

Science and the Bible

A misconception that many people seem to have is that the Bible is an antiquated religious book with *scientific fallacies* and *mistakes* which reflect the naive cosmology of the primitive tribes of the Near East. Such could not be further from the truth because, while it is true that the Bible is not a *book of science*, nevertheless, whenever it deals with matters of objective fact, **it is wholly reliable** on every subject with which it deals!

TRUE SCIENCE IS BUILT UPON THE FOLLOWING BASIC PRINCIPLES

Science is concerned with the fact that the universe does exist and that things do happen there, therefore, science deals with:

- The reality of "**THINGS**" - which is "**MATTER**"
- The reality of "**HAPPENINGS**" - which is "**ENERGY**"
- The reality of "**WHERE THINGS HAPPEN**" - which is "**SPACE**"
- The reality of "**WHEN THINGS HAPPEN**" - which is "**TIME**"

While science is concerned with these four areas

matter,

energy,

space,

and **time**.

It is difficult, however, to separate "*things*" from the "*happenings*" of those things because each necessarily involves, and complements, the other!

Because the universe, in essence, is a continuous extent, or series, of ***matter, energy, space*** and ***time***, and because no one of these can exist without the other, the entire continuum must have, simultaneously, existed from the beginning.

It is this fundamental truth, which is the foundation of everything else, that is taught explicitly in the very first verse of the Bible which states, "*In the beginning (**TIME**), God created the heavens (**SPACE**) and the earth (**MATTER** and **ENERGY**)."*

Thus, this very first verse of the Bible yields the foundational fact of science.

In the field of science there is a *law* that is known as "***the first law of thermodynamics***," which, simply stated, is "*Nothing new is now being **created** anywhere in the known universe,*" a principle that is stated in various ways throughout the Scripture.

Ecclesiastes 1:9-10, says it will when it states, "*The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun. Is there any thing whereof it may be said, 'See, this is new!' It hath been already of old time, which was before us.*" and, in 3:15, it goes on to say, "*That which hath been is now; and that which is to be hath already been; and God requireth that which is past.*"

This principle of the *completeness of creation* is also found in Genesis 1:11, which states,

"And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so."

The First Law of Thermodynamics also includes the principles of *conservation* which states, *"Nothing is being completely destroyed,"* a fact which is also clearly stated in Scripture, of which the following passages are an example:

Nehemiah 9:6, *"You alone are the LORD. You made the heavens, even the highest heavens, and all their starry host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them. You give life to everything, and the multitudes of heaven worship you."*

Isaiah 40:26, *"Lift your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one, and calls them each by name. Because of his great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing."*

Ecclesiastes 3:14, *"I know that everything God does will endure forever; nothing can be added to it and nothing taken from it. God does it so that men will revere Him."*

James 1:17, *"Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows."*

2 Peter 3:7, *"By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men."*

Colossians 1:17, *"He is before all things, and in him all things hold together."*

Hebrews 1:3, *"The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After He had provided purification for sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven."*

In the field of science there is, also a "law" known as "***the second law of thermo- dynamics***" (or, the "*law of increasing entropy, or disorder*") which, again simply stated, is, "*The mass of energy in the universe is running down, is becoming less available.*" this principle is **ALSO** stated clearly in Scripture:

In view of the fact that the Bible clearly states that God created everything "**good**," why, then, since it **IS** created "good," is it doomed to die? The answer is, simply, because, after creation, *sin entered into the picture*, or, as Romans 5:12 states, "*Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned.*"

Therefore, this ***second law of thermodynamics***, that "*all life and energy in the universe is dissipating*," is a result of things, which, originally, were created "**good**," now being under the curse of man's sin.

It was man's sin that separated him, and the whole universe, from the radiating power of God's life, and brought everything under the curse of "*decay*" and "*death*," or, increasing entropy.

Romans 8:20-22, "*For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.*"

In view of this truth, James 1:17 is a very interesting verse, it states, "*Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like **shifting**...[this is the same word as **entropy**]...shadows.*"

There are some who would charge Scripture with alleged scientific mistakes, however, anyone, who truly desires to know what Scripture really teaches, can, upon examining these alleged scientific mistakes within the context of Scripture, easily understand these "*problematic*" verses.

A special class of so-called "***Scientific Problems***" in Scripture, of course, has to do with **BIBLICAL MIRACLES**, such as, the long day of Joshua; the ten plagues of Egypt; the deliverance of Jonah out of the whale; the preservation of the three Israelites in Nebuchadnezzar's furnace; the safe passage of the Israelites through the Red Sea; and many other Biblical miracles that have caused many to wonder about the reliability of their accuracy.

Even sincere Christians will sometimes propose some *naturalistic* process which might have been involved in the miracle.

Since science is only the accumulated body of empirical knowledge ["*empirical*" meaning "*knowledge that depends upon experience or observation alone*"] of how things are normally observed to happen, it certainly would be presumptuous folly to say that scientific knowledge can tell us how everything **must** happen in the world.

Whenever the validity of a miracle is being investigated, the investigation must be an *historical* one, rather than a *scientific* one, because the real issue is not whether or not the miracle can be explained in terms of known scientific processes, but, rather, whether or not there is adequate testimonial evidence that the miracle really happened. The question that really should be asked is, "Did the miracle occur?", rather than, "Could the miracle occur?"

A miracle needs to be verified as to whether or not it actually occurred, it does not need to be *verified* as to whether or not it can be explained, because, a miracle, by its very nature CANNOT be explained, which is what makes it a miracle!

Since the specific intention of a Biblical miracle is that it be a testimony to the fact that there is *supernatural power* present in the event, its validity cannot be denied on the basis that science precludes miracles!

A good historical investigation, as to whether or not an alleged Biblical miracle actually occurred and whether or not there was supernatural power involved in the occurrence, might include the following questions:

1. Are the witnesses and reporters of the event reliable observers and trustworthy narrators?
2. Is the event unique and not reproducible by specific techniques employed by, or at the direction of, human practitioners?
3. Does the miracle contradict the basic laws of nature, especially one of the two laws of thermodynamics?
4. Does the testimony associated with the event honor Almighty God, give purpose to His kingdom, and support what is one of His clear, Scriptural teachings?

Despite the fact that it is not the purpose of this lesson to prove, by historical investigation, the validity of Biblical miracles, suffice it to say that there is not one Biblical miracle that would not prove, upon historical investigation, to be valid, to give witness, and testimony to the reality of Supernatural power and intervention. Therefore, Biblical miracles are but one more proof, one more "*evidence*," that the Bible is all that it claims to be, that not only does the Bible not contradict scientific "*fact*," but it, also, goes beyond scientific fact!