

# Science and the Bible E-Zine

The Science and the Bible E-Zine Volume 3, Number 1

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Publisher: Max B. Frederick, AnOldScientist  
Motto: The Simple Truth  
Date: January 31, 2010  
Issue: Volume 3, Number 1  
Home Pages: <http://www.AnOldScientist.com>  
<http://www.ScienceAndTheBible.net>  
<http://www.EyewitnessToTheOrigins.com>

Circulation: The subscriber list is growing. Circulation grows by readers passing it on. If you are not a subscriber, to get another issue, you must put your name and email on the list by sending an email to: [signup@anoldscientist.com](mailto:signup@anoldscientist.com).

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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

### About This Month's Feature Article:

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. As I said in the last issue, 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.

From God being an old gray bearded man who is the dictator of the universe to the fruit that poisoned Adam and Eve being an apple, from the water canopy theory to the chaotic mass theory, misconceptions of what the bible teaches are rampant among both opponents of the bible and proponents of the bible.

The problem is not in what the bible says, but in what we have been taught it says.

Knowledge, that is in accord with reality, is there, in the bible,. The problem is in the path the information has traveled in arriving to where we are. So, the question of, how do we know what we know? Is just that: How did the information come to us? What path did it travel along the way? What changes did it pick up along the way?

The question to be addressed in this article is not, How do we know it is true?

The question is, How did the information get to us, and what effect has this path had on the information?

But, more significant is the realization that even when brilliant theologians have the facts that are in accord with reality, if they are a link in the chain of getting the information to us, they cannot prevent their imagination from departing from reality. Thus, the point is driven home that no religion (short of supernatural influence) can produce an account of the origins that is in accord with reality

The lack of knowledge about what the bible really, and originally, says when touching on facts in the realm of science, is common among theologians and scientists alike. Worse yet, the information they use to shoot down the obviously erroneous ideas are erroneous ideas themselves.

Some theologians put great effort into an unrealistic presentation of something that is obviously not true, but which they think scientists believe, then shooting it down, when it is not what scientists actually believe. For example, great effort is put into defeating insignificant details of the theory of evolution, when the significant detail is the ultimate origins, and evolution does not even attempt to explain the ultimate origin of anything.

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 ancient bible translators of facts recorded in the 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 many 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 around traditional misinterpretation of just one of those accounts. That is why I have been putting off

the publication of this article.

So, the article, *How Do We Know What We Know?*, is an attempt to trace the source of valid information through the pitfalls that distort it into what we think we know.

This article is a feeble attempt at exploring the coincidence in the facts concerning the origins as recorded in ancient scripture, as misunderstood in both religious and secular myth, as distorted by religious interpretation, and eventually as independently re-discovered by Modern Science.

The book, *Eyewitness To The Origins, Third Edition*, By, Max B. Frederick, gives the details of that coincidence, and the accord with reality as discovered by modern science. It is very detailed, designed to answer the questions of someone truly interested in the truth. However, that book appears to be outside the interest of most theologians, and beyond the imagination of most modern scientists. To most readers it appears to be at the college level. So, the intent is to bring it down to earth for the general reader. It should re-written it into a simpler book.

### **On Another Front:**

A new feature is being introduced in this first issue of the new decade. It is a Glossary of Science Related Terms Used in the Bible. In this feature various words that are commonly misunderstood are presented, defined, and discussed.

The need for discussion of the meaning of many ancient Hebrew words found in the bible arises from the fact that after the Hebrew language fell into disuse upon the era of the Babylon Captivity, the Hebrew language became a dead language. This occurred long before the Old Testament began to be translated into the new universal language of Greek at the legendary *Library of Science*, at Alexandria around 250 BC.

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## **2) How Do We Know What We Know?**

**By Max B. Frederick, AnOldScientist**

“ [be] ready always to [give] an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you...” I Peter 3:16 (KJV)

“I know, what I know, what I know.”

Charlotte Wheeler, Arnold, California, ca. 1979

This writing explores how we know what we know about the origins.

More specifically, The question is, How does what we know travel from the source of that information to become part of our knowledge.

