

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 Happening at Science and the Bible?

By Max B. Frederick, AnOldScientist

For weeks, that have grown into months, I have been struggling with how to present the inadequacy of what we know about what the bible says about the physical universe. For weeks I have been working on an article for this issue on "How do we Know?" But it is a heavy topic and I am putting it off for at least another month.

In the meantime, this issue will contain a lighter topic. Maybe it even borders on science fiction, but just for the fun of it, it is worth the stimulation of the imagination.

The problem that has been bothering me is the common lack of knowledge of what the bible really says. That lack of knowledge is rampant among theologians who present seminars, debates, and even apologetics classes on the topic of science and the bible. Common to all presentations I have observed, are two erroneous assumptions. One is that the presenter understands the view of those who do not believe the bible because of science. The other is that the presenter knows what the bible actually says. That second assumption is even more insidious than the first.

The lack of knowledge about what the bible really says when touching on facts in the realm of science, is common to both views on the subject. In fact, neither side, especially those presenting the biblical point of view, really knows the depth of facts presented in the ancient scripture of the bible. Very little time is spent presenting what the bible really says.

Most theologians put great effort goes into an unrealistic presentation of something attributed to the other side of the debate, then shooting it down, when it is not what the other side believes anyway. For example, great effort is put into defeating insignificant details of the theory of evolution, when the significant detail is the ultimate origins. Modern science itself is coming to the realization that evolution cannot explain the ultimate origin of anything. The evolutionary explanation is only holding on until modern science can find a replacement theory that is suitable to their philosophy of spontaneous generation. We are seeing a repeat of what was done in 1859 when the earlier theory of spontaneous generation was finally laid to rest the same year Darwin published the new theory we know as evolution. Currently modern science is devising a new theory of spontaneous generation. So why waste our time defeating that which will soon be replaced?

We should be presenting the true facts as presented in the bible. These true facts will not change. These are the same true facts recently discovered by modern science, but recorded in the bible thousands of years before their discovery by modern science.

But how can we present what the bible says when we ourselves fail to understand it?

The first problem is the lack of understanding by bible translators of facts recorded in the ancient scripture that are in the realm now claimed by modern science. Many such facts are recorded in the ancient scripture, misunderstood by translators, and rendered into nonsensical religious sounding theobabble, thus obscuring the existence of pre-recorded facts that were later to be discovered by modern science.

Second is the common lack of recognition of the fact that there are about three dozen major biblical accounts of the origins, not just the one up front in the bible.

Third is the lack of recognition that there is a myriad of facts, including chronology, recorded in at least fifteen of these biblical creation accounts. This chronology information is common to all accounts and consistent from account to account, and in accord with reality as recently and independently discovered by modern science.

Great resistance to recognition of what all biblical accounts combined really say concerning the origins is due to the fact that such recognition would require the abandonment of much traditional theology that has been built on traditional misinterpretation of just one of those accounts.

All this adds up to the fact that what theologians have traditionally interpreted the bible to say about the origins is mostly from their imagination starting with a single account.

There are many pitfalls to be avoided when one brings up the topic of science and religion.

So instead, this month, we will do an exercise in imagination.

2) Time and Eternity - An Exercise in Imagination

By **Max B. Frederick, AnOldScientist**

"All truth passes through three stages. First, it is ridiculed. Second, it is violently opposed. Third, it is accepted as being self-evident."

German philosopher Arthur Schopenhauer (1788 - 1860)

I got an email from an E-Zine reader, Roger. I like the way his mind works in stretching the imagination. As I vaguely remember, somewhere in the bible it says something like human imagination is unable to conceive of God's thoughts. So, a little stretching of the imagination might be reaching out toward reality.

Hi Max-

I have been in thought lately on the subject that Isaiah 46:10 records saying that God knew the end before the beginning.

It is becoming more and more obvious that while God had lots of time (who knows how long) before He created anything to decide how things would be in the end and how they would come to be.

In my mind I see Him starting at the end and going toward the beginning. I'm not too sure that He didn't record His plans in a book. Thus having everything preplanned before the 6 days of creation ever began so that everything would fit together. From Atoms - to Mountains - From Micro-organisms to Giant Whales. From Skeptics to Absolutes - from Idols Worshipers to God Believers.

As a result it was simple for Him to inject prophecies along the way, they were authored right into the story to let us know where we are in the this adventure.

I thank God for the Bible that we have been gifted with. What we have was given by design and whatever so called errors and questions were placed there by sovereign design to cause us to have to rely on consulting the Author and the Finisher for understanding.

