

Things Surely Believed Among Us

Why We Believe the Bible - Science And The Bible

Genesis 1:1-2

Introduction

- A. It is a common fallacy among men to say that the Bible and science contradict one another.
- B. Those who oppose religion don't want to admit the scientific accuracy of Scripture.
- C. What if I could show you, from the Scriptures, a number of scientific facts, which were revealed in Scripture before their discovery by scientists in recent years.
- D. The skeptic would be quick to dismiss such an idea, but in fact the Bible does provide a number of these indisputable facts.
- E. The five fundamentals of science
 1. After practically a lifetime of study, Herbert Spencer (1820-1903), the famous British Philosopher, declared that there are basically five fundamentals of science: time, force, action, space, and matter.
 2. Little did Spencer realize he was but echoing what had been written by a man more than 3,000 years prior to him!
 3. **Genesis 1:1** - "In the beginning [time] God [force] created [action] the heavens [space] and the earth [matter]"
 4. Thus, with the very first verse of the Bible, it becomes crystal clear to the open-minded inquirer that there is something special, something unique, about the sacred text.
 5. A closer examination of the Book reveals many startling scientific facts, placed there hundreds or thousands of years before they were known to the modern scientific mind--buried like precious gems within the text of the Bible
- F. We will examine a few of these facts this morning, however time will not allow us to examine all the Bible has to say on this subject

I. The Roundness Of The Earth

A. Isaiah 40:22

"It Is He That Sitteth Upon The Circle Of The Earth, And The Inhabitants Thereof Are As Grasshoppers; That Stretcheth Out The Heavens As A Curtain, And Spreadeth Them Out As A Tent To Dwell In."

1. Bear in mind that this was written approx. 750 B.C.
 2. Who told Isaiah that the earth was round?
- B. Many people in the past, and surprisingly, even some in our own day, believed the earth to be flat.
1. When Columbus made his famous voyage there were those who thought that he might risk falling off the ends of the earth; and consider that, that was in the year 1492.
 2. But they had Scripture that told the truth of the matter.
 3. When Isaiah spoke of the *circle* of the earth, he used a Hebrew word that means - "a ball, a circle, a sphere, something round."
 4. He was not talking about something flat, but about something circular, like a basketball

II. The Suspension Of The Earth

A. Job 26:7

"He Stretcheth Out The North Over The Empty Place, And Hangeth The Earth Upon Nothing."

- B. It is believed that Job was written approx. 2500 B.C., and yet revealed the truth of the suspension

of the earth by gravity.

1. In that day, there was the strange belief that the four corners of the earth were held up by elephants.
2. Some subscribing to the theory that the earth was held up by Atlas.
3. The truth of Job 26:7 wasn't actually realized until about 1475 A.D. by Copernicus, 3,975 years after Job penned his words.
4. So we return to a familiar question: Who told Job that the earth hanged on nothing?

III. The One Bed Connecting The Oceans

A. Genesis 1:9-10

"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: And God Saw That It Was Good."

B. This was penned approx. 1500 B.C.

C. The Earth is covered by one hydrosphere or one layer of connecting water.

1. Even though the ocean is broken up into seven ocean parts, all the oceans are connected, one flowing into the other.
2. Apart from Scripture, this phenomenon was unknown for many, many centuries

IV. The Lanes Of The Seas

A. Psalm 8:8

"The Fowl Of The Air, And The Fish Of The Sea, And Whatsoever Passeth Through The Paths Of The Seas."

B. The paths or lanes of the sea are revealed in Scripture approx. 1000 B.C.

C. M.F. Maury, the founder of the science of oceanography, read this verse and was motivated to seek out and chart the principal lanes of Sea Travel.

1. He charted these paths or lanes in approx. 1854, 2854 years after the Psalmist penned this scientific truth.
2. Again, a valid question arises: Who told the Psalmist about the paths in the seas?

V. The Innumerable Stars

A. Genesis 15:4-5 - Jeremiah 33:22

"And, Behold, The Word Of The LORD Came Unto Him, Saying, This Shall Not Be Thine Heir; But He That Shall Come Forth Out Of Thine Own Bowels Shall Be Thine Heir. And He Brought Him Forth Abroad, And Said, Look Now Toward Heaven, And Tell The Stars, If Thou Be Able To Number Them: And He Said Unto Him, So Shall Thy Seed Be."

As The Host Of Heaven Cannot Be Numbered, Neither The Sand Of The Sea Measured: So Will I Multiply The Seed Of David My Servant, And The Levites That Minister Unto Me.

B. Hipparchus said there were only 1,022 stars - Ptolemy is reported to have said that there were 1,026.

1. I have to admire the patience of any individual who is insane enough to stand outside and count the stars at night.
2. And what do you do if you lose count and have to start over? (956, 957, oh wait, did I count those 3 over there, now where was I?).

C. Actually it was Galileo who was the first to openly teach that the stars cannot be numbered.

- D. Of interest in our day, “the Hubble Guide Star Catalogues contain entries for 15 million stars.” And that is just the ones that have been cataloged.
1. It sorts of makes you wonder what Hipparchus and Ptolemy would say to that interesting piece of information?
 2. Isn't it something that Moses and Jeremiah informed us the stars were innumerable long before man finally admitted it.

VI. The Life of the Flesh is in the Blood

A. Leviticus 17:11

“For The Life Of The Flesh Is In The Blood: And I Have Given It To You Upon The Altar To Make An Atonement For Your Souls: For It Is The Blood That Maketh An Atonement For The Soul.”

- B. Throughout history, there have been those who believed that disease and spirits reside in the blood. In fact the only remedy was to bleed the patient.
- C. In 1618, William Harvey was appointed the personal physician to James 1st.
1. His famous document regarding blood was published in 1628 and remains one of the marvels from that era.
 2. “The heart of animals is the foundation of their life, the sovereign of everything within them, the sun of their microcosm, that upon which all growth depends, from which all power proceeds.”
 3. “The heart, it is vulgarly said, is the fountain and workshop of the vital spirits, the center from which life is dispensed to the several parts of the body.”
 4. “The heart, consequently, is the beginning of life; the sun of the microcosm, even as the sun in his turn might well be designated the heart of the world; for it is the heart by whose virtue and pulse the blood is moved, perfected, and made nutrient, and is preserved from corruption and coagulation; it is the household divinity which, discharging its function, nourishes, cherishes, quickens the whole body, and is indeed the foundation of life, the source of all action.”
- D. It is remarkable that William Harvey came to these conclusions in 1628, centuries after Moses penned Leviticus.

Conclusion

- A. These examples, and many more, show that Scripture does indeed provide scientific information, and at that, accurate information.
- B. How did the Bible writers know these things?
1. Did they arrive at their conclusions by sheer accident?
 2. As one writer suggests, that would be the greatest miracle of history.
- C. If in fact these matters were all of coincidence, and were simply the product of the minds of men doing guesswork, then we would expect to find a mistake.
- D. If a mathematician were to calculate the probability of each of these scientific discoveries being 100% accurate, I am sure we would be astounded at the odds that he or she would state for this to be the case
- E. The evidence for God is overwhelming. What is holding you back from giving your life to Him, and yielding to His will?
- F. Invitation

Material For this lesson came from:

Bert Thompson – Rock Solid Faith
George DeHoff – Why We Believe the Bible
Phil Sanders – Evangelism Handbook