

The Bible is Not a Science Textbook

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Introduction:

- A. Use the Bible for the purpose for which God intended it to be used
 - 1. 2Tim. 3:14-17; Rom. 15:4
 - 2. God never intended it to be a science textbook; brethren do us a disservice when they attempt to stretch verses to have contemporary scientific applications.
 - 3. At best it appears contrived; in truth it is misleading and makes the advocate look foolish

I. THE BIBLE IS ABOUT TRUTH

- A. Bible has been both properly used but also abused in regards to science
 - 1. The Bible does make some claims regarding certain events that impact the world we live in
 - 2. Gen. 1-2:3 - the Bible asserts that God made the heavens and earth in six days and rested on the seventh
 - 3. Psalm 33:6-9 - this creation was done through the word of God
 - 4. Job 38-41 - God alone created the world and only He understands its intricacies
 - 5. Rom. 1:20 - God can be perceived in His creation
- B. As we will see, the Bible as an authority from the Creator of the universe is to be accepted in these assertions whether or not we understand the process or whether or not it fits conventional wisdom
- C. On the other hand, many claims have been made in the past, and parts of the Bible have been quoted, to try to establish scientific claims that are in error
 - 1. Psalm 104:2 cited to try to show that the Earth is flat
 - 2. Some consider Leviticus 11:13-19 to be a problem, since the text appears to claim that bats are birds when they are currently classified as mammals
 - 3. The mention of sunrise and sunset in Numbers 34:15 and Joshua 8:29 appear to some to prove that the sun rotates around the earth
- D. The difficulty present is not with the Bible but in how the Bible is being used
- E. In reality, the Bible is not a science textbook; it was never intended to be
 - 1. The Bible is focused on man's relationship with God, and the things man must do to create and maintain that relationship with God
 - a. Eph. 3:11; John 20:30-31; 1John 1:1-4
 - 2. The Bible is complete to equip man for every good work - 2Tim. 3:16-17
 - 3. This does not mean, however, that the Bible has every answer to every question man can imagine
 - 4. It is not within the purview of the Bible to provide all truths regarding every subject, including all human languages, history, biology, chemistry, physics, mathematics, etc.
 - 5. It is true that we can learn some general principles about the creation from the Bible, but its purpose is to save man's soul, not satisfy his curiosity

- F. When we get this, we need not be troubled by statements that bother others
1. It was not the intent of God or David to make some declaration regarding the scientific nature of the universe when the heavens were described in terms of a tent; the author is simply expressing his marvel at all encompassing nature of God's created universe
 2. It was not the intent of God or Moses to make strict animal classifications in Leviticus 11, but to provide a list of unclean foods based on certain characteristics, and including all animals in those characteristics even if we classify them differently
 3. It was not the intent of God or Moses or Joshua to make some scientific declaration that the sun rotates around the earth by speaking of sunrises and sunsets, but declaring events that occurred and locations based on what we see; after all, do not we still call it sunrise and sunset even though we "know better"?
- G. In the end, the things of the Bible are the things of God, and God is wiser than men - Isa. 55:8-9
1. This is why one cannot prove God according to the scientific method
 2. God transcends the scientific method
 3. 2Kings 6:15-17 - There is a spiritual reality in our very midst that we cannot perceive with our physical senses
 4. They cannot be proven, for we cannot perceive them with our senses, but that does not mean that they do not exist
 5. Matters of spirituality and the faith, then, transcend the physical plane, and therefore comparing science to faith is as comparing the earthly with the heavenly

Conclusion:

- A. 2Cor. 4:18, 5:7
- B. We live by faith in God, not by the shifting sands of the scientific method
1. Contemporary science cannot disprove the word of God; it cannot even impact it
 2. It will change again, probably in your lifetime; it has done so often in the past; what was scientific fact yesterday will be laughable fiction tomorrow
- C. God's word doesn't need conventional science to agree with it in order for it to be truth; the question is, why do you need it to