

The Bible: Confirmed or Denied by Science?

The pronouncements of the scientific community have been so infused with political, social, and philosophical ideology that many of them have been led to believe that the Bible makes observations about the world in which we live that are scientifically inaccurate. This misinformation has been so well disseminated that even some theologians have excused the Bible's scientific inaccuracies by claiming that it does not attempt to address physical truth. Dr. W. A. Criswell in *The Bible for Today's World* quotes an imminent theologian:

Of course, there are scientific errors in the Bible. However, we can excuse such mistakes on the grounds that the Bible is not a textbook of science and therefore we do not expect it to be scientifically accurate.

While we agree that the Bible is not a textbook on science, nevertheless, where science and the Bible intersect, we fully expect the Bible to be accurate. Anything less suggests that 1) the Bible was directed by a God who did not understand the workings of His own creation, 2) that men, not God, wrote the Bible, 3) that God is the product of the mind of man and, indirectly, of a mindless evolutionary process, or 4) God purposely allowed misinformation into the Bible text, disregarding the confusion that it would create. We reject all these premises and assert with confidence that an honest study of the Bible and scientific observations reveals an incredible agreement between the two sources. Consider only the point that the universe was created by God.

Moses taught that "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth... (Genesis 1:1). This assertion, much in disfavor throughout the scientific community for scores of years, has been confirmed by recent discoveries. Because of the findings of the Cosmic Background Explorer (COBE) satellite in 1992, many of the world's most renowned astronomers and physicists believe that the universe did begin with a "Big Bang" and, more importantly, conclude that it was not by an accident. Take note of the remarks of some of the world's top scientists chronicled in *The Creator and the Cosmos* by Hugh Ross, Ph.D.

1. Michael Turner, astrophysicist with the University of Chicago: "The significance of this (the COBE discoveries) cannot be overstated. They have found the Holy Grail of cosmology."
2. Cambridge University professor of mathematics, Stephen Hawking: "It is the discovery of the century, if not of all time."
3. George Smoot, University of California at Berkeley astronomer and project leader for the COBE satellite: "What we have found is evidence for the birth of the universe." "It's like looking at God."

Based on these discoveries Dr. Ross noted that "theistic pronouncements abounded." He further wrote, "According to science historian Frederic B. Burnham the community of scientists was prepared to consider the idea that God created the universe 'a more respectable hypothesis today than at any time in the last hundred years.'" Because the evidence is so powerful that the universe was intelligently created, Dr. Ross observed,

"Astronomers who do not draw theistic or deistic conclusions are becoming rare..."

Nearly three and a half millennia ago Moses was taught by the Egyptians of his day that the earth was hatched out of a great cosmic egg and mankind was spawned from little white worms found in Nile River flood slime. How was Moses able to reject the wisdom of his day and devise the creation scenario, lucky guess or Divine revelation? Science, rather than disproving the Bible's claims, reinforces it.

While the issue of creation may be the most significant example of scientific truth found in the Bible, there are many others. Like creation, they are not presented as scientific discoveries because they are simply mentioned in connection with other messages. We find directives about such things as the proper disposal of dead animals and personal hygiene (Leviticus 17:15), quarantine (Leviticus 13-15), and the handling of human waste (Deuteronomy 23:12-13) that were unknown in the time of Moses and remained unknown outside the Bible for millennia. Even as science has revealed the reasons behind these biblical observations, many people today are either ignorant of their truth or disregard them. Yet these things were recorded by God's servant, Moses, 3500 years ago. The only explanation for scientific knowledge in a time of universal ignorance, is Divine Revelation.

We find that if we approach science and the information derived from that discipline with an unbiased mind, that the Bible and science are completely compatible. Only when one approaches the Bible with the bias that nothing exists beyond the natural world will the findings of science be twisted to deny its truth.