God most likely knew that we would have this discussion long ago.

That is the kind of God that I want to place my trust in - One that knew the end before the beginning! Praise the Lord!

I'll accept rebuke if I am in error

Love ya

Roger

Maybe Roger is on to something.

Imagine for a moment a multi-dimensional problem.

It has been proposed that the relationship between time and eternity may give a clue in that this universe may have less dimensions than the totality of eternity.

This really is an exercise in imagination. You can obviously see this in the above statement, because eternity is infinite, and infinite cannot be totaled. So withhold your comments about reality while we exercise the imagination.

Essentially, this universe exists in four dimensions. Space is three dimensional, length, height, and depth. In this space, there exists matter. But matter also co-exists with energy as evidenced by motion. But for motion to exist there must be time. A particle of matter cannot exist in two places at once, nor can two particles of matter occupy the same place at the same time. Time is the fourth dimension of this universe.

In this universe, time is a single dimension. It moves in a single direction and is defined by a single number along a continuum. Imagine for a moment a piece of paper with a single line drawn across it from left to right. This line is to represent time. At the left edge is the time of the origin of this universe, and at the right edge of the paper is the end of this universe. That line is a timeline representing the totality of time.

It has been said that space, time, matter, and energy all came into existence simultaneously at the beginning of the universe, because none can exist without the other three.

But the big question then becomes, what exists in the absence of the universe. Something had to exist to set up the conditions for the universe to come into existence. For everything that exists, there is a cause. (This is one of those self evident truths that is currently accepted.)

Imagine for a moment, outside, and independent of the universe of space, time, matter and energy, there is an existence.

In that existence, could there be something analogous to time as we know it, but more complex? Something in a different dimension, or possibly time in two or more dimensions.

For us to imagine time in multiple dimensions, let us consider our understanding of location. Imagine a location along a road as being in one dimension. To say where that location is, you just give the location along the road, such as milepost 27.

Likewise, imagine time. Imagine a timeline in this universe to be drawn as a line, like a road, across a page of paper. The future is to the right and the past to the left. To specify a time you might say the beginning of year 27.

Now, if there are side roads, that would be two dimensions, and you have to give two pieces of information. You might say 500 feet north of milepost 27.

Likewise, imagine two dimensional time as a sheet of paper with normal time going from left to right, and the second dimension going from top to bottom.

Now, with that firmly in mind, imagine being in, say, two dimensional time outside the universe. This would be when the universe did not yet exist. Lets say you are traveling in time down the page until you come to the horizontal line of the time in this universe. You come to it all, from far past to far future, at the same time as you travel down the page. In this extra dimensional time, the existence of the universe, from beginning to end, would appear all at once, including all universal time.

Then, when you get on the other side of the timeline of the universe, you look around and see other people.

“Who are you?”

“Moses.”

“Who are you?”

“Peter.”

“Where did you come from?”

“I was just hanging there upside down, and all of a sudden you appear.”

“How long you been here?”

“I just got here.”

Someone else says, “Hey, I know you, you are my great, great, great, great, great, great, grandfather. I saw a picture of you, yesterday.”

From this external existence could we view the universe as it exists all along that timeline, at the same time?

Then, you turn around and look behind you, and you see the whole universe, from beginning to end, the way God visualized it from the other side before it existed.

I warned you it was an exercise in imagination.

But that is what you do in a think tank. You turn on your imagination, no criticism allowed, and one idea leads to another and eventually you come up with an idea that is testable, and you call it an hypothesis. After the wild imagination stage, after all inhibitions have been discarded for a season, it is then that reality sets in and the testing begins. It is then that you take a good hard look at reality and test your ideas, and if it passes the first tests, you venture to reveal your thoughts to the public for further testing.

3) Fine Tuning of Nature – An Argument for Intelligent Design?

Fine Tuning of Nature

An Argument For Intelligent Design?

By Max B. Frederick, AnOldScientist

Whether *Fine Tuning of Nature* be true or not true, is not the issue.

Fine tuning of the forces of nature such that they are impossible to re-create without intelligent design is a good argument for human's ability to destroy a delicately balanced ecology, but not a good argument for intelligent design. Take for example, just one supposedly *finetuned* feature.

It has been observed that if the exact percentage of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere were not what it exactly is, ecology as it exists would not exist. Whether or not that observation is of any merit is irrelevant. Its application in the argument as to intelligent design, on the surface, seems convincing. But reality needs to be considered.