Like Charlotte Wheeler, there is a little bit of knowing what we know in each of us. It is not whether or not what we know is one hundred percent valid as much as the confidence that we know it. The details of what we know are not always exactly true, but that is secondary to the fact that we know it. Once our mind resolves the fact that we know something, it seems unimportant, even mentally unhealthy, to keep going back and questioning its validity. That kind of knowledge is the subject of this

article. Typical of this concept is what is popularly known as, common knowledge. The information in our knowledge base is not always exactly in accord with reality. But it is what we know we know.

Origin related information that was known in ancient times when the bible was originally written, and that same information as we are taught it today, are sometimes different things. When carefully investigated, the recorded facts in the ancient scripture and the same facts as recently re-discovered by modern science are both in accord with reality and in accord with each other, and in contrast to what we have been taught.

We know what we know because the information comes to us. We do not go out and get it for ourselves. So then, How does the information we know get to us? And, Why is it not the same as the original source of that information.

Let me start with an example.

The first phrase in the bible, “In the beginning...” infers the claim that the bible has information concerning beginning times. Within that same bible are found over three dozen different accounts of origin related facts. No less than fifteen of them give significant clues as to the order of events in the timeline. All biblical origin accounts have a common order of events such that all these biblical accounts can be assembled into a common timeline of events. In that timeline of events there are over one hundred details that can be arranged in time order according to internally consistent biblical clues. That timeline stretches from before the existence of the current universe as we observe it to after the beginning of the next, (after the creation of “the new heaven and new earth”). This source of information, this ancient scripture, was recorded in writing thousands of years ago. As an interesting side note, the one missing detail that humans yearn for most, is a time scale of that timeline.

Let our example include the physical details and order of events mentioned in the first ten verses of the bible. The following will be three different versions of those details. The first version, just to shed light on what the details are, is how a modern scientist might word the same details if he were limited to the vocabulary of concepts available to the ancient Hebrews when the ancient scripture was written. Just remember, a modern scientist would be careful not to mention a “God.” The second version is a translation of the original, ancient Hebrew, version with emphasis on a clearer presentation of those same details. Finally, third is a version as it has come to us, as we have been taught, including the historic interpretation of humans when they were unaware of the later discoveries of these same details my modern science and their world view was influenced by the world view of ancient antique Greek science.

### **Introduction:**

In the beginnings of the existence of the universe as we know it, including the dry land on which we stand, everything came into existence in a catastrophic event.

And there was a time when the dry land on which we stand was not yet formed. There was none. There were no continents. The planet earth was covered completely with ocean. Of course, without continents, and horrific hurricanes never making landfall, powerful winds blew across the surface of the ocean.

(But, we are getting ahead of ourselves. First lets consider a few essential details in the development before photosynthesis could provide energy to sustain life on dry land: Those details include: Light, Air, Water, and Dry Land.)

**Details:**

Among the first things present in the universe, there was energy, one form of which was light. Early in the development, one of the most common molecules in the universe came to be water in outer space. Somehow, that water had to be concentrated onto the surface of the planet earth.

Eventually, an atmosphere developed around the planet earth. That atmosphere worked to capture water from outer space to form oceans covering that planet.

It was after that, that the dry land appeared. It rose from beneath the surface of the ocean and remained above sea level to be continents surrounded by one continuous body of water we now call oceans.

Those same details are recorded in the ancient scripture of the first ten verses of the book of Genesis. Some of those details are quite apparent in our English versions. In the original language, there is more clarity, but it is still hampered with the fact that modern scientific words were not in the Ancient Hebrew vocabulary. So, here is a translation that attempts to make the original information more apparent. This translation is based on the structure of the King James translation because the King James is a more direct translation with less interpretation than many of the more modern translations. Headings are added in bold for clarification of outline structure.

**Introduction:**

Note: The introduction is edited from information in an account found in the book of Job.

“In the Beginning God created the universe, including the dry land.”

Note: the word translated “dry land” is sometimes misinterpreted to be the planet earth.

“And the dry land (continents) was not formed, there was none; and darkness [was] upon the panorama of the oceans. And a powerful wind blew across the panorama of the waters.”

Note: the original words for “Spirit of God” can equally be translated “Powerful Wind.”

**Details:**

Note: Most likely, edited by Moses from a different pre-existing account.

**Formation of light in the beginning of the universe:**

“And God said, Let there be light: and there was light...”

(Note: The detail that water existed above the atmosphere (in outer space) and under the atmosphere (on the surface of the planet earth) is inferred from the following statement that assumes the pre-existence of that water.)

