

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

Last issue ended with a challenge to investigate the meanings of scriptures that are found in the original language, untainted by bias of the interpretation of the translators. That is a difficult task. It is difficult for those who actually speak modern Hebrew, because the meanings of the word today may not necessarily be the meaning in ancient times. It is difficult for someone who does not know the language, but has to investigate each word. However, not knowing the language may be an advantage. The science of information recognition has advanced in this modern computer age. One can compare many ancient uses of any word and independently discover its meaning at the time it was written, unbiased by centuries of religious tradition. This month's article demonstrates the value of information gained by digging deeper into the actual ancient meanings, and of using other tools of the art and science of information recognition. Among those tools are such tactics as detail extraction, detail correlation, and pattern recognition. Watch for the application of these tools. The correlation of the pattern of details in the article is... well... you be the judge.

1) The Physics of God.

The Physics of God

The Physical Attributes of God

By Max B. Frederick, AnOldScientist

A lot has been said about the Character of God. But the Physics of God seems to be a black hole. That is, does anyone know the physical description of God? A physical description of the Eternally Existing Power that we refer to as God, other than when He became flesh and dwelt among men, is an enigma. Does the bible even give a coherent description of the physical characteristics of this phenomenon we call God?

The first thing the bible says, says something about the physics of God. Looking at the original, non-religious meanings of the words used in the first verse of the bible, we see: “In the beginning, Powers (*Elohiym*) brought into existence...”

Elohiym is the plural form of the word used for the ancient all encompassing concept of power, energy, force, strength, etc.—theologians use the religious word “God” to express that concept to avoid the science related original actual meaning.

But, I am getting ahead of myself...

It has been said that science can neither prove nor disprove the existence of “God.”

Could it be that the problem is in the definition of that which we are trying to prove or disprove?

The concept of “God” is one of the most ill-defined concepts in our imagination.

Particularly within religious circles are the physical attributes ill defined.

Choose any religion you want. What that religion thinks of as “God” is a far cry from the physics of God as detailed in the bible. And the bible is where many of those religions think they get their concept of “God.”

One of the first hurdles to get over is the fact that the bible claims God is eternal.

Skeptics have long claimed that there is no such thing as an eternally existing entity such as a god.

That skepticism is well expressed in the rhetorical question so often asked, “If God created everything, where did God come from—Who created God?” The implied answer to most of those asking that question is, of course, humans created god as an invention of their evolving creative minds—thus the many definitions of God.

Even through the universe, as we know it, had a beginning, something had to exist to set up the conditions for it to come into existence. Here science has potential.

Have you ever heard of the law of conservation of energy? Simply stated, it says that energy may neither be created nor destroyed. Of course, that is an oversimplification in the light of the famous equation, $E=MC^2$ which indicates there is some interchangeability between the two. But the essential implication is the fact that all scientists are fully aware of an entity that is eternal, that does not have to have been created. And that entity is energy. So, if the bible indicates God is made of matter, and matter came into existence at the beginning of the universe, that is one thing. If the bible indicates God is non-matter, that opens up the possibility of an entity that is in the realm of energy rather than matter, and as such can be eternal.

So, the question for the scientific community—in their search for extra-terrestrial intelligent life—might possibly be something like this:

Is it possible that a life form having those same, or similar, attributes as humans have, the attributes of self-awareness, intelligence, energy/force/power/motivation, wisdom, and the ability to communicate, might exist in the realm of energy rather than the realm of matter? Humans are the life form with those attributes existing in the realm dominated by matter, the realm of the four dimensional universe consisting of mass, space, energy, and time. But is it possible that a different life form with similar attributes might exist in that other realm?

That is kind of like looking for a life form on the left side of the equation $E=MC^2$.

It may be a poor application of the equivalence involved in the equation $E=MC^2$, where energy (E) is on one side of the equation and mass (matter) (M) and The velocity of light (C) are on the other. But is it suggestive of the possibility of similar, yet different life form being on opposite sides of the $E=MC^2$ equivalence?

Could there be a form of life that exists, transcendent to that universe, in the realm of the left side of the equation? Could there be some extra-terrestrial intelligent life form in that other realm, transcendent to the universe, and somehow involved in setting up the conditions for the universe to come into existence?

That question is particularly intriguing when it is realized that the physics of God, as detailed in original meanings of the words used in the ancient scriptures describe an eternal existence to be exactly that. The God of the bible is physically described to be some form or combination of energies that could be on the left side of that equation. That eternal existence is described as some form of non-matter having the attributes of self awareness, intelligence, power/force/energy/strength/motivation, and wisdom, as in the ability to communicate, make plans, and execute those plans to a positive outcome.

