation of religious scholars still held in the death grip of erroneous interpretations of scripture based on ancient antique Greek science of an era when science and religion were considered equal paths to the truth. Many bible scholars are even now appealing to ancient antique Greek science to defend their religious interpretation of scripture against the reality of facts discovered by modern science. They are unaware the same facts of reality were originally pre-published in the bible thousands of years before modern science made the same discoveries.

Again, it is reality against religion. Again, many bible scholars of today are unaware of the fact that the bible is on the side of reality, not religion.

The Issues of Division Today:

This time the subject is the origins rather than planetary motion.

But the pattern is the same.

Again, religion is unaware, or ignores what the bible really has to say on the subject. Instead, dogmatic clinging to interpretations based on faulty antique science demands center stage, while the bible is quietly waiting on the side of reality.

Creation as opposed to spontaneous generation should be the debate. This issue, and this issue alone, is the disagreement between modern science and the ancient scriptures of the bible. The disagreement is not in what happened, or when it happened. They both agree on the reality of those issues. The only disagreement is on why it happened. Was it caused? Was it for a purpose? Was it just an accident?

We should be discovering what the bible says, and what science verifies.

Instead, we religious leaders are doggedly confronting differences in religious interpretations of the bible with the vigor that should be directed at discovering the reality of what the bible really says on the subject. Debate is centered around whether or not the bible is literally or figuratively out of touch with reality. If we would dare to look, we would discover the bible is actually in accord with reality and what we are debating is not what the bible actually teaches.

⁶ Haughty eyes, the arrogant pride of looking down upon others as inferior, is first of the deadly sins of Proverbs Pro 6:16-19, *There are six things which the LORD hates, Yes, seven which are an abomination to Him: Haughty eyes, a lying tongue, And hands that shed innocent blood, A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that run rapidly to evil, A false witness {who} utters lies, And one who spreads strife among brothers.* (NASB)

Creation seminars in particular have a common woeful lack of teaching on what the bible actually says concerning the origins. It is like they are afraid to go there.

So, What Does the Bible Really Say?

The bible really has a lot to say about creation and the origins. There are at least three dozen different major God given accounts of creation⁷. Within these accounts is found a sequence of events that spans over many eons, from the setting up of the conditions for the beginning of the current universe in the Eon of Eternity Past to the creation of the New Heaven and New Earth in the Eon of Eternity Future. The timeline of creation is not limited to just six days a few thousand years ago. Only two Mosaic accounts put it in a framework of days. One of them has it arranged into six days of creation. The other has creation arranged into just one day of creation. More than a dozen of those major biblical creation accounts contain a record of the event sequence. All of them put together present a biblical timeline of creation events that is consistent throughout all of the biblical accounts, and consistent with reality as observed in the creation itself, even as observed by modern science.

The sequence of events in each of the biblical accounts is not always straight⁸ through from beginning to end.

Some have reverse chronology expressing something happened, but before that something else happened.

Some start in the middle of the timeline and work back in time to the beginning then return to the middle and go forward in time. A favorite middle point in biblical accounts is the beginning of the geologic record⁹.

Some have a dual pass. Typical is the six day account commonly interpreted as a straight through timeline. But when compared to the other biblical accounts this account obviously contains two passes¹⁰ through the timeline.

All told, when combining all the sequence information, the result is a timeline that stretches from Eternity Past to Eternity Future, from Everlasting to Everlasting¹¹.

⁷ A list of thirty-six creation accounts can be found at www.scienceandthebible.info/reports/art080930_34_accounts.pdf. Two of them are written in the creation itself, and at least thirty-four are recorded in the bible. All agree on the sequence of events.

⁸ Psalm 104 is an example of a creation account with a straight through timeline of creation events. That account spans from the creation of light to the existence of humans with God in the Eon of Eternity Future.

⁹ This event, the beginning of the geologic record, is mentioned in at least eight different accounts. Some young earth scholars scoff at the long time indicated in the geologic record; but in the bible, the geologic record is only a small fraction of the time involved sequence of creation events. The origin and development of the universe, including the time before land appeared on planet earth, occurred before the beginning of the geologic record. The future creation and habitation of a New Heaven and New Earth are far beyond the end of the geologic record.

¹⁰ In the first pass, days one through three lists important details in setting up the botany side of the food chain, from light through photosynthesis. In the second pass, days four through six are significant events in setting up the zoology side of the food chain from the circadian cycles, through the Cambrian explosion, the era of megafauna, and finally the era of mammals.

That common timeline is the reality in all the biblical creation accounts. And it is not the six days superimposed over the common timeline in only one of those accounts.