**Formation of the atmosphere and the oceans:**

“And God said, Let there be an atmosphere in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters. And God made the atmosphere, and accumulated the waters which [were] under the atmosphere from the waters which [were] above the atmosphere: and it was so. And God called the

atmosphere sky.”

**Formation of the continents surrounded by ocean:**

“And God said, Let the waters under the sky (under the atmosphere) be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry [land] appear: and it was so. And God called the dry [land] Earth; and the gathering together of the waters called he Seas:...”

In the King James Version of the English bible, some of those details are quite apparent, and others are somewhat obscured.

**Introduction:**

“In the Beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness [was] upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.”

**Formation of light in the beginning of the universe:**

“And God said, Let there be light: and there was light...”

**Formation of the atmosphere and the oceans:**

“And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters. And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which [were] under the firmament from the waters which [were] above the firmament: and it was so. And God called the firmament Heaven.”

**Formation of the continents surrounded by ocean:**

“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. And God called the dry [land] Earth; and the gathering together of the waters called he Seas:...”

Before you get caught up in questioning the above interpretation of the facts stated in the original language of the ancient scriptures, suffice it to say that much of the above understanding was gleaned from others of the fifteen detailed biblical accounts that are parallel passages to the above. That is a long and grueling exercise, too distracting to present here. Perhaps it can be put in a future article.

Now that we have seen an example, lets consider the question, What is the source of any information concerning the beginning times, information about things that happened in an era when there is no way any human could be an eye witness?

Possible sources include,

1. The imagination of the human mind,
2. Scientific investigation of the physical evidence left behind by what really happened and,
3. The claimed eye-witness account of a non-human found in ancient scripture of the bible.

In reality, all of the above are filtered through the imagination of the human mind.

In recent times, modern science has observed the physical evidence left behind by

events and phenomena that occurred in the beginning times. By the methods of modern science, a timeline of origin related events, from before the beginning of the universe as we observe it to speculation as to the future events of the universe, has been constructed. The chronological order of the over one hundred details found in the combination of all the origin accounts of the ancient scripture, and the order of those same events re-constructed by modern science is the same order. There are many other details added by modern science. One detail added by modern science that is not in the combination of all accounts from ancient scripture is a time scale.

In older times, many conflicting accounts of the origins have found their source in the imagination of the human mind. This imagination is the commonly accepted source of what is known as the myriad of creation myths.

And then, there are the supernatural, non-human eye-witness accounts found in the ancient scripture of the bible. For a list and summary of those, see, [http://www.scienceandthebible.info/reports/art080930\\_34\\_accounts.pdf](http://www.scienceandthebible.info/reports/art080930_34_accounts.pdf).

However, in place of any of the above, there is the old stand-by of what is accepted by many to be the official biblical account. That official biblical account is the politically correct account in many religious circles. The problem with it is it has been filtered through the imaginative minds of theologians who were completely unaware of, or who ignored, all of the other accounts of the origins found in the ancient scripture, and who gave it a spin that degraded it into what has become known in secular circles as the Judeo/Christian Creation Myth.

Those multiple sources are commonly accepted as the major influence of what we know concerning the beginning times.

### **The problem:**

None of the accounts that have their source in the human imagination are consistent with reality. No imagination of the human mind can create an origin account that is in accord with reality. Moreover, even when an account of the origins is in accord with reality, the imagination of the human mind corrupts that account causing it to depart from reality. This principle of non-reality dominating the product of human imagination, is evidence that the consistently correct information common to all the origin accounts of the ancient scripture of the bible is, in fact, of non-human origin.

Note: Let me beg your indulgence. This article is long and rambling, and contains much repetition. With more time, I could possibly make it shorter and more to the point. But there is much to be digested. May I suggest, before you get bogged down in this article you review the article, *The Story Behind The Legend of the Firmament*, as an example of the theme of this article. It is found on the internet at, <http://www.scienceandthebible.info/reports/art1216firmamentlegend.pdf>.

### **Multiple Paths to the knowledge.**

The problem I have been struggling with concerning how we know what we know, is the multiple paths information has followed in arriving to us today.

Information that was known in ancient times, when the bible was originally written, and that same information as we are taught it today, are sometimes different things.

But when carefully investigated, the recorded facts in the ancient scripture and the same facts as recently re-discovered by modern science are both in accord with reality and in accord with each other, and in contrast to what we have been taught.

