



THE CHRISTIAN'S ANSWER TO LIFE'S BIG QUESTIONS 6

Hasn't Science Made the Bible Obsolete?

1. IS THE BIBLE SCIENTIFICALLY ACCURATE?
2. DOESN'T THE BIBLE CONTRADICT ACCEPTED SCIENTIFIC THEORY NUMEROUS TIMES?

* Bible is not and doesn't pretend to be a SCIENCE TEXTBOOK.

→ *Going into this message, what would your answer have been to these questions? Would you have been able to respond? What approach would you have taken? Have you ever been bullied with the contradictions assumption?*

3 COMMENTS

- a) The Bible does not contain BAD SCIENCE
- b) Other religious texts say VERY SILLY THINGS that are clearly UNSCIENTIFIC.
→ *Watch this video: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p02gj232> as an example.*
- c) Actually the Bible makes several scientific statements that were WELL AHEAD OF ITS TIME.
e.g.¹ ROUND EARTH (Isaiah 40:22) ... e.g.² SIZE OF THE UNIVERSE (Jeremiah 33:22) ... e.g.³ The universe had a BEGINNING (Genesis 1:1-2)

3. HASN'T THE THEORY OF EVOLUTION PROVEN GENESIS 1-3 TO BE A MYTH?

- a) The debate about the ORIGINS of the universe and humanity stirs GREAT PASSIONS, because the answer has IMPLICATIONS for everything else.
→ *What are those implications? If there is a beginning ... If creation comes from God ... If people come from God ...*
- b) The Genesis accounts are written as THEOLOGICAL NARRATIVE rather than SCIENCE TEXTBOOK.
→ *Why is this significant? How should it affect the way we read Genesis 1-3? What is the emphasis in Genesis 1-3? Is it who, why, how or when?*
- c) It is important to DRAW DISTINCTION between debates of Christian theological positions v non-Christian, anti-Christian, naturalistic positions.
→ *Why is it important that we debate Christian theological positions graciously? How should we act if people disagree with us? After all, how strongly can you actually backup your persona; position? What are the important facets of the debate and what, quite frankly, is rather less important?*

5 PRIMARY CHRISTIAN INTERPRETATIONS OF CREATION ACCOUNT

- i) HISTORIC CREATIONISM = God created everything over an extended period of time, perhaps billions of years.
- ii) YOUNG EARTH CREATIONISM = God created the entire universe, including Adam & Eve, in six literal 24 hour days.
- iii) GAP THEORY = Gen 1:1 describes a 1st creation, perhaps billions of years ago, then between verses 1 and 2 there is a gap: some catastrophic event happened, perhaps the fall of Satan, that left the earth in a chaotic state. Then Gen 1L is a recreation, probably in 6 literal days
- iv) DAY-AGE VIEW = God created the universe, including Adam & Eve, in 6 sequential periods of time, that are not literal 24 hour days (See 2 Pet 3:8)

- v) THEISTIC EVOLUTION = God essentially sparked creation and then pulled back, allowing an evolutionary process to take over.
→ *For you, is it young earth of old earth? Which of these positions makes most sense to you? Do any of the others have some validity?*
→ *What is the difference between micro evolution and macro evolution? Is the former possible? Does that latter contradict scripture?*

4. WHAT'S THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN GOD & THE LAWS OF NATURE?
5. HOW DOES A SCIENTIST ANSWER CLAIMS OF MIRACLES?

- * Didn't people in the past only believe in miracles because they DIDN'T KNOW MUCH about science?
- * They say that if you can't PROVE it scientifically or if it doesn't line up with SCIENTIFIC LAWS, then it can't be true.
- * There is no place in their RATIONAL world for FAITH (1 Cor 2:9-16).
- * Does God BEND the rules? Does He sometimes SUPERSEDE/NEGATE natural laws?
- * Philosophical problem: WHERE did natural laws come from? WHY should the universe be governed by laws? If the universe were merely the ACCIDENTAL by-product of a BIG BANG, why should it obey orderly principles? Why should the universe obey laws if there is no LAW-GIVER?
→ *Christians are gullible; they'll accept anything because they're scientifically ignorant, superstitious, in fact, they're simply stupid. Discuss!*
→ *Why does the supernatural give naturalists such difficulties? How do they explain what is perceived to be miraculous?*
→ *Why do miracles happen? How do miracles happen? When do miracles happen? Does God bend the rules of nature? Or does the supernatural simply spill into the natural? Does God lift the lid off a closed system and change the conditions?*
→ *Can you explain simply the philosophical problem that the presence of the laws of nature, that is order and pattern, so crucial to scientific endeavour, gives to the unbeliever? Is it impossible to have order unless someone puts it there?*

6. HAVEN'T ALL SERIOUS SCIENTISTS REJECTED THE BIBLE AS FALLACY?

- * This is very NEW and FLAWED logic ... Actually, it's extremely DISHONEST.
→ *"According to '100 Years of Nobel Prizes,' a review of Nobel prizes award between 1901 and 2000, 65.4% of Nobel Prizes Laureates have identified themselves as Christians. Overall, Christians have won a total of 72.5% of all Nobel Prizes in Chemistry, 65.3% in Physics, 62% in Medicine." Is it a surprise that Christians feature so heavily in the list of Nobel Prize Recipients? Why is that the case do you think?*
→ *Once you catch wonder of God, why wouldn't you want to investigate it scientifically? Once you've seen the wonders of Science, why wouldn't you search for God? Discuss!*
- * Pre-18th Century: Galilei, Pascal, Boyle, Newton, Kepler
- * 1701-1800: Leibniz, Euler
- * 1801-1900: Volta, Ampere, Hertz, Joule, Faraday, Babbage, Mendel
- * 1901-2000: Kelvin, Marconi, Keen, Planck, Lemaitre, Heisenberg, Keller
- * Current: Carson, McGrath, Meyer, Polkinghorne, Ross, Lennox
→ *Have you heard of any of these? Happy memories from school days? Look a couple of them up on Wikipedia + see how their Christian faith is connected to their science.*

MORAL OF THE STORY: Hang around long enough and we'll find that GOD was RIGHT all along!