In fact, these are the same physical attributes of that eternally existing entity that the bible credits with “creating” the matter on the right side of the equation, the universe.

I know, in the light of the laws of conservation of mass and energy and that famous equivalence formula, as matter seems to appear and disappear (as in the concept of the “Big Bang,” or “Big Bounce,”) we have to be careful with such concepts as “equivalence” and “creating” and “destroying.” I have even stretched the application of this famous formula, but my purpose is to get the human mind to consider a

currently ill defined concept that is outside the normal way of thinking.

But it remains indisputable, there is a form of corruptible matter (humans) that has similar attributes to those attributes that the bible gives to some form of eternally existing (incorruptible) energy, so glibly called “God.”

So, lets look at some of the places where the ancient scriptures of the bible touch on, or come close to, revealing some of the physical characteristics of what religion has morphed into its own concept of “God.”

There are several accounts in the bible that give us some clues.

First, there is the first verse in the bible. The first time a name or descriptor for God is mentioned in the bible, it is the plural form of that ancient undifferentiated concept encompassing energy/power/force/strength/motivation. The subject is the beginning of the universe. It is stated that something which has no beginning and is within the undifferentiated concept of energy/power/force/strength/motivation, is attributed with causing that which did have a beginning, causing the universe as we observe it today.

Here it is important to strip away the traditional religious connotations from the actual ancient language wording and reveal the root meanings. As in many interpretations of ancient writing done by so called experts, a religious connotation is generally presumed and superimposed in the typical translation. Stripping away that pre-supposition reveals meanings that are much more in accord with reality.

The first thing the bible says, says something about the physics of God. Looking at the original, non-religious meanings of the words used in the first verse of the bible, we see:

“In the beginning, Powers (*Elohiym*)”

Elohiym is the plural form of the word used for the undifferentiated concept of power, energy, force, strength, etc. Theologians use the religious word “God” to express that concept. This obscures the science related basic meaning.

“brought into existence,”

Whatever that *elohiym* is, is attributed with the feat of converting that which is not seen into that which is seen—as the writer of Hebrews 11:3 so aptly puts it, “...the world was created...so that what is seen was made out of things which are invisible.” (The universe was made out of a “black hole?” But I digress.)

“the heavens and the earth.”

“the heavens and the earth” is an ancient Hebrew idiom that means what we think of today as the universe—everything that physically exists. Thus, this *Elohiym* that eternally existed outside the physical realm of mater set up conditions for a similar life form to exist in the transitory realm of matter.

Secondly, we see another description of physical attributes of God in the account of Moses and the burning bush. Exodus 3:1-15. Well, actually, it was not a burning bush. It was a bush that appeared to be on fire, but was not consumed by something appearing as fire. With that description, it could well be some form of energy—but what form of energy could it be? To start, lets list details of its peculiar attributes:

It was not matter. It had no mass, but appeared to be some form of energy.

If it was some form of energy appearing as fire, it did not depend on consumption of the bush to sustain its level of activity.

It was aware of its surroundings—It recognized that Moses was in its presence.

It transmitted communication to a human in a way that is described as verbal

It had prior information—It called Moses by name without being introduced.

It appeared to hear and understand the verbal response of a human when Moses responded.

In other words, it intelligently communicated—it had intelligence.

It anticipated actions and commanded to make the human act—“take off your shoes.”

It introduced itself as the higher power (*'Elohiym*) of prior generations—Moses' father, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

It understood human emotions of people far away—“I know their sorrows”

It had purpose and the ability to plan and execute that plan through Moses— “I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land...”

It is something that is eternally existing—When Moses enquired further as to who it was that was communicating with him, the answer came back as the ancient Hebrew phrase for existence, reduplicated for emphasis—which is interpreted to mean, “that which exists forever.”

Take notice of the details that correlate with the modern science concept of the law of conservation of energy, and the other details that correlate with the human life form.

Later, when Moses returned to the same location, bringing the Israelite people with him, more information is added to the list of details.

This *'Elohiym* told Moses (Exodus 19:9) that It would come in a thick cloud so the other people could hear when It spoke to Moses so they would actually believe *'Elohiym* really exists. The implication here is the thick cloud would shield the people from the actual appearance, but not the sound, of *'Elohiym*.

A little later, during this second visit to this location, (Exodus 24:1, 9-11) over seventy humans actually saw *'Elohiym* from afar off. At that time the only detail given was the fact that it appeared to require nothing to support the weight of this *'Elohiym*. The actual description of what supported *'Elohiym* is somewhat vague, actually saying what that invisibleness that appeared to support *'Elohiym* appeared to be like, not what it actually was.

