

Science and the Bible E-Zine

The Science and the Bible E-Zine Volume 5, Number 3, March 2012

Publisher: Max B. Frederick, AnOldScientist

Motto: The Simple Truth

Mission: To reach the intellectually honest skeptic and critical thinker with an intellectually honest approach to the credibility of ancient scriptures, their credibility being attested to by their publication of information before its time, yet obscured until independently discovered centuries later, by modern science, thus verifying ancient knowledge of reality.

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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

In recognition of the reality that this electronic magazine (E-Zine) is striving for intellectual honesty, a change has been made in the header. A mission statement has been added.

A few years ago, when I mentioned my work in science and the bible to the neighbor across the street, the response was something like, "The bible has been translated so many times, How can we know what it really says."

More recently, I have been challenged several times with the accusation, "Aren't you just re-interpreting the bible to say what you already believe?"

The answer has always been, We can know because we have the original language version. No, I am simply researching to discover what it really says.

But those challenges have resulted in much soul searching.

What I have found is there are a great many people today who cannot believe what the bible says because they have been led to believe the bible says something it doesn't say. They do not know what the bible really says.

The problem is, the only version they see of what the bible really says is the result of the two problems mentioned above—a re-translation biased toward what some theologian thinks the bible should say, or some re-interpretation to make the bible appear to say what some theologian already believes it should say.

And this has resulted in valid criticism of many of the things Christians say that are in conflict with reality—in other words, reality and religion are not synonyms. In fact, religion has rightly achieved a reputation of being out of touch with reality.

Thus, an honest intellectual appears to have two choices. Either one must reject reality and go with religion, or reject religion and go with reality. It appears that one cannot embrace both.

But there is a third choice. That choice is to research and find what the bible really says—not simply re-translate or re-interpret to make it appear to say what you want it to say, or to make it say what you already believe. Do the research. Find out what it really says. There you will find accord with reality.

And that is the miracle of scripture. The reality recorded in the ancient scripture is in accord with the truth as discovered in recent times by modern science and assumed to have been unknown in ancient times. The imaginative traditional interpretation is not in accord with this record, nor with reality. Unguided imagination could not have produced this record of reality that is actually found in the ancient scriptures.

Research reveals the bible is in accord with reality. It is the imaginative traditional religious reinterpretation that strays from reality. It is the refusal to look at what the bible really says that leads one into intellectual dishonesty. It is the fear of what one might find that keeps one entrapped in intellectual dishonesty. Intellectual dishonesty (some call it hypocrisy) is not necessary when one does the research to discover what the bible really says.

So, This month, I am emphasizing the point that my work is for the honest intellectual—to the honest doubter that is intellectually inquisitive.

There is a book that claims to reveal the way to eternal life.

But, is that book credible? Can you believe it?

There are a great many people who would like to believe eternal life is possible, and that book could lead them to it.

But a great many of those same people are convinced the book is so far out of touch with reality that it has no credibility.

Some will even go to great political lengths to prevent believers in that book from infecting others with their belief.

Thus, a ministry to the intellectually honest doubter is the great need of today.

Anonymous

2) **Depth of Information in Scripture**

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 3:15 (KJV)

“If you do not understand terrestrial things how shall you believe extra-terrestrial things?” Jesus to Nicodemus, ca. AD 25 John 3:12

Reality, Religion, and the Bible:

There is a lot theologians do not know about the bible.

Much of that unknown is in the realm of reality—the accord with fact—loosely equated, by some people, to *science*.

And they don't even know that they don't know.

After intense study of the bible in the context of science and the bible, this old scientist has the quandary of how to let people, especially theologians, know there is a lot they do not know about reality that is recorded in the bible.

To the masses, the realm most associated with reality is science. If science says it, it is generally believed to be in accord with reality—to be true.

Religion, on the other hand, has a poor track record in the realm of reality. One famous quote traced back to Samuel Clemens, a man who is credited with reflecting the heart of America, goes something like, “Faith is believing something you know is not true.” Another concept of religion is dogmatic adherence to some pre-conceived belief—whether true or not is irrelevant—and today's politically correct position is, it is not true, just tolerated.