A contrary observation has also been made that the most durable feature on the surface of the earth is not the hard rocks. It is ecology. The casual observer might conclude that hard rocks have to be the most durable feature. But that is not so. The rocks are continuously eroding and crumbling away. Yet ecology continues. Ecology has continued ever since complex life forms first appeared on this planet. Mountains grow, mountains erode away. Mountains rise up and valleys fall down. Volcanic ash covers the earth only to be eroded away.

Ecology has taken its hard knocks. Meteorites strike the planet causing mass extinction and temporary destruction of ecology worldwide, for a while. But ecology continues to find a way.

How does life find a way? How does ecology continue no matter what major catastrophe challenges it?

It is not the precarious balance of *fine tuning*. It is not the frailness implied in the argument that everything must be held in a delicate balance by some invisible intelligence.

It is the self-correcting features built into nature that enable ecology to be the most durable feature on the face of this planet.

Consider our example, the exact percentage of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, and the self correcting features of the hydrocarbon cycle. The hydrocarbon cycle is essential to life on earth. All living organisms are chiefly composed of carbon and water, energized by the sun. Scientists call it hydrocarbon. The hydrocarbon cycle furnishes energy and physical substance for life. Energy from the sun, through photosynthesis, combines carbon dioxide from the atmosphere with water from the environment to furnish that essential hydrocarbon. When living organisms die and deteriorate, those same raw materials are re-cycled, mainly into the atmosphere where they are again available for new living organisms.

Carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is part of this the hydrocarbon cycle. This is the same cycle that has been misrepresented of late to be on the brink of causing the destruction of our ecology through the slight tilting of the balance by human activity.

Observe the self correction: Increasing carbon dioxide atmospheric concentration

above current levels increases growth of green plants such as trees and grass. Increased growth causes increased absorption of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, thus decreasing the concentration in the atmosphere. The net result is more vegetation, and a more habitable planet, not the destruction of ecology.

Increased carbon dioxide in the atmosphere also causes a slight warming effect worldwide. When the oceans warm up ever so slightly, there is increased evaporation causing increased moisture in the atmosphere worldwide, causing greater rainfall worldwide, thus causing more rainforests, making the entire planet more habitable. Meanwhile, the warming is limited by the increased cloud cover. While the polar regions are warmed. The deserts are cooled and, making them both habitable.

No, We are not currently at the peak of perfection in the levels of those essential ingredients for life. The limiting factor is the lack of sufficient carbon dioxide to sustain rainforests in either the arid desert areas or the ice capped polar regions. We are currently in an era of carbon deprivation, near carbon dioxide starvation where vast areas of the surface of the earth are uninhabitable. In times past, when carbon dioxide was more abundant in the atmosphere, rainforests were abundant where there are now deserts and polar ice caps. Yet, today, ecology continues to find a way to survive. No, we are not at the peak of perfection in the fine tuning of nature.

But we are in an ecology with self correcting features.

In a philosophical mindset, an argument can be made for the case that fine tuning indicates an intelligent designer.

But in that same philosophical manner, an argument can be made that the inclusion of all the self correcting features we observe would require an even greater intelligence than a creation that had to be maintained by fine tuning.

No, Fine Tuning of nature is not a good argument for intelligent design. It may, at least to some extent, be true, or it may not. It may just be that the self correcting features built into nature have produced the appearance of *Fine Tuning*.

But no argument has any effect on the reality of whether or not physical existence was created versus spontaneously generating itself. Reality is reality. Reality cannot be changed by any argument or belief. Whether physical existence was created or spontaneously arose is a fact that cannot be changed by our argument.

We, as theologians, could much more intelligently discuss reality in the realm of science if we knew more about what is actually recorded in the bible concerning things modern science considers their exclusive realm.

Modern science claims to have a monopoly on factual knowledge that can be obtainable only through the scientific method.

Yet, the bible clearly recognizes many of these facts of nature that are assumed to be impossible to know outside the realm of science. At least that is true of the ancient scripture version of the bible, before the "corrections" introduced by theologians who translated it without understanding of these facts yet undiscovered by science.

In reality, ancient scriptures of the ancient Hebrew Bible actually pre-record many factual discoveries of today's Modern Science, from an eye witness point of view.

This early biblical knowledge of facts that modern science later discovered to be in accord with reality is evidence of the credibility of the claimed eye-witness, and to the claim that the eye witness existed when there were no humans in existence.

The credibility of that eye-witness record in the realm facts that should have been known only after modern science discovered them, increases the credibility of that testimony to the fact of creation as opposed to spontaneous generation.

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