This *'Elohiym*, though it did not consume the bush, nor require anything to support it, did have the ability to physically interact with matter in such a way that it left a permanent mark. Even though the writing on the stone as depicted by Cecil B. DeMille in the movie, “The Ten Commandments” is not actually described that way, it is certain that the ancient scripture of the bible (Exodus 24:12, 31:18, 32:16) indicates that this *'Elohiym* actually did the fabrication of the tables of stone and physically performed the writing upon those tables.

This *'Elohiym* also had the attribute that it could change location according to its will—It had a will and could express it—as illustrated in Exodus 33:9, “And it came to pass, as Moses entered into the tabernacle, the cloudy pillar descended, and stood [at] the door of the tabernacle...talked with Moses.”

As the account unfolds, (Exodus 34:29-30ff) it becomes apparent that visual exposure of this *'Elohiym* to a human form apparently caused a residual glow of human skin that eventually faded away.

Another biblical account that gives some insight into the physical attributes of God is the account of Elisha watching Elijah being taken up in the chariot of fire.

This account is found in II Kings 2:11-17 where the occasion is briefly described.

“11 As they were going along and talking, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire and horses of fire which separated the two of them. And Elijah went up by a whirlwind (windstorm) to heaven. 12 Elisha saw it...And he saw Elijah no more... 13 He also took up the cloak of Elijah that fell from him and returned and stood by the bank of the Jordan. 14...15 Now when the sons of the prophets who were at Jericho opposite him saw him, they said,...”Behold now, there are with your servants fifty strong men, please let them go and search for your master; perhaps the Spirit of the LORD has taken him up and cast him on some mountain or into some valley.” ...17... They sent therefore fifty men; and they searched three days but did not find him.”

Even though the description is brief, details are revealed. First, understand, Elisha is describing something that had never before been seen. Words did not exist to describe what he had seen. He had to use terms that were available to his understanding. All translations, even the modern ones, are therefore somewhat cumbersome.

The term translated, “chariot” did not necessarily mean what we today visualize as a horse drawn cart with spoke wheels. It is a generic term used for any conveyance upon which one is carried. In other words, it was a conveyance that appeared as fire, and appeared to be powered by what appeared to be like fire, the same description as that which did not burn the “burning bush.”— something that was not physical matter, but possibly some form of energy.

When Elijah went up, his clothes went down. It was not the windstorm that lifted Elijah. It was the fire-like conveyor. If it had been the windstorm, the clothes, being more susceptible to being blown away, would not have dropped to the ground from where Elisha picked them up.

Whatever the conveyor was, it was not fire as we comprehend it. It, and what appeared to be its motive power, appeared, in some aspect, as fire appears, but it was not hot. (This description would also fit the weightlessness of pure energy... or a process similar to the transporter of Star Trek???)

Elijah’s clothes were not scorched. There is no mention of Elisha’s, nor of Elijah’s clothes being scorched. In fact, Elijah’s clothes remained serviceable for Elisha to wear. If you remember, in the religious science fiction series, “Left Behind,” when people were transformed, “in the twinkling of an eye,” their clothes fell to the ground as though their body had been dematerialized— this account may be where that concept originated.

As far as what happened to Elijah’s physical body, that is a mystery that was questioned by the other men of Elisha’s time when they insisted upon going out and searching for it assuming it may have just been carried up a ways by the “windstorm” and then crashed down somewhere nearby. The fact that

they never found it after an intensive search lends credibility to the idea that it dematerialized (converted to energy pattern???) when the clothes fell to the ground. This leads to the speculation that the change that is described in the New Testament where we “will be changed in the twinkling of an eye,” is a conversion from physical body to a “spiritual (as in invisible force) body” similar to that which is described by the physical aspects of this *'Elohiym*. That would solve the incompatibility problem between this mortal life form and an eternal life form. But then again, I digress.

Then there is the account of the transfiguration found in Matthew 17, 1-8 and Mark 9:2-8.

Jesus, when he was “transfigured,” His face shown like the sun and His garments became as white as light—whiter than any launderer on earth can whiten them.

Moses and Elijah also appeared and talked with them, but no physical description is given of them.

Meanwhile, a bright cloud appeared over them and a voice came out of the cloud.

When the witnesses looked away, then looked back, Moses and Elijah were no longer there.

In this account:

'Elohiym, the higher power in the sky, appeared either as a cloud, or as some source of light obscured as a cloud.

A voice emanated from that cloud and was understood by humans below.

Jesus, the form of God on earth, took on the appearance of something that produced light. (Reminiscent of the appearance of the outer space aliens in the science fiction movie, ” Cocoon” who had to cover their radiant appearance with an artificial skin appearing substance.)