That ancient knowledge has traveled over multiple different paths with resulting different reliability of the resulting current knowledge. As the knowledge travels the various paths there is ample opportunity for that knowledge to be contaminated by human imagination. I am not talking of the intentional type of spin you see in the various news outlets, but of honest differences of opinions as interpreted by the imagination of human scholars who think they know the truth.

There is the path of religious doctrine and interpretation as it has developed in different directions so as to result in many branches of that ancient knowledge.

There is the path of remarkable preservation of the ancient version of the ancient scripture. Theologians of the Greek era who originally translated the ancient scriptures into the then universal language of Greek, who were over a thousand years removed from much of the original writings, were handicapped by working with a dead language with the meanings of many words completely lost. With modern technology and the computer tools of today, we can get a better idea of the original meaning preserved in the unchanging “dead” language of that ancient scripture.

There is the path of secular myth. Even if original knowledge may have had its source in reality, the resulting knowledge is far from reality.

Finally, there is the independent, recent discovery of modern science of the same truths that are in accord with reality.

The specific question considered in this article concerns the original version of that ancient knowledge, how that knowledge gets from the ancient version to us, and how can we be certain the knowledge, when it arrives to us, is the same as what the original source recorded?

This is a philosophical treatise on a frustrating aspect of Science and the Bible.

Nothing is more frustrating to a scientific minded person than a conversation with a religious person who “knows” something that is not in accord with reality. A religious person cannot be dissuaded from what they “know”. In fact, that is one definition of religion, sticking to what you know in spite of all indications of reality. Like Pudd'n'head Wilson, (Mark Twain's alter ego) once said,

“There are those who scoff at the schoolboy, calling him frivolous and shallow. Yet it was the schoolboy who said, "Faith is believing what you know ain't so.””

### **The Sources of Confusion: Innate human Characteristics:**

Consider the scientific sounding, yet actually non-scientific statement of an obvious principle: “Nature abhors a vacuum.” That is one of those things that is accepted as obviously true, without rigorous proof. But there is a corollary that has rigorous proof: “In the human mind, knowledge abhors a vacuum.” That proof is the fact that the lack of knowledge never stopped otherwise honest people who are expected to know, from just making up something to fill in the lack of knowledge.

This article is an exercise in demonstrating that principle: The imagination of

religious gurus cannot concoct a religion that is in accord with reality.

In this article, I am going to pick on ourselves, Christians.

How do we know what we know? How does the information we know get to us? What is the path traveled by that information and what is the source of the distortions in that information.

Most of what we know is taught to us by someone else. Rarely do we find out for ourselves.

The problem we immediately encounter is the fact that theologians are prone to the principle of knowledge abhors a vacuum, and imagination is quick to fill the void.

The longer I live the more I realize the truth that the human race is plagued with certain innate, undeniable, self evident, characteristics, among which are curiosity, religiosity, and controliosity.

There are others, and these names I have chosen for these three are ill defined in the use to which I am referring.

Curiosity is the insatiable drive to know the unknown.

Religiosity is the check on curiosity in that it provides the human mind satisfaction in an answer to that which isn't really known. Religiosity, and again, this may not be the conventional definition, is the adamancy with which one is convinced, or at least with which one expresses that conviction. Religiosity is independent of the validity of knowledge. Humans can be just as religious about a truth as they can be about a myth.

Controliosity is related to the above in the drive to know the answer and in the drive to impose that answer on others.

These characteristics are not uniformly distributed among humans. In the expression of religiosity, some humans are more adamant than others. At some point, religiosity becomes controliosity. When we think of religious extremists, we think of people obsessed with controlling the religious expression of other human beings. But, again, the distribution of controliosity is not uniform. Some do not care what others think, but some others are obsessed with it.

Closely related to the above three is Confirmatory Bias. Confirmatory Bias is the tendency for humans, be they theologians or scientists, to accept as true, evidence that supports their pre-conceived notion of reality, and the tendency to reject as false, evidence that refutes their pre-conceived notion of reality.

The result of all the above, is what has become known as myth.

But it is not limited to obvious untruth.

Both theologians and scientists alike are plagued with these characteristic tendencies.

