

Science and the Bible *Inerrancy of the Bible*

Objectives

To gain an understanding about the relationship between science and Holy Scripture

References

- ❖ <http://mb-soft.com/believe/text/inerranc.htm>
- ❖ “The Impossibility of Perverting the Holy Bible” Fr. Marcos Aziz Khalil
- ❖ “Reply to those who claim the Perversion of the Holy Bible” Fr. Mannasa Yohana

Scriptural Verse

“For prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit” (2 Peter 1:21)

Lesson Outlines

Definition of Inerrancy

Inerrancy is the view that when all the facts become known, they will demonstrate that the Bible in its original autographs and correctly interpreted is entirely true and never false in all it affirms, whether that relates to doctrine or ethics or to the social, physical, or life sciences.

M A P S

M = → Manuscript

More than 14,000 manuscripts and fragments of the Old Testament

The earliest quoted verses (Numbers 6:24-26) date from 800-700 B.C.

Over 5,300 manuscripts or portions of the New Testament

The time between the original composition and our earliest copies is 60 years or so.

M A P S

A = → Archeology

Comprehensive field work (archaeology) and careful biblical interpretation affirms the reliability of the Bible.

Book of Daniel, was partly dismissed because there was no evidence that a king named Belshazzar ruled in Babylon during that time period.

Archaeological research confirmed that the reigning monarch, Nabonidus, appointed Belshazzar as his co-regent while he was away from Babylon.

M A P S

P = → Prophecy

The Bible records predictions of events that could not be known or predicted by chance or common sense.

The many predictions of the Lord Jesus Christ’s birth, life and death were indisputably rendered more than a century before they occurred as proven by the Dead Sea Scrolls of

Isaiah and other prophetic books as well as by the Septuagint translation, all dating from earlier than 100 B.C.

Old Testament prophecies concerning the Phoenician city of Tyre were fulfilled in ancient times (Ezekiel 26:23; Isaiah 23; Jeremiah 27:3-6, 47:4)

M A P S

S => Statistics

Statistical probability that any or all of the Bible's very specific, detailed prophecies could have been fulfilled through chance, good guessing, or deliberate deceit.

The Bible was written over a span of 1500 years by forty different human authors in three different languages (Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek), on hundreds of subjects.

There is one consistent, non-contradictory theme that runs through it all: *God's redemption of humankind.*

Inerrancy of the Bible

1. The Bible teaches its own inspiration, and this requires inerrancy.

The Scriptures are the breath of God which guarantees they are without error.

“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness” (2 Timothy 3:16)

2. The word of God is always truthful

Deuteronomy 18:20-22: “But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in My name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die. And if you say in your heart, ‘How shall we know the word which the Lord has not spoken?’ when a prophet speaks in the name of the Lord, if the thing does not happen or come to pass, that is the thing which the Lord has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him”

Criteria for distinguishing God's message and messenger from false prophecies and prophets.

One mark of a divine message is total and absolute truthfulness.

3. The Bible teaches its own authority, and this requires inerrancy.

Matthew 5:17 - 20: “Till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.”

The law's authority rests on the fact that every minute detail will be fulfilled.

John 10: 34 – 35: “The Scripture cannot be broken”

Something that contains errors cannot be absolutely authoritative.

4. Inerrancy follows from what the Bible says about God's character.

Repeatedly, the Scriptures teach that God cannot lie

Numbers 23:19: “God is not a man, that He should lie”

Titus 1:2: “God, who cannot lie...”

If, then, the Bible is from God and His character is behind it, it must be inerrant and infallible.

Science and the Universe

The Bible is God's revelation given to human beings through the words of the Biblical writers.

"Science" is the result of human interpretation of God's Word.

"The universe," is given to us by God's creative activity.

Failure to grasp these categories has historically resulted in silly errors such as the condemnation of Galileo in teaching (correctly) that the earth revolves around the sun rather than the sun, moon and planets revolving around the earth.

The church of his day assumed (that is, wrongly interpreted) the Bible to teach that the earth is the physical centre of the universe (and therefore everything else revolved around it).

Many others examples may be cited, which are all resolved: either science is wrong (as in the case of the various theories of evolution) or else our understanding of the Bible is imprecise.

Any apparent conflict must be:

- Incorrect scientific interpretation
- Incorrect theological interpretation
- Incorrect interpretations of both.