It is widely held among intellectual skeptics and critical thinkers, that religion is the science of enslaving the minds of the masses—that the main interest of religion is to control the masses—is telling people what to do and what to think—reality be damned.

Regrettably, that poor track record of religion is erroneously perceived to be the track record of the bible.

That poor record may possibly extend to some parts of some modern versions of the bible. But, it does not extend to the original version of the bible.

It is in the original language version of the ancient scriptures that religion and the bible part ways.

Theologians not versed in reality just don't get it. The more they try to clarify it, the more muddled it becomes.

That is the concern Jesus had to address with the theologians of his time. And that is still true of religion versus the bible today.

This lack of understanding is what Jesus was facing when talking to Nicodemus, a most learned theologian of Jesus' time, when, in frustration He chided Nicodemus

with, “*If you do not understand terrestrial things how shall you believe extra-terrestrial things?*.”

What are theologians oblivious to? It is those down to earth things that are in accord with reality and science. They are obvious in scripture—once you recognize them. They are obvious to a modern scientist, but theologians remain oblivious to them.

In that oblivion, modern translations appear. Thus, the more modern translations give the impression that theologians are more interested in controlling the actions and thoughts of their followers than in imparting information about reality that leads to credibility of the bible concerning extra-terrestrial things such as life after death.

Three-Level Structure of Information in the Bible:

Buried in the scripture there are various levels of information. Typically there are three levels. They include, starting from the deepest to the surface, the physical reality basis, the religious doctrine derived from that basis, and the surface level of application to our daily lives. It is the surface level that is the most preached.

Over the years of tackling the problem I have come to a conclusion. The actual record in the bible concerning the beginnings is in accord with reality. It is the traditional religious interpretation that is not. Careful analysis reveals that the traditional interpretation has been derived without understanding of the underlying level of the reality from which it should have been derived.

On the surface, much of the bible is narrative relating personal experiences. Some is there for the purpose of teaching a lesson—kind of similar to a preacher preaching a sermon. For the most part most of the surface level is the application in daily life. Often it is examples, either pro or con, from history.

Just below the surface, in many passages, is the doctrinal level where basic principles are summarized in doctrinal statements—condensed into a set of guidelines—summarized into a set of principles. On this level, much of it seem to deal with religious stuff. By religious stuff I am referring to the relationship between man and God. Whatever that means.

But, below it all, typically on the third level, there is a vast quantity of reality buried deeper in the scripture. This deeper level typically contains the basis in reality of the overlaying application. That is where science and the bible meet. That is where discerning reality bolsters the credibility of the bible. That is where reality as discovered by modern science bolsters the credibility of the bible

Obscuring the deeper level:

Regrettably, many times the deeper levels are obscured when theologians are bent on religious interpretation of the surface level.

The one-hundred-fourth Psalm is a good example.

The surface (application) level is living in awe of God—having great depth of love for God.

The second, (doctrine) level is the doctrine that all nature demonstrates the greatness of God.

The third, (reality in the realm of science) level is a chronological list of the stages

of development of nature from eternity past, before the beginning of the universe, to eternity future, beyond the final end of the current human habitation on earth.

In the surface level the writers is praising his God. Look in any bible commentary, and you will typically see a statement to the effect that Psalm 104 is a praise of God, illustrated by the wonders of His creation (His ecology, His nature.) You might even see a statement of the doctrine that is clearly re-stated by Paul, that it is impossible for even the skeptic to not to see that God is responsible for all of what we call nature.

It is in the third underlying level that reality lends credibility to this Psalm, and to the bible as a whole. But recognition of this fact is entirely missing in most biblical commentaries. On this level, this psalm is in the form of a chronological listing of major events in the process of developing an environment for ecology to exist, and of major events in the process of developing the ecology itself.

The wonder of this underlying level is that the detail of reality is in accord with the discoveries of modern science. It includes information that is assumed to be unknown at the time of the writing of that scripture. In that psalm, you will find over fifty points of detail that are presented in the exact chronological order as determined by the relatively recent discoveries of modern science. Even included you will find at some points in the chronology, the reason for that particular step is some future purpose, contradicting the philosophy of modern science that nothing is done for a future purpose. However, the discoveries of modern science do confirm that had it not been for that prior development, that future event could not have happened.