### **Credibility versus Confusion:**

The credibility of the ancient scriptures of the bible is established by the recognition of the accord with reality found in the information in the original version of the

ancient scriptures. That information is the same information that is assumed to be known only in the realm of modern science. The realm of modern science has revealed factual knowledge of the beginning times of the universe, the planet earth, and life on it. Modern science has also produced speculations related to that factual knowledge, but for the moment we will ignore the speculations and concentrate on the facts found in both the ancient scripture and the facts as discovered by modern science. The realm of the ancient scripture contains knowledge of much of the same factual information, but published it thousands of years in advance of the discovery of the same information by modern science, thus establishing credibility of the source that prior knowledge. And that credible source is the ancient scripture of the bible.

But the realm of the ancient scripture goes far beyond the realm of modern science in that it claims knowledge of items related to eternal life beyond the realm of this universe. The implication is, the credibility established in one domain is extended into the other domain. The problem is, the imagination of humans has misinterpreted that knowledge and tarnished the credibility in the first domain.

Yet, the failures of that process, has established proof that the imagination of humans cannot possibly be the source of the credible information originally recorded in the ancient scriptures.

### **The Question Remains Crucial, How Did What We Know Get to Us?**

How do we know what we think we know concerning the origins? And how do we know what we know is true?

There are many versions of what happened concerning the origins. But there is only one reality. The reality about truth is: Truth is exclusive. Reality cannot have happened many ways. It only happened one way. So, why are there so many different versions of what happened? Are any of them correct. Can we really know what really happened?

### **Do We Really Know What We Think We Know?**

How did this “knowledge “come to us down through the ages? The answer to that question sheds light on how we can know what is true.

Can we really know what really happened? Obviously, we cannot all go back in time and watch it happen. We cannot all examine all the evidence that was left behind by what really happened. We, the general public, have to rely on the reports of others who claim to have either examined all the evidence, or who claim to have been there to be a witness to what happened, or who claim to have sufficient wisdom to imagine a sufficiently good explanation for it to be believable. Those three are our choices. Believe those who claim to have studied the evidence, believe those who claim to be eye-witness, or believe someone who has sufficient imagination to imagine the truth. In any case, we, the general population have to depend on reports of others for what we know. It is up to us individually to judge the credibility of those reports.

Some people relegate all of these reports to people with imagination, and relegate it all to the domain of religious myth.

Some people relegate all but their favorite version to being myth, either scientific or

religious, but accept their favorite version as being true. To some, the one that is true is the explanations found in the domain of modern science. To others, the one that is true is the explanation found in their favorite religion.

But the fact remains, any two reports that contradict each other cannot both be true. According to the rules of logic, they may both be false, but they cannot both be true. That means, among all that contradict each other, all but one must be false. If they all contradict at least one of the others, at most, only one of the many can be true. And that is not a guarantee that any of them are true.

Perchance, two independent sources happen to agree, that is, their facts do not contradict, that is evidence (not proof) that those two have a greater likelihood of being true. That is similar to the age old requirement for two witnesses to agree to establish truth in a court of law.

So, back to the question, How do we know the truth about the origins? Can we find two truly independent witnesses that agree on the facts? If so, are these two witnesses credible, or did they cheat and collaborate their stories?

This agreement is the case when comparing the common combined chronology of all biblical accounts as found in the original language, with the chronology found in the discoveries of modern science. And if there were ever independent witnesses, these two are independent. The animosity between modern science and religion guarantee that. Of one thing we can be certain; any collaboration between modern science and religion is a figment of someone's imagination.

### **How Did We Get To Where We Are?**

The commonly accepted Judeo/Christian creation account as taught by most Christian religions of today is considered by most secular scholars to be just another creation myth. The reason? It is not in accord with their reality, modern science. But in true reality, neither is it in accord with the rest of the ancient scriptures.

Thousands of years ago, ancient scriptures recorded facts and chronology concerning the origins that are in accord with reality as recently, and independently, discovered by modern science.

Yet, that basic original reality recorded in ancient scripture has been ignored in favor of unrealistic interpretations by the imaginations of human theologians. How did that originally recorded knowledge of reality become so degraded? That is the question.

### **The degradation of that knowledge is a long and intriguing story.**

In this case, ancient scripture plus human imagination equals religion. It is almost like the word religion should be re-defined to be, a system, utilizing tradition and ritual, to continue believing something after it is discovered to be not in accord with reality. From the misunderstanding of the religious leaders of the time of Christ to the conviction of Galileo by the religious leaders of his time, from the legend of the firmament to the application of antique Greek science to refute the facts of Modern Science, the examples of the obstructionism of religion are too numerous to mention.

