

# 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

This Month's article is somewhat of a puzzle. It is an exercise in the method of bible study that mimics the processes used in the scientific method. It is intended to evoke a response from readers as to the next step in this exercise.

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## 2) A New Hypothesis Concerning the Physics of God.

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

## Background:

How do we know what we think we know, about anything?

We have been told... But is it true?

Until the rise of modern science, there has not been the latest method of rigorously determining, or at least approaching a determination of, the truth, independent of believing what we have been told.

So, for the bible skeptic, there is now the Scientific Method of studying the bible.

You know, the scientific method of first making observations, second, forming a tentative explanation (called an hypothesis,) third, checking that explanation against more observations of reality, fourth, modifying that explanation, etc....

Well, that method is just as applicable to study of the bible as it is to determining the deep truths of physics. (As though any absolute truth were really determinable in the mind of the skeptic.)

Typically, when a skeptic scientist is engaged in conversation about science and the bible, the conversation turns to the fact that everyone, skeptic and believer alike, believe that the bible actually says that the God of the bible made everything.

Everything, you know, the universe, the heavens and the earth, etc. There is no question that the bible says that.

At that point, the doubting scientist comes up with his favorite gotcha: Well, then, who make God? And that is supposed to end the conversation. They all, scientists and theologians alike, have come to the same conclusion that the universe had a beginning, even if they disagree upon when. But the bible believer typically claims that God has existed forever and has no need of being made by anything or anyone. The God of the bible pre-existed the universe and is what planned, the universe, and then in a moment of glory, executed that plan, and poof... there was the universe. That pre-existence of a supernatural "God" seems incongruent with the idea that everything (the universe) had a beginning whether you believe it was at the "Big Bang" or "Big Shout" either way, if everything had a beginning except the God of the bible, which has existed forever—that seems a little childish. There is no such thing as something that has existed forever and suddenly came up with the universe as a feat of triumph.

But then ask the doubting scientist about the law of conservation of energy. It says there is something that is eternal, something that can be neither created nor destroyed. That something is energy. That means energy is eternal, it pre-existed the universe as we know the universe today—or even as the universe is conceived to have existed the moment after it came into existence. Which, by the way, is believed by both sides to have been a catastrophic event.

### **The New Hypothesis:**

OK, So the new hypothesis is to be the second step after a few observations in the study of some aspect of the bible. This had better be a good one. And it has to do with the physics of God?

What is physics? In laymen's terms, physics is the study of that which exists, that

which can be detected, measured and quantified, defined in a rigorous manner. That definition is as opposed to meta-physics that includes the study of that which is not rigorously determined to exist, such as anything considered to be in the realm of supernatural.

So then, this new hypothesis, if it is to be concerning the physics of God, must therefore be limited to exclude anything supernatural. Humm... But most observers consider the concept of God to be supernatural, and therefore outside the realm of physics.

Well, so be it. Most observers can think what they want. But lets look and see if there is a part of God that is within the realm of physics.

We observe:

It appears as though we all agree that, even though the universe had a beginning, there is something that is eternal—something that has existed forever. To the scientist, that eternal existence is energy. To the religionist, particularly those of the bible, that eternal existence is the God of the bible. That observation seems clear enough.

So, then what is the new hypothesis?

Hypothesis: That eternal existence, the God of the bible, is, at least, some form of the same eternal existence of modern science—the hypothesis has more, but that is a start.

The observations that led to this hypothesis include the original meanings of the ancient Hebrew and ancient Greek words used to describe or name the God of the Bible.

#### ***Yēhovah and 'elohiym:***

First, the two words most often used in naming, or referring to God, are *Yēhovah* and *'elohiym*. Typically they are translated to be “LORD” and “God,” as in, “...in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens...” These words, “LORD” and “God,” are more religious concepts of some dictatorial boss (“LORD”) and some supernatural benevolent-to-angry, arbitrary, accountable only to himself, granter of wishes (“God”) than they are reflections of the original meanings of the ancient language concepts. However, the original meanings, through modern technology, are currently available to us. The word *Yēhovah* translated “LORD” originally meant that which exists (eternally), “the existing one,” as in when Moses asked for a name at the burning bush. See: Exd 3:14, and Mar 12:26. And the word *'elohiym*, as in, “In the beginning God (*'elohiym*) created...,” also has an original meaning that was not a religious term. That word is the plural form of a word meaning the generic, all inclusive concept of power/energy/force. Today, modern science rigorously defines each of these terms, power, energy, and force, to be mathematical relations to each other, but to the ancients, it was an all inclusive concept, and the word used to name the God of the bible was the plural form of that all inclusive concept.

#### ***Ruwach and pneuma:***

Further, the original meanings of the ancient Hebrew word *ruwach* and the ancient

Greek word, *pneuma* both, had a common meaning of a single concept generally overlooked by scholars today. That single concept is best described as “invisible power/energy/force.” That single concept generally includes, among other things both wind, and spirit, and, should those same words still be in use today, would include such “invisible power/energy/force” as electrical energy, magnetic force, and other forms of invisible power undiscovered or undefined in ancient times. Even modern technology recognizes this concept when they named the power that runs *pneumatic* tools.

Modern bible scholars tend to simply dismiss the original common concept, and consider the original words as each having two distinctly different, unrelated meanings of either spirit, or wind. The wind, in these modern times has become a definable, measurable entity, wholly within the realm of the physics of modern science. The meaning of the word spirit, since the advent of modern science, has taken on the connotation of being something that is outside the realm of modern science. It is something supernatural without the attributes of anything that really exists that can be measured or quantified.

This separation into dissimilar meanings of either wind, or spirit, but not both, and not the concept in common, has led to problems in translating the bible, especially where Jesus was trying to explain to Nicodemus the workings of an “invisible power/energy/force.”

Anyway, this concept of power/energy/force is used to define God in John 4:24 where the King James Version says, “God [is] a *Pneuma*: ...” What? The bible actually says that the God of the bible is an “invisible power/energy/force?”

Anyway, the new hypothesis appears to be consistent with what the bible says about God. This new hypothesis postulates that the eternal existence recognized by modern science and the eternal existence claimed to be the God of the bible have a lot in common.

So, the question is, in further pursuit of this scientific method of studying the bible, are there more observations of what the bible actually says that are in accord with the rudimentary hypothesis, and what observations can be made that should modify this beginning hypothesis to refine it?

Take note of where, in the rare mentions of the (physical?) appearance of this “eternally existing power/energy/force” (excluding descriptions of the bodily form of Jesus) the descriptions either are or are not in accord with the hypothesis that God is some form of that same eternal existence that modern science actually recognizes.

Of course, you will notice where mentions of this eternal existence in the bible also attribute that eternal existence with the attributes of life, intelligence, self awareness, ability to communicate with humans, wisdom, ability to plan and execute plans etc..., the same attributes we recognize in the life form we call humans. But that is included in a further refinement of a possible hypothesis under the corollary of humans being made in the image of God.

Think about it as you read the bible this month, and let me know the thoughts that race through your mind. Send thoughts to: [simpletruth@anoldscientist.com](mailto:simpletruth@anoldscientist.com) .

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