Note: Most so called, “experts” on the subject of creation—seminar speakers and such—appear to be oblivious to the fact that there are nearly three dozen major accounts of creation to be found in the bible. They typically base their knowledge upon what they think the bible says in a single account found up front in the bible and on the traditional religious interpretation of that account, an interpretation which is based on speculation predicated upon ancient Greek science at the time of the translation from the ancient Hebrew language into the Greek Septuagint (LXX).

Sometimes scientific reality of physics is in the top, surface level.

A good example is found in II Corinthians 15: 35-55 where Paul begins with some pretty strong language where he calls someone who does not understand it a “Fool.” He puts the physics of it at the top level. (See last month Issue of this E-zine, <http://www.scienceandthebible.net/ezine/2012/SATB-Ezine-2012-02-29.pdf>.)

In this treatise on the Physical versus Spiritual Bodies; Paul gets to the bottom first so there will be no misunderstanding. In this treatise on the physical difference between the terrestrial intelligent life form that we are now, and the extra-terrestrial intelligent life form that we are to be, Paul puts the physical reality at the top, surface level.

In this lesson, Paul makes the overt statement that there are terrestrial bodies and there are extra-terrestrial bodies—there is a natural (mater based) body and a spiritual (non-mater based) body.

“[There are] also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial: but the glory of the celestial [is] one, and the [glory] of the terrestrial [is] another.” 1Cr 15:40

“It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.” 1Cr 15:44

Sadly, even though the physics is clear, some religious traditions ignores the overt statements of physics and assumes both to be matter based—some even assume a future matter based world restoration of the “perfection of the Garden of Eden.”

Other Variations to the Three-Level Structure:

And then, there are variations to the typical three-level structure: A good example is the parable of the seed and the sower. The top level of the lesson is omitted until later when the lesson is explained. The religious term for this is teaching in parables. Later, this principle was picked up very well in Aesops Fables.

In the parable of the sower and the seed, level 1 is omitted in the public presentation. But the other two levels are present. Level 1 is supplied later in private.

Level 1 is missing until later explained in private.

Level 2 is at the top, and is the doctrinal level in the form of a fictional narrative about a certain sower, about how he spread seed over various types of ground.

Level 3, the underlying level is the true principles of reality concerning the science of farming. Various scenarios are presented that prevent a good crop yield. These scenarios are factually in accord with reality even though they are buried below a fictional narrative level.

Information Before its Time—The Bible is Unique:

There are many more excellent examples of this three-level structure where reality, especially reality before its time, is buried beneath two other levels of information as the credible basis for the surface level teaching. This is unique to the bible, where information before its time is included in a way that it is preserved for centuries until confirmed by independent discovery of the same information by modern science.

The fact that this underlying information has been ignored for centuries for lack of understanding, awaiting the independent verification by modern science, makes one wonder if maybe it might have been pre-planned, to enlighten the world to the credibility of the original scriptures. It makes one wonder why this structure, with information beyond its time is unique to the bible.

Parting Note:

This discussion of the levels of the depth of scripture would be remiss if it did not include a note about the trend in modern translations to make the ancient scripture “more easily understood.” In doing so, the good intentions of well meaning theologians actually destroy the more difficult to understand basis for the truth being taught. Typical modern translations tend to destroy the underlying levels. Much is lost in favor of what the translators may believe is the lesson that is to be taught. Therefore, it is imperative that the student of science in the bible refer to the original language for the authoritative wording, and define the words used with understanding of the physics involved. Many of the words used there have had their meaning lost during the period of non-use of that language. In the typical lexicon, they have had their meanings replaced by the traditional definitions of theologians who inferred the meanings from the context with a bias toward religious interpretation.

More on that, and meaningful examples in my other writings.

To Reiterate:

It is the reality of this ignored terrestrial “earthly” information that lends credibility to the teaching of the bible concerning extra-terrestrial things such as eternal life.

Again, *“If you do not understand terrestrial things how shall you believe extra-terrestrial things?”* Jesus to Nicodemus, ca. AD 25 John 3:12

To do justice to this vast wealth of information is too great a task for one month’s E-zine, therefore...To be continued.....

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