

Science and the Bible E-Zine

The Science and the Bible E-Zine Volume 4, Number 4

Publisher: Max B. Frederick, AnOldScientist
Motto: The Simple Truth
Date: April 30, 2011
Issue: Volume 4, Number 4
Home Pages: <http://www.AnOldScientist.com>
<http://www.ScienceAndTheBible.net>
<http://www.EyewitnessToTheOrigins.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

Last month we saw where the heart of what the ancient scriptures say about things related to science has been distorted by religious tradition to the point that much of it is interpreted to be out of accord with reality.

It has been said, "Religion is the most effective tool of the Devil."

Religion, if you mean by *religion*, doggedly sticking to a pre-conceived idea instead of looking at what the bible really says, when you mean by *religion*, believing something you know is not true... you are seeing the basis of the rampant division among factions of the Christian Religion.

Then there is a great disconnect between the ancient scriptures of the bible and religion. The bible..., when have to decide between religion and reality, the bible always comes down on the side of reality. When you find out what the bible really says about anything that can be checked against reality, the bible exposes the contrary religious interpretations to be irrational imaginations of the religious human mind.

There are many examples where incorrect assumptions are made as to what is reality. We have seen that no view of the age of the earth is synonymous with evolution. The incorrect assumption that an old earth view is equivalent to believing in evolution is one of those tools of the Devil. The bible clearly states it was all created by God, and by studying in detail, all the biblical origin accounts it is found a chronology is presented that is contrary to the popular religious interpretation of the one and only one of the many biblical origin accounts that says anything about six days.

With that said, there are areas of biblical teaching that cannot be tested against reality, such as the teaching concerning eternal life after this earthly life. Thus, concerning such things, the honest intellectual must decide to believe or disbelieve based on the credibility of what the bible says concerning that which can be tested.

One of the problems with religion is, many doctrines are built upon incorrect religious interpretation of parts of the bible that are concerning things in the realm of science. Thus you have factions and divisions among Christian arguing non-realistic options.

Those so called enlightened scholars outside and opposed to the Christian religion are quick to jump at any perceived discrepancy, and drive a wedge between honest intellectuals and the reality of the ancient scriptures of the bible.

Psalm 104 is a prime target of the so-called enlightened scholar.

Psalm 104 demonstrates those great truths of the bible and its accord with reality. Yet it is one that is under attack by so called enlightened scholars

This month we are getting a glimpse of that true biblical chronology, concordant in all the biblical origin accounts. It will not be presented in detail, only a few of the high points.

2) The Honest Intellectual and Psalm 104.

The Honest Intellectual and Psalm 104

By **Max B. Frederick, AnOldScientist**

“When the bible is interpreted to agree with the rest of the bible, suddenly it comes into accord with reality. This is particularly true with things considered to be in the realm of science. Thus, the credibility of the bible is bolstered, having anticipated the discovery of the same reality by modern science”
AnOldScientist, March, 2011

Psalm 104 is an enigma.

Look at almost any bible commentary that is pro-bible, and you will see Psalm 104 described as a praise to (David’s?) God written as a series of praises of the wonders of nature.—or some such milk toast religiosity...

Look on the internet at the opinion of anti-bible intellectual commentaries and you will find what the so-called enlightened scholars consider to be conclusive evidence

that David did not write Psalm 104, but it was copied from a more ancient Egyptian religious writing, "The Hymn to Aten."

But there is a lot more to the story than that.

There is internal evidence that goes much deeper than any of the above scholars ever dreamed.

Within Psalm 104 is an extensive chronology of existence from Eternity Past to Eternity future. It contains over four dozen points of detail arranged in chorological order. That order is the same as is found in the comprehensive timeline that is common to all the biblical accounts combined.

Background:

That true biblical chronology was mentioned in last month's E-Zine. It is gleaned from interpreting each the origin accounts of the bible in the light of all the other biblical origin accounts. The compilation was not assembled by cheating and starting with any religious chronology, nor any science chronology as was explained last month.