The problem of whether to interpret the superimposed six-day timeline literally or figuratively goes away when we discover the timeline common to all the accounts is in accord with reality and the six day timeline is not in accord with either reality or with the timeline common to all the biblical creation accounts.

*“Our problem is that theologians today have difficulty imagining:
reality in the realm of science, is as it really is,
is as it is actually taught in the bible itself.”*

... Rocky Foghorn

Other Useful Information:

For thousands of years both science and the bible have been considered to be valid routes to the truth. Some would like to elevate the bible over science. Others would like to elevate science over the bible. When both agree on the facts, and when boiled down to the facts, they do, the confidence in both is enhanced.

Science is humans seeking knowledge of reality through study or practice.¹²

The bible is the revelation of knowledge of reality by divine intervention.

The bible was over fifteen hundred years in the writing.

Some scholars, critics of the authenticity of the bible have used much of the same evidence to make the claim that the writings attributed to Moses were in fact only oral traditions handed down until after the Babylonian captivity. The correctness of the exact words used to record the science found there is revealed in modern times. It becomes obvious that it is impossible for this collection to have passed through oral traditions handed down through a culture that did not understand the science recorded therein. The writings up to, and through king Solomon reveal that among Hebrew scholars, there was a much greater understanding of the scientific details surrounding the origins prior to the Babylonian captivity.

The book of Genesis was put together by Moses over thirty-five hundred years ago. But the science included in that book was much older. Some of it is from the Book of Job, which was written long before the book of Genesis.

This assemblage of the first book of the bible is not much different from the assemblage of the complete bible as we have it today¹³. Just as in the process of

¹¹ Psalm 90 is referred to as the “*Everlasting to Everlasting*” creation account.

¹² Some would like to define science to include some scientific method. But science existed long before the scientific method or mathematics became the dominate feature. To the layman, science is simply humans seeking to find the truth about reality for themselves, and with rigorous discipline.

¹³ Some theologians get upset about the concept that some of the writings in the bible existed prior to being recorded in the bible, claiming the religion of the bible is just plagiarized from more ancient religions. No one gets into a twist about the fact that humans had a hand in either the writing or the assembling those ancient scriptures into an official “Bible.” Those who believe in the inerrancy of the

canonization of the bible, human effort was used to collect more ancient scripture into a comprehensive book. Unlike the processes of canonization, little is known of the sources previous to that time in history. We do know that Moses was a highly educated man, educated in the palace of center of the most advanced culture of the world up to that time. Obviously he had access to the sources that he assembled into this collection.

Over the centuries, the interpretation of science derived knowledge has had great influence over the interpretation of the bible. Translators of the bible have been careful not to make the ancient scriptures look bad by making the translation say something that they think they know is not true.¹⁴ In fact, they bend over backward to make it say what they think they know is true.

So, the question remains:

How do you explain the conflict between the six-day schedule of creation and what the rest of the bible has to say.

There is an old scientist who has spent many years researching the bible, and claims to have discovered the fact that all of the many biblical creation accounts that have details of the chronology present a schedule of creation that stretches from before the origin of this universe to after the origin of the future New Heaven and New Earth. And all those details are in accord with reality as being discovered by modern science in our time, but in conflict with the traditional six-day time-line.

He says, even in the account that has the six day schedule, there is another chronology that is in accord with the rest of the bible, and in accord with reality, where the six day sequence is in agreement with neither. He says that six day schedule is superimposed over the original sequence that is in accord with the rest of the bible.

His work is published in a book called, *Eyewitness to the Origins*. He says you can order it from any bookstore, or online at, www.EyewitnessToTheOrigins.com.

In summary:

bible simply accept the idea that God supernaturally guided those humans to do it right. If that is true, so it is with the assembling of the book of Genesis by Moses.

Other scholars, critics of the authenticity of the bible have used much of the same evidence to make the claim that the writings attributed to Moses were in fact only oral traditions handed down until after the Babylonian captivity. The correctness of the exact words used to record the science found there if revealed in modern times, it becomes obvious that it is impossible for this a collection to have passed through oral traditions handed down through a culture that did not understand the science recorded therein. The writings up to, and through king Solomon reveal a much greater understanding of the scientific details surrounding the origins prior to the Babylonian captivity.

¹⁴ The examples are many. And it has been going on for over two thousand years. First it was the ancient Greek science that had influence over the translation of the Septuagint (LXX) Then it was interpretations of that ancient, antique Greek science that influenced the translation of the King James English Version. Now, it is the modern versions that are able to translate science related passages more closely to the original meaning because of discoveries of reality by modern science.

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