

# Science and the Bible E-Zine

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"Truth: That which is in accord with fact and reality."

This is written so that you may believe the bible because of science rather than in spite of science.

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## What's in This Issue:

- 1) What's Happening at Science and the Bible?
  - 2) Does Nothing Exist?
  - 3) Words of the Month: "*Ruwach* and *Elohiym*"
  - 4) Reprint Rights.
  - 5) Sign up for this E-zine.
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## 1) What's Happening at Science and the Bible?

**By Max B. Frederick, AnOldScientist**

This has been a very chaotic month. Time has escaped. The imagination has gone wild. Last month we considered words related to the names for God and the character of God. This month, echoes of that consideration have spurred the imagination. So, read on. If you haven't read last month's issue, you should read it first. You can find a copy on the web at:

<http://www.scienceandthebible.net/ezine/2010/SATB-Ezine-2010-04-30.pdf>

### Correction:

I just noticed in last month's issue, in the table of contents, to the name of the article was that of the article in the previous issue I will have to go back and fix it in the archive version.

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## 2) Does Nothing Exist?

By **Max B. Frederick, AnOldScientist**

Harris Beach State Park,

Brookings, Oregon

Friday, May 28, 2010

Dear Readers,

Here it is nearly the end of the month, and I have not yet written the major article for this month's E-Zine.

It is five thirty in the morning. I was in the middle of a very stimulating dream when my wife Betty called my name. I woke up. Our dog Dillon, a toy poodle, was telling her he had to go outside for a pit stop. But my dream... Oh, well, I will never find out the end.

I was in the middle of a dream of someone giving a presentation of a logical proof that nothing did not exist. Let me re-phrase that. The presentation was a logical proof that the state of nothingness is non-existent. Let me try again. There is no such thing as nothing.

So, I had to get up and get my clothes on, and walk the dog. Here we are, in our motor home, at a great camp site at Harris Beach State Park, overlooking the beautiful peaceful pacific ocean.. The morning light is barely enough to see. It looked like there was frost on the ground outside. Just an optical illusion from the meager light of the early dawn.

Actually it was quite pleasant outside. For a week or more it had been raining. Yesterday, to get here, as we drove through the mountains we drove through what must have been at least an inch of rainfall, complete with snow and hail on the windshield so severe we had to slow down. But this morning there are scattered clouds and some blue sky. The roads are dry, and it is not really cold. A very pleasant change.

But then, what was that logical proof I was about to hear in my dream? Does nothingness really exist or not? That is a problem that has bothered me since early childhood. I remember many years ago, At least sixty years ago, because I had to be less than ten years old, I remember looking out at the night sky and asking my older sister, what is out beyond the stars. Of course, she thought she knew the answer, the universe is a great circle, if you go out far enough, you end up back where you started. Well, I was not satisfied with that answer. Beyond the universe, there had to be either something, or nothing.

But, does nothingness really exist?

Recently, I was watching a video of a presentation where the speaker was explaining the beginning of the universe. He said something like, "Nothingness, nothingness,

nothingness, Poof, everything.” That was his explanation of what scientists have called the “big bang” or theologians have called the creation.

In any event, that is not a very satisfying explanation either.

Scientists have speculated that something had to exist (in the “nothingness” mentioned above) to set up the conditions for the big bang to occur.

The bible says something existed before the universe was created, that existing being named with various names having the basic meaning of, that which exists forever, or that which possesses three distinct characteristics, the first characteristic being of influence, force, energy or power, the second being logic or intelligence, and the third, being the prudent use of knowledge, or, as some would call it, wisdom.

So, it seems that both science and the bible agree on one thing. Something had to exist in the nothingness before the beginning of the universe as we know it today.

Uh, Oh. We are getting dreadfully close to saying that nothingness did not exist in the archaic past before the existence of the universe. That might upset some theologians. Where (or when) they would assume nothingness to exist, there was at the least, influence, force, energy, or power of some kind. And influence, force, energy, or power, is not nothing.