And that chronology is not just limited to the very beginning of the universe, but it stretches from the Eon of Eternity Past to the Eon of Eternity Future. For an outline of that chronology, see an excerpt from the book, "*Eyewitness to the Origins...*" at <http://www.scienceandthebible.net/articles/BibleChronology.pdf>. For a detailed description of how each detail was gleaned from the bible and assembled into the combined chronology, see the book, *Eyewitness to the Origins, Third Edition, Scientific Evidence of the Supernatural Authorship of the Bible*, available from, <http://www.wordclay.com/BookStore/BookStoreBookDetails.aspx?bookid=34175>

The unique feature of this biblical based chronology is its accord with reality, and its discord with religion. In the debate between religion and science, the bible demonstrates the reality of the biblical facts and the lack of reality of traditional imaginative religious interpretations. In that debate, in all points of fact, the bible comes down on the side of science. Albeit, in the points of opinion, such as, what is responsible for the beginning of the origins, the bible adamantly disagrees with the opinion of science that it all occurred by spontaneous generation, by natural forces unguided by any intelligent influence.

In fact, the order in which the various dominate suites of complex life forms came into existence is first published in the bible, not by modern science. For example, according to the biblical chronology, the first suite is the myriad of complex life forms in the ocean, then the suite of land megafauna we recognize as the age of the dinosaurs, and finally, the suite of modern complex life forms dominated by large mammals.

The difference between the true biblical chronology and modern science is not in the sequence of changes, but in the influence that brought those changes about.

But more about that later. This article is about intellectual honesty and Psalm 104.

Literary Form of Psalm 104:

There is a literary form known as the Blason. It is commonly described to be a form of erotic literature praising (or disparaging) the (erotic) physical features one's beloved in an orderly list, such as from head to toe. Listed items are generally illustrated by a series of images that support the theme. Invention of this literary form is commonly attributed to a French writer contemporary with the English Elizabethan age about the time the bible first became available in English.

<http://www.poetrymagnumopus.com/index.php?showtopic=682>

But its roots go much deeper than that. King Solomon, the son of King David, made extensive use of that literary form in the erotic biblical book, "Song of Solomon."

Psalm 104 is written in the form of a series of praises of the author's God. Each praise is illustrated by some item of nature created by the author's God. Careful examination reveals that there is a precise order in which these praises are arranged. That order is the chronology of the sequence of development of the universe into the ecology we live in, and it continues on into the future not yet recorded in history.

http://www.scienceandthebible.net/reports/art081220blason_creation_account.pdf

An Ordered List:

Psalm 104 is a praise of God illustrated by the wonders of nature, arranged into chronological order of appearance, giving credit for the existence of those wonders to the God who created them.

A typical Blason does not overtly state it is an ordered list, neither does Psalm 104.

But fifty items cannot be listed in the exact order in which they came into existence without it being a carefully ordered list. The wonder is, at the time it was written, it was impossible for human knowledge to include the order in which to list these items. That order was assumed to be not a part of human knowledge until it was discovered and assembled by modern science thousands of years after it was first published in the ancient scriptures. That order of events became known to humans only a few hundred years ago, only after those scriptures had been translated into English and badly misinterpreted by theologians.

I'll admit, at first glance, it is not clear just how perfect that order is. The rabbits (conies) were mentioned early in the sequence. But if you will notice, the rabbits were mentioned as an illustration of the future reason for the item that was mentioned at that particular, more ancient time. That technique of illustrating each feature as it is enumerated is typical of the blason literary form and is utilized throughout that Psalm.

Future animals were mentioned at the point in the chronology where photosynthesis was introduced making ecology possible and eventually, wonder of wonders, that ecology would eventually include niches for wild goats, rabbits, and even humans.

The reason for the items mentioned at that stage of development, in that ancient age, was the early preparation for the future ecology that included goats and rabbits. It was at the point in the sequence of events when photosynthesis was introduced for the reason “that He may bring forth food out of the earth.” You see, photosynthesis is what converts the energy of sunlight into stored hydrocarbon fuel, which supplies energy to power life forms that make ecology possible.

But then, we are getting bogged down in detail.

The Immediately Obvious Content of Psalm 104:

Upon close scrutiny Psalm 104 appears to be an ordered list from beginning to end.