Assuming truth exists, and truth is exclusive,—that is, contradictory statements of fact cannot both be true, and a few more self-evident principles of biblical

interpretation, it is unthinkable that theologians persist in proclaiming any traditional interpretation that is contradictory to reality when many biblical accounts refute that unrealistic traditional interpretation. And that biblical refutation is backed up by the recent independent re-discovery of the same details of fact by modern science.

This is not to say the politically correct interpretations of scientists are any more valid than the religious interpretations of theologians. It is to say the disagreement between what we think we know and reality is all in the interpretations, not in the facts as recorded in the bible and the facts as independently discovered by modern science.

The factual knowledge of modern science is not the enemy of the bible. That same factual knowledge recorded first in the bible is the enemy of the unrealistic interpretation of theologians.

### **The Four Paths From Information to Knowledge:**

First we must understand that we get what we think we know about the origins via different paths from its source:

As of this writing, there are at least four clear paths that information travels in getting to us so that we can know.

1. Modern science.
2. Ancient Scripture - direct – Modern tools & scholarship reveal original meanings.
3. Ancient Scripture – as filtered through religious interpretation and tradition.
4. Religious and Secular Myth

### **Religious and Secular Myth:**

Myth is, by definition, the products of the imaginations of humans. Myths are not the facts upon which they may have been, at one time, based, but are the imaginative interpretations as seen through the world view of the human mind that invented the myth, or of the human minds involved in passing the myth on to future generations.

Hundreds of *Religious Myths* can be found in a simple search of the internet. There are as many Religious Myths concerning the origins as there are religions. Similar to religious myth is the realm of *Secular Myth*. In addition to the many religious myths there is a myriad of secular myths, invented and passed on by secular scholars claiming to not be religion, but philosophy or ancient science. Much of what we think we know today has its roots in this realm of secular myth. If one is to include what we believe we know, but in reality, is stuff that is just not true, one might include antique science, pseudo science, and junk science. In actuality, many people think they know a lot of stuff that is not actually true. Included among these secular myth beliefs are many traditional interpretations of portions of the bible accounts that prior to the discoveries of modern science were otherwise unexplainable and therefore accepted by default. Examples include the water canopy theory with its basis in ancient Greek science/philosophy. More on the details of that later...

### **Ancient Scripture – As filtered through religious interpretation and tradition**

This is the root of the problem that is the topic of this article. It is not the source of

the information found in the bible. It is not the original information itself. It is the modifications to that information as it traveled the path of religious interpretation and tradition that has destroyed the credibility of the original information. It is the inclusion of antique science, pseudo science, and junk science, that has accumulated through the ages.

As a result, many people consider all accounts of the origins, except the view of modern science, to be nothing more than religious or secular myth. That is particularly true of the traditional, supposedly biblical creation account. This is because that particular account, popularly known in secular circles as *The Judeo/Christian Creation Myth*, is not in accord with the facts as recently discovered by modern science. But neither is it in accord with the original facts recorded in the bible.

### **Ancient Scripture - Direct – Modern tools & scholarship reveal original meanings.**

In the ancient scriptures of the bible are found many accounts of the origins, not just the one or two creation accounts recognized by most theologians found up front in the book of Genesis. Study of these many accounts directly in the original language and by-passing traditional religious interpretation of these accounts reveals a wealth of information. These many accounts include information concerning both the physical universe and the origin of life. About three dozen of these biblical accounts can be considered to be major accounts, and at least fifteen of these major accounts give significant information concerning the order in the timeline of events that occurred during the beginning times. When these many accounts are carefully examined in their original language, over a hundred factual details, elements of information, so to speak, emerge. In the process, using modern tools and scholarship, the original meanings of many ancient words become obvious. These are words whose meanings were lost to theologians when the Hebrew language went through a long period of being a dead language. The elements of information found in these many accounts of the origins, these factual details, can be interleaved into a timeline of events according to the internal clues found within these accounts. And that timeline is in complete agreement from account to account, even though the original written recordings of these accounts were separated by thousands of years.