Jesus, the form of God on earth, still retained the attributes of the ability to communicate verbally with the witnesses.

Continuing on, there is the biblical account of the day of Pentecost in Acts 2:1-6. Theologians almost universally understand this as a description of another non-physical, non-human form of God, the Holy Spirit.

“And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance... men, out of every nation under heaven...were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language.

In this account, again, whatever it was, it had the appearance of fire, but instead of burning what it touched, it caused other effects.

It came suddenly.

It made a great noise.

The noise was like a rushing mighty wind. Remember Elijah’s windstorm?

It appeared like fire, but was not fire—it did not consume that upon which it rested.

It divided itself and came to rest on each person.

It imparted knowledge/ability to each person which that person did not previously have.

Each person on which it rested began to speak in such a way that multiple people heard what was said in their own native language.

The language people heard was not the native language of the one doing the speaking.

The similarities to the descriptions of the *'Elohiym* of Moses, and the “fire” of the chariot of Elijah are beyond coincidence.

But there is more.

Paul, while he was still going by the name of Saul, while on the road to Damascus, encountered a similar entity that claimed to be a supernatural form of God, the resurrected Jesus. This account is found in Acts chapter 9:

“3 And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven: 4 And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why do you persecute thou me? 5 And he said, Who are you, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom you are persecuting: [it is] hard for you to kick against the pricks. 6 And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what will you have me to do? And the Lord [said] unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told to you what you must do. 7 And the men which journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice, but seeing no man. 8 And Saul arose from the earth; and when his eyes were opened, he saw no man: but they led him by the hand, and brought [him] into Damascus. 9 And he was three days without sight, and neither did eat nor drink.”

Notice: As in the case of Moses and the burning bush,

This entity appeared as a source of light (fire.)

That great light exhibited intelligence

A voice came from that great light.

The voice did not come from a human

The voice knew Saul’s name and the circumstances.

That voice identified itself as a form of God.

That voice gave instructions to Saul.

Notice, different from the case of Moses and the burning bush, That light was very intense—Saul became blind for three days. Yet, this is implied to be similar to the problem of some adverse effect of the Israelite people looking at this *'Elohiym*, an adverse effect that was solved by cloaking the entity in a thick cloud.

Eventually we get to the great white throne scene from the books of Daniel and The Revelation of Saint John the Divine. Notice the correlations between the accounts.

'Elohiym presented by Daniel as, “the Ancient of days” Daniel 7:9

Presented by John as, “him that liveth forever...” and, “hast created all things.”

Rev 4:10,11

Garment white as snow. Daniel 7:9

The one sitting on the throne was as brilliant as gemstones—jasper and carnelian.

Rev 4:3

Hair like whitest wool. Daniel 7:9

And the glow of an emerald circled his throne like a rainbow. Rev 4:3

Throne appeared similar to fiery flame. Daniel 7:9

Support (wheels) appeared as burning fire. Daniel 7:9

“...seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.” Rev 4:5

“Shining (fiery) flood issued and came forth from before him.” Daniel 7:10

Out of the throne came lightnings and thunderings and voices. Rev 4:5

Finally, there is the description of the great city of God in the future as having no need of the sun or moon for the glory of God did lighten it. Rev 21:23.

It is no wonder that artist’s depictions of God on his throne quite often show lightening bolts and bright glowing, yet obscure human distinguishing features.

After reading this article, you might say, aren’t you grasping at straws?,” aren’t you seeing something that is not there? Are you sure this is not just your imagination on overdrive? (The same problem existed during my career as an information recognition scientist my reputation grew to be one who could see information where others could see only data—but the company made a lot of money on it.)

Yet, isn’t it amazing how consistent the physical attributes found in the various accounts written thousands of years apart by people who didn’t seem to even recognize what the others had written? And they hadn’t even seen the science fiction movies.

And is not the fact that it is almost universally ignored by religious theologians even more amazing? Isn’t it amazing that science fiction writers (both religious science fiction and secular science fiction writers) have recognized these attributes found in these descriptions, and elaborated upon them, without attributing them to the bible, or for the most part, to the “God” of the bible?

If there really is any such thing as life that is eternal,

if that idea of eternal life is not just something that is made up in the creative imagination of the evolved mind of intelligent theologians,

if there really is an entity that is eternal, an entity that created a being (humans) in its own image as having some of its own attributes described above, such as power, (self motivation) intelligence and wisdom,

if, there really is intelligent life that is transcendent to the universe as we know it, then, does this not spur the imagination as to some aspect of what that eternal life could be like?

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