As mentioned above, there are approximately fifty points of detail listed in chronological order in Psalm 104. I say approximately, because this is a work in progress, and the more I study the ancient language version, the more of the less obvious detail are recognized.

Some of the items are immediately obvious. Others are more difficult to recognize. Listed here are some of the more obvious items. For a more complete analysis, see <http://www.scienceandthebible.net/reports/ACommentaryOnPsalm104Rev2.pdf>.

In verse 1 God existed in eternity past. God is mentioned prior to the beginning of the universe that is described in verse 2.

In verse 2 light is mentioned. Light is one of the first things that came into existence at the beginning of the universe.

Verse 2 also mentions the expansion of the universe. Light and expansion began with the very beginning of the universe, and continues to this day.

Verses 3 and 4 appear to be religious sounding theobabble due to translators having no idea of the concepts being presented.

Verse 5 mentions the laying of the foundations of the earth. The “foundations of the earth” is that layer under the continents that holds them up. Neither the oceans nor the continents were in existence at this point in time. (“Earth” in bible generally means continents as in “dry land”, not planet earth.)

In verse 6 that foundation becomes covered with ocean. There are no continents.

In verse 8 the mountains go up and the valleys go down in a description of the emergence of the continents to become above sea level.

In verse 9 the continents remain above sea level.

In verses 10 through 28, ecology is established.

In verse 10 the hydrologic cycle becomes established in the continents that now exist.

Verses 11-13 are illustrations of future benefits of hydrologic cycle.

In verse 14, the beginning of photosynthesis is mentioned and noted to be the basis of the food chain. Verses 15-18 mention future significance this.

In verses 19-23 the beginning of the circadian cycle in zoological side of biological life is described along with future examples.

In verse 24 mentions completeness of habitat for life. “The land is full of riches.”

In verse 25 the sea is filled with life. (Cambrian Explosion.)

Verse 26 mentions the age of the Megafauna (leviathan).

Verses 27 and 28 describe the sustained ecology of the age of the megafauna.
Verse 29 describes the mass extinction that ended the age of the megafauna.
Verse 30 describes the renewal of life after mass extinction.
Verse 31 describes another era of life in flourishing ecology.(Punctuated equilibrium)
Verse 32 describes another minor mass extinction accompanied by tectonic activity,
possibly early in the existence of humans.
Verse 33 and 34 describe the reign of human dominance, both historical and future.
Verse 35 mentions a future, partial mass extinction of humans and the future
existence of the “Everlasting Existence” (LORD) and human souls.

But first, is this really an ordered list?

These more than twenty items are blatantly obvious. And those that are within the realm of science are in the correct order as verified by modern science.

If we look closer, we can find many more items mentioned in the order that modern science has verified. This is obviously an ordered list illustrated by a series of images that support the theme.

This raises some questions:

Since the order recorded in the bible is the same order that modern science has discovered, does that mean modern science is right? How could this section of scripture be written thousands of years ago, then modern science independently, and much later, discover the same order unless they are both right?

But What About the Charge of Plagiarism?

There is a piece of literature with roots in the ancient Egyptian religious worship of the Sun God, Aten. There are many similarities between Psalm 104 and, *The Hymn to Aten*—too many similarities to be coincidence.

See, *Psalm 104 and the Hymn to Aten*, copyright Richard F. Hall, 2000,
<http://www.seanet.com/~realistic/psalm104.html>

The similarity begins about verse 20 of Psalm 104, and goes through verse 27.

The following is an excerpt from the above reference:

The Eight points of comparison: Psalm 104 and the Hymn to Aten

The following text in [--] is from Psalm 104 while the remainder is quoted translation by J.H.Breasted, from *Cambridge Ancient History, Vol. II, Chapters 5 & 6.* and "The Rock Tombs of Tell el Armarna", *Archeological Survey, Egyptian Exploration Society (6vol, 1903) N. de G. Davis.*

PSALM 104

[20. *Thou makest darkness, and it is night, Wherein all the beasts of the forest creep forth. 21. The young Lions roar after their prey, And seek their food from God.] The tradition of Egyptian, Hindu, and Hebrew cultures starts the day at sunset. Today the day normally starts at sunrise.*

AKENATEN'S THE HYMN TO THE SUN

When thou settest in the western horizon of the sky,
[1st comparison, verse 20]

The earth is in darkness like the dead.