When all the origin accounts of the bible are combined into a single timeline of events, the order of events is in complete agreement with the order of the same events as recently discovered by the methods of modern science in their examination of the evidence gleaned from both the cosmos and the geologic column. This has nothing to do with the politically correct evolutionary interpretation commonly attributed to modern science. It is only the agreement of cold hard facts. The major difference between the accounts of the origins found in the bible and the interpretation of the hard facts by scientists is the attribution as to the cause. The bible never waivers from the claim that all was created by God. Modern science is generally of the popular consensus that it all arose spontaneously without guidance by any outside influence. Other than that one difference, the factual details, and the order of events in the many accounts of the bible combined, compared to the factual details, and the order of events in the timeline assembled by the methods of modern science are

identical.

### **Modern Science:**

Beginning about the time of early great scientists such as Sir Francis Bacon along with many others there arose a questioning of many details of the traditional explanation of the universe as taught by the prevailing religion. This great separation of science and religion culminated in 1633 AD with the excommunication of Galileo for his practicing religion without a license stemming from his teaching that the earth was not the center about which the universe revolves. After observing the evidence seen through the newly invented telescope, Galileo taught the Copernican explanation that the earth is a planet rotating about the sun, which is the center of a solar system. Of course, this was contrary to the traditional religious interpretation of the bible by licensed theologians. Thus, along with Galileo, all modern science was excommunicated from the politically powerful church. Along with that separation, modern science was born to be an independent source of facts concerning the physical universe. This new source of information is based on the scientific method. The scientific method is based on the destruction of any explanation that is disproven by the physical evidence, thus stripping away myth and revealing facts about the physical environment that are in accord with reality. Along with this new method of discovering truth, came an extreme bias against any and all sources of myth.

However, to be fair, on 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.

So then, what's the problem?

The problem here is obvious. The bible is popularly included in the sources of myth. In reality, the obvious source of the myth is not the original information in the ancient scripture, but was introduced by the path, by which our knowledge comes to us.

The problem is not in the original information in the ancient scripture. It is in the path by which we know what we know about what the original scripture contains. It is in the imaginative religious interpretation of that original information as it travels the path number three described above: *Ancient Scripture – as filtered through religious interpretation and tradition.*

### **The Loss and Re-discovery of Original knowledge**

Somehow, in the ancient past, a lot was known about the chronology of the origins. In addition, knowledge existed concerning many details of the origins that have been only recently re-discovered by modern science. In the meantime, much of that information was lost to human knowledge.

That knowledge was recorded in the oldest books of the ancient scriptures of the Hebrew people. At the time of the writing of the book of Genesis, several pre-existing accounts of the origins were assembled with slight editing and became the positional first book of the bible. The source of the first of these pre-existing accounts contained the same information found in an account that comes to us as recorded in a book of the bible that is older than Genesis. That older account is found

in the book of Job. On the occasion of the initial writing of the book of Genesis, the editing of one of those pre-existing origin accounts included a superimposition of a six-day chronology over the original pre-existing chronology for the purpose of illustrating the fourth of the ten commandments. It is significant that the same human who was writer and editor of the book of Genesis was the same human to whom the ten commandments had just been given.

Nearly five hundred years later, that original knowledge still existed. It is recorded in the 104<sup>th</sup> Psalm in great detail and contains over three dozen points in the chronology of the origins. In all, the bible contains no less than fifteen accounts with chronology information that is in accord with that consistent chronology common to all those accounts and in accord with reality as recently re-discovered by modern science.

As the ancient Hebrew language dropped from use, this knowledge became less recognized in the scripture, and human theologians picked up the six-day overlain chronology and made it the official biblical schedule of the origins. In the meantime, some philosophers of other cultures and religion added their spin and lost the original accuracy of detail so that some myths still have a hint of this ancient knowledge, but in those myths, that knowledge is overwhelmed by imagination.

The problem lies in the path our knowledge has traveled in coming to us. In examining those four independent paths, much confusion is cleared up.

For a glimpse at the timeline reflected in the combination of all the biblical accounts of the origins go to the internet where you will find a few pages from the book, *Eyewitness to the Origins*, Third Edition:

<http://www.scienceandthebible.net/articles/BibleChronology.pdf>

### **Conclusions:**

What we think we know about the origins can be broken down into categories.

1. First there are facts, or at least what we consider to be facts.
2. Second, there are interpretations of the facts.
3. Next, there are opinions concerning the various interpretations of the facts.
4. Finally, there is speculation as to facts that are not or cannot be known.