Bible Evidences - Ethological Facts

One common origin of the human race

Established scientific (biological) evidence points to the fact of the common ancestry of man

Genesis: Adam and Eve

First man and a first woman, taken from the man

"And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth" (Acts 17:26)

Different Races: Caucasians, Africans, etc.

Actually there is only one human race, called man (both male and female, Genesis).

The different characteristics, such as skin pigmentation, facial differences, etc. arose from the sons of Noah, who survived the Flood, and dwelt in different parts of the world.

This is the picture the Bible presents, and it is in full accord with the facts as they stand today.

Ham: dwelt in Africa

Four Sons of Ham:

1. Mizraim (Egypt)
2. Cush (Sudan, Ethiopia)
3. Put (Lybia)
4. Canaan (Hivites, Jebusites, Arvadites, Girgashites, Amorites, Arkites, Sinites, Hittites, Sidonians, Perizzites, Zemarites)

Shem: dwelt in Semitic area (Middle East)

Five Sons of Shem:

1. Elam (Arabia)
2. Asshur (Assyria)
3. Lud (Lydians)
4. Aram (Aramaic, Armenia, Mesopotamia, Syria)
5. Arphaxad (From which Abraham descended)

Japheth: dwelt in Europe

Seven Sons of Japheth:

1. Javan (Greece, Romans, Romance -- French, Italians, Spanish, Portuguese)
2. Magog (Scythians, Slavs, Russians, Bulgarians, Bohemians, Poles, Slovaks, Croatians)
3. Madai (Indians & Iranic: Medes, Persians, Afghans, Kurds)
4. Tubal (South of Black Sea)
5. Tiras (Thracians, Teutons, Germans, Scandinavian, Anglo-Saxon, Jutes)
6. Meshech (Russia)
7. Gomer (Celtic)

Biblical Scientific Facts

1. The study of Wind

The air moves from the equator to the poles and back again.

They are influenced by the earth's rotation, the topography, and other factors.

However, the major air motions of the world are always of the same kind and follow the same circuits.

How could Solomon or Jeremiah so describe them?

Living in ancient times, when science was so crude and undeveloped, the wisdom and truth of their assertions is thus shown to be from above:

Ecclesiastes 1:6

“The wind goes toward the south, and turns around to the north; the wind whirls about continually, and comes again on its circuit.”

Jeremiah 10:13

“When He utters His voice, there is a multitude of waters in the heavens. And He causes the vapors to ascend from the ends of the earth. He makes lightning for the rain, He brings the wind out of His treasures.”

2. The Starry Heavens

Seen through a modern giant telescope, it emphasizes the Biblical teaching of the tremendous number of stars, anticipating modern astronomy by 3,000 years.

Ptolemy of ancient Greece believed that there were about four thousand stars.

That was the established science of his day.

If only he had listened to their Maker

“Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them.” (Genesis 15:5)

“As the host of heaven cannot be numbered” (Jeremiah 33:22)

Today astronomers have statistically estimated that there are about billions and billions stars in the known universe, virtually numberless as the Scripture declares with ease and absolute accuracy.

3. Roundness of the Earth

“He drew a circular horizon on the face of the waters, at the boundary of light and darkness.” (Job 26:10)

“It is He who sits above the circle of the earth” (Isaiah 40:22)

Magnetic field

“He stretches out the north over empty space. He hangs the earth on nothing.” (Job 26:7)

4. Infinite Extent of the Universe

“For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.” (Isaiah 55:9)

Hydrologic cycle

“All the rivers run into the sea, yet the sea is not full; to the place from which the rivers come, there they return again.” (Ecclesiastes 1:7)

5. Law of Increasing Entropy

“Of old You laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands. They will perish, but You will endure. Yes, they will all grow old like a garment; like a cloak You will change them, and they will be changed. (Psalm 102:25-26)

Paramount importance of blood in life processes

“For the life of the flesh is in the blood” (Leviticus 17:11)

Conclusion

Science, when interpreted correctly, upholds the words of Scripture. Science is mere observations of God’s work and therefore it does not contradict the word of God.

Activities/Discussion Points

1. Discuss the laws of nature as presented in Job Chapters 38-39. How do the words of Scripture compare with what we know through Science?