They sleep in their chambers

Their heads are wrapped up.

Their nostrils are stopped

And none see the other.

While all their things are stolen

Which are under their heads

And they know it not

Every Lion cometh forth from his den

[2nd comparison, verse 21]

All Serpents they sting

Darkness The world is in silence.

He that made them resteth in his horizon.

*[22. The Sun riseth, they get them away,
and lay them down in their dens. 23. Man
goeth forth unto his work And to his labor until
the evening.]*

Bright is the earth when thou riseth in the horizon.

[3rd , 22]

When thou shinest as Aten by day

Thou drivest away the darkness.

When thou sendest forth thy rays

The two lands (Egypt) are in daily festivity.

Awake and standing upon their feet

When thou has raised them up.

Their limbs bathed they take their clothing

Their arms uplifted in adoration to thy dawning

Then in all the world they do their work.. *[4th, 23]*

All cattle rest upon their pasturage

The trees and the plants flourish

*[12. By them the birds of the heavens have their
habitation. They sing among the branches.]*

The birds flutter in their marshes, *[5th, 12]*

Their wings uplifted in adoration to thee.

All sheep dance on their feet.

All winged things fly,

They live when thou hast shone upon them.

[25. Yonder is the sea great and wide. Wherein

are things creeping innumerable. Both small and great beasts. 26. There go the ships.]

The barges sail upstream and downstream alike.

[6th, 26]

Every highway is open because thou dawnest.

The fish in the river leap before thee.

Thy rays are in the midst of the great green sea.

Creator of the germ in woman

Maker of the seed in man

Giving life to the son in the body of his mother

Soothing him that he may not weep.

Nurse (even) in the womb.

[29. Thou hidest thy face, they are troubled.

Thou takest away their breath and they die.

And return to their dust.]

Giver of breath to animals, every one that he maketh

When he cometh forth from the womb *[7th, 29]*

On the day of their birth

Thou openest his mouth in speech

[27. These wait all for thee. That thou may give them food in due season.]

Thou suppliest his necessities. *[8th, 27]*

When the fledgling in the egg chirps in the shell

Thou givest him breath there-in to preserve him alive.

When thou hast brought him together

to (the point of) bursting it in the egg

To chirp with all his might,

He goeth about on his two feet

When he hath come forth therefrom.

How manifold are thy works,

They are hidden from before (us)

O Sole God, whose powers no other possesseth.

Thou didst create the earth according to thy heart

While thou wast alone

Man, all cattle, large and small

All that are upon the earth

That go about on their feet

(All) That are on high

That fly with their wings

The foreign countries, Syria and Kush,
The land of Egypt
Thou settest every man into his place
Thou suppliest their necessities
Everyone has his possessions
And his days are reckoned
The tongues are divers in speech
Their forms likewise and their skins are distinguished
(For) thou makest different the strangers.

Some “Enlightened” scholars draw the following erroneous conclusion:

Therefore, the similarities, along with the obvious observation that the Hymn to Aten was in existence long before the book of Psalms, the assumption is made that Psalm 104, and therefore much more of the supposedly original works of the bible, were then assumed to be in fact copied, plagiarized, stolen in fact, from some more ancient religion. Thus, the credibility of the bible as being the product of inspiration by the God of the bible, is a fiction.

Forensic Science to the Rescue:

But there is something amiss about all this. If you will notice, the “sun god” version has lost its blason genre. Some items of the chronology have disappeared and the emphasis has become upon the illustrative material. It has become a worship of the creation rather than the creator.

Forensic science may have something to say about it.

There are obvious question at this point.

Who is the true author?

Is it the ancient Egyptian religion?

Is it from the God of the Hebrews?

If it is from the assumed Hebrew source, how is the historical time difference of the assumed original version resolved?

Just what is the original, and which is the copy?

Or, are they both copied from some more ancient lost version?