The sources of what we know are limited: Three possible sources include:

1. The imagination of the human mind,
2. Scientific investigation of the physical evidence left behind by what happened and,
3. The claimed eye-witness accounts of a non-human entity who claims to have been there, found in ancient scripture of the bible.

The path the knowledge travels from the source before it arrives to us has a great influence on the reflection of reality in what we think we know:

There are at least four clear paths that information travels in getting to us so that we can know.

1. Modern science.
2. Ancient Scripture - direct – Modern tools & scholarship reveal original meanings.
3. Ancient Scripture – as filtered through religious interpretation and tradition.
4. Religious and Secular Myth

When the knowledge finally gets to us, it is not always just the facts, but usually some mixture or blend of facts, interpretations, opinions, and imaginative speculations. The particular mixture or blend is greatly influenced by the path that information travels in getting to us.

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### **3) Glossary of Science Related Terms Used in the Bible:**

A new feature is being introduced in this first issue of the new decade. It is a Glossary of Science Related Terms Used in the Bible. In this feature various words that are commonly misunderstood are presented, defined, and discussed.

The need for discussing the meanings of ancient Hebrew words found in the bible arises from the fact that the Hebrew language fell into disuse upon the era of the Babylon Captivity. Hebrew then became a dead language and remained so for many centuries. During this era, the original meanings of many words became lost.

At first thought this may appear to be something bad, but in the long run, this has served to keep the meanings of ancient Hebrew words constant over thousands of years where a living language is constantly changing and if it had not become a dead language, the ancient meanings might have been even more lost.

This loss of meanings occurred long before the Old Testament began to be translated into the new universal language of Greek at the legendary *Library of Science*, at Alexandria around 250 BC. In that translation process, the original meaning of some words is not reflected in the translation, especially in the translation of science related passages where the world view of the scholars at that library of science had influence over the interpretations.

Some theologians teach that God guided the translation such that it accurately reveals what God wants it to say, especially in the realm of the primary purpose for the biblical teachings. However, the possibility remains that some of the meanings of some of the scientific related words were intentionally obscured in this process for the future revelation that the original ancient scripture pre-published many of the factual discoveries of modern science. In fact, using the modern computerized tools of scholarship has enabled the recovery of some of those original meanings. And they verify the fact that there was ancient knowledge of many concepts that are currently assumed to be knowable only by the processes of modern science.

#### **Word of the Month:** *Wing, Wings*

When confronted with the word, *wing*, we tend to visualize an airfoil of some kind. Such an airfoil might be found on an airplane. Or, more likely, in bible times, one might visualize the airfoil attached to a bird that allows the bird to take flight.

But that is not the original meaning of the word in the Hebrew language that is commonly translated wing or wings. The original meaning was more akin to a generic “*something that sticks out*” or, the “*far reaches*” of something.

That original Hebrew meaning makes more sense to us when we visualize the wing of

a tent. That wing is not something that enables the tent to fly, it is something that sticks out to cover whatever is under the wing.

That original meaning comes to us when we say we are adding wings to a hospital. That does not mean we are preparing the hospital to take flight. It simply means some more hospital space is going to stick out from the original structure.

When we say God covers us with his wings, we commonly visualize a figure of speech where God is being illustrated as a bird with great airfoils that protect us from whatever is above the wing. But, more likely the meaning intended to be conveyed has nothing with an airfoil, rather it means an extension that reaches out to contain and/or protect. Likewise, heavenly beings are commonly pictured as having the wings of a bird when there is no certainty that was the originally intended meaning of the word *wing* when used in this context.

In another instance, “the wings of the wind” cannot mean the wind has a mechanical gadget that performs as an airfoil so the wind can fly. Specifically, in one instance in the bible, in a sequence of listings of facts concerning the universe, *wings of the wind* appears where that list suggests the author might be referring to the winds in the outer reaches of the solar system, specifically, the solar winds of outer space. This is particularly indicated when the description also includes the glowing as in the tail of a comet or the northern lights. The assumption by early bible translators that the meaning had something to do with birds resulted in the translation being simply religious sounding theobabble.

So, when you see *wing* or *wings* mentioned in the bible, do not immediately assume it is talking about a bird, chicken, bat, or airplane. Check the context. You may even have to go to the context in the original language.

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