The answers, applying techniques from forensic science, could shed light on the answer to the more broader question:

“Did the ancient Hebrews invent the ‘Creator of the Universe’, or did the ‘Creator of the Universe’ exist before the Ancient Hebrews even heard of Him?

A few basic principles of forensics apply in this case:

*1. Two supposedly independent narratives about a **fictional** event, that agree on the details of that event, are of a necessity not independent, but one copied (plagiarized) from the other. There is collusion among the witnesses.*

2. *Two independent narratives about an **actual** event are not accused of plagiarism simply because they agree on some details. It is evidence of the truth of both narratives.*
3. *About reality, consistently correct information can come from independent original sources. About fiction, consistently similar information only comes from plagiarism. In neither case can consistent information come from imagination.*
4. *The writing of a narrative (discounting the supernatural) that contains details from reality can be dated to have been written after the details recorded in the narrative could have been known through natural means.
(Knowledge of undisclosed details of a crime indicate the one with that knowledge was privy to the facts, and therefore, was likely there.)*
5. *If sufficient documentation can be presented to demonstrate a narrative containing reality existed before those details of reality could have been known through natural means, there is something supernatural about that narrative. A priori knowledge is dictated.*
6. *A narrative containing **more** information that is factual cannot be a copy of a narrative containing **less** information that is factual.*
7. *A narrative containing **less** information that is factual can be a copy of a narrative containing **more** information that is factual. But not necessarily so; **both** may be copied from a common source.*

Assuming Psalm 104 is plagiarized from the Hymn to Aten violates the principles of forensics. Psalm 104 contains more factual information than is contained in the account from which it is assumed to be copied. Violation of rule. 6 above.

Common Origin?

As a consequence of the above, one could argue that neither is the original version. Within rule seven above, one could argue that they may have a common origin.

If the evidence in the similarities between the two accounts is sufficient to conclude there is a common origin, then that common origin cannot be either one of the two accounts we are looking at. One was not copied from the other. The younger was not the original because of its age. The older was not the original because the incompleteness of chronology detail in the older dictates that the more complete chronology in the younger could not have been copied from non-existent information in the older. That more complete detailed information had to have been in the original. But it is not found in the older. Since the more complete detail found in the assumedly younger had to have been present in the original for it to be a copy, there had to be a more complete, more ancient, original. Forensic science therefore dictates that one was not copied from the other, but both were derived from a more ancient common original source.

That conclusion lends credibility to the record of the bible that during a certain period in history, the Hebrew people lived together with the Egyptian people for a period of 400 years. (Even that record is questioned by some historians of “higher learning.”)

The book of Job also makes reference to some of the same information found in Psalms 104, but is missing in the Hymn to Aten. The Book of Job is commonly accepted to have originated long before the 400 year contact between the Hebrew and Egyptian culture. But, the book of Job could not be the original source as it too has missing information that is present in Psalm 104. It is also interesting to note that the original source for one of the Mosaic accounts of creation could be an account in the book of Job due to the above rules of forensics.

As a side note, it is not certain which culture is the setting in which Job lived, but the nomadic lifestyle depicted is more akin to the history of the Hebrews than the Egyptian, so it might be argued that the book of Job came with the Hebrews into the Land of Egypt, along with the original source of both Psalm 104 and *The Hymn to Aten*.

Did Writing Exist in that More Ancient Time?

There is, among scholars of “higher learning,” some doubt that writing had advanced (evolved) to the level that it could be used to record literature such as the book of Job, at the time of the supposed origin of the book of Job. However, recent discovery has discredited that assumption. It has long been assumed that it took knowledge of the meanings of each symbol of the ancient Egyptian Hieroglyphics to read the writings in that language. However, it is now known that within the ancient Egyptian writing is a system of symbolic phonetic recording of the sounds of the language at the time. I have a copy of the ancient Egyptian Book of the Dead, and it can be read phonetically with ease, once one becomes accustomed to the symbol associated with each sound. There are only so many sounds that are made by the human voice, and the ancient Egyptian language is advanced to the point that those sounds are recorded in the symbols, just as effectively as any modern written language. Of course, in addition to sounds, there are also recorded symbols with meaning independent of sound, such as the dollar sign in English. In that sense, ancient Egyptian is as advanced as any modern language. The assumption that the technology of writing has followed an “evolutionary” development from primitive symbols to modern written language over the past few thousand years is a myth. Written language suddenly appeared fully developed thousands of years ago.

The myth of oral tradition being the sole method of preservation of accounts in ancient times is busted. In ancient writing, phonetic symbols served as a modern tape recorder.

About the Eight Points of Similarity:

The above mentioned article claiming Psalm 104 is plagiarized from the Hymn to Aten draws attention to eight points of similarity between the two. Even in the eight points of similarity, the detail indicating the chronology is obscured in the Hymn to Aten, though it is possible that obscurity may be an artifact of the translation and the translator’s lack of recognition of the substance in those points of detail.

The similarities are in the illustrations of the points of chronology rather than the points of chronology themselves. The Hymn to Aten elaborates on the illustrative material and misses the main structure of the original source. The Hymn to Aten

misses the main thrust of the original source in two ways. First, it misses the chronology. Second, it misses to whom the praise is to be given.

In addition to the similarities, in the Hymn to Aten, foreign illustrative material appears to have been introduced that is not in the original as evidenced by the fact that it is not in Psalm 104, and is unique to the Egyptian environment.

So, since neither are the original, which is the more credible copy?

If the presence of factual reality indicates credibility, and the presence of fiction indicates non-credibility, we are to assume giving credit to the sun for creating the universe disqualifies the Hymn to Aten as being credible on two fronts, both scientifically, and religiously.

But what about Psalm 104. Does giving credit to the God of the Hebrews disqualify Psalm 104 from credibility? Or is there something supernatural about Psalm 104 that gives it credibility in the realm outside the realm of science? What about the credibility that is established by the ordering of events in an order that is in accord with reality, but cannot be from any natural source available at the time of writing?

It is the inclusion of reality that is impossible to have been known, information that is found in Psalm 104, yet missing in the Hymn to Aten, that says there is something supernatural about Psalm 104?

But That is not All:

Following the forensic trail of evidence started above leads one to the conclusion that somewhere in the ancient past of the Hebrew people, before Moses wrote the book of Genesis, there must have been a mastermind. From somewhere, information came that became widespread and known to the various writers of the bible during the era before the Babylonian Exile, after which much of that widely known information appears to have become lost other than as recorded in the ancient writings of the Hebrew scriptures. Evidence of that is found in the nearly three dozen accounts scattered throughout the bible that, when all viewed together, meld into a chronology of over one hundred details arranged in an order that is internally consistent and matches reality.

Not only that, evidence is found in the non-Hebrew writings such as the Hymn to Aten, and other ancient Egyptian legends or myths as they are called, evidence that indicates a common beginning of the information, but the further it drifts from the source as it wanders through other cultures, the more it drifts from reality.

For the story on this drifting from reality, see, *The Story Behind the Legend of the Firmament*, <http://www.scienceandthebible.net/reports/art1216firmamentlegend.pdf> .

For an earlier commentary on Psalm 104 by the author, see the free excerpt from his book, *“Eyewitness to the Origins...”*, at, www.scienceandthebible.net/articles/Eyewitness_to_the_Origins_V3.1_p346_to_355.pdf

A copy of the book can be ordered on the internet or purchased from the author by following the links from www.EyewitnessToTheOrigins.com.

Also see the article, *The Story Behind the Legend of the Firmament*,

<http://www.scienceandthebible.net/reports/art1216firmamentlegend.pdf> .

And, the January, 2009 issue of The Science and the Bible Ezine

<http://www.scienceandthebible.net/ezine/2009/SATB-Ezine-2009-01-31.pdf>.

Also see the article, *Blason Creation Account*,

http://www.scienceandthebible.info/reports/art081220blason_creation_account.pdf.

Also see the article, *Psalm 104 Plagiarized from Ancient Myth?*,

http://www.scienceandthebible.net/reports/art081220Psalm_104_Plagiarized.pdf.

March, 2011 issue of the Ezine, (issue previous to one in which this article appears)

<http://www.scienceandthebible.net/ezine/2011/SATB-Ezine-2011-03-31.pdf>

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