But what about in the realm of space? I have heard it said that inside the molecule, in a single atom, the actual atomic parts of the atom occupy only a tiny fraction of the space. The rest is mostly nothingness. However, I ask, How can there be nothingness there when the parts somehow are affected by the influence of all the other parts in such a way that they do not go on their merry way, abandoning the other parts? Don't they seem to be held together by some kind of influence, force, or energy? If the parts of the atom cannot escape, that influence, maybe there is something in that vast nothingness within the infinitesimal atom that cannot be escaped, something that is omnipresent, eliminating the existence of nothingness within the atom.

On the larger scale, but still small beyond imagination, what about the nothingness of space outside each atom and between the atoms and molecules that make up the stuff we can see, touch, and smell? There exists in that supposed nothingness, the influence that holds those atoms and molecules into the matter that makes up the world we all know and enjoy. Without that influence holding the atoms of our automobile together, how could we enjoy going for a Sunday drive?

But then, nothingness must exist in the vastness of outer space of the universe, beyond the atmosphere of our planet earth, and before we get to the sun or other planets??? Yet, that vast emptiness is filled with the influence of gravitational attraction. If there were some place in the vastness of empty space of our solar system, where that influence did not exist, our planet might fall into it and go flying out of the solar system. No, there is nowhere in the universe that nothing exists. The universe contains the omnipresence of some form of energy, force, or influence that holds it together.

But the universe is expanding, flying apart at breakneck speed. Could it be that

beyond the limits of the current universe of matter and energy, there is space occupied with nothingness? If there was a time, before the beginning of the universe, that nothingness existed, with infinite dimensions, (very big nothingness) and if the influence of energy is limited by the speed of light, could it still be possible that nothingness exists beyond the limits of the current universe, beyond where the influence of energy could have traveled at the speed of light since the beginning of the universe?

Well, I never claimed to know everything.

And our dog woke us up before the end of the dream.

But, scientists say that the first law of thermodynamics says energy can be neither created nor destroyed, that is to say, energy is eternal. And they also say that something had to exist before the beginning of the universe as we observe it today, to set up the conditions for it to come into existence. And they also say that matter (the stuff that makes up the physical universe, the elements and molecules etc.) and energy, are interchangeable, that is, they can switch from matter to energy, or back, through the equation,  $E=MC^2$ . So, if the stuff that makes up the universe existed before the universe, and the universe is fully occupied with stuff such as gravity, and at least some of that stuff cannot be either created or destroyed, that means there never has been real estate for nothingness to exist, at least in this universe or its predecessor.

So, what about the claim by some theologians that God created the heavens and the earth “Ex Nihilo” (from nothing)?

But, the bible says that God is eternal, that is God exists infinitely in time, long before the universe, and forever into the future, and theologians claim that God is omnipresent, that is God is everywhere at the same time. So, that means that there is no place for nothingness to exist.

Unless, of course, theologians are saying that God is nothing.

But that does not coincide with what the bible has to say on the subject.

And modern science agrees that something had to exist to set up the conditions for the universe to come into existence.

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### 3) Words of the Month: *Ruwach* and *Elohiym*

#### *A Glossary of Science Related Terms Used in the Bible*

*In January of 2010, this new feature was added to the Science and the Bible E-Zine. It is a Glossary of Science Related Terms Used in the Bible. In this feature various words that are commonly misunderstood are presented, defined, and discussed.*

*Last month an ancient concept, rather than a single word, was analyzed.*

*This month, that ancient concept that was analyzed last month is the springboard for an exercise in imagination.*

## The Invisible Power of Imagination

By Max B. Frederick, AnOldScientist

**Warning:** The following article is pure imagination/speculation. It is not to be taken as a definitive answer to any legitimate question. It is presented here in the spirit of think-tanking. That is where ideas outside the box of legitimate thinking are bandied about for the purpose of stimulating thought of new, possibly legitimate ideas. As you read, keep in mind, this is an example of extreme out of the box thinking for the purpose of stimulating thought and discussion.

Last month, in this glossary section of this E-Zine, we discussed how the ancient Hebrew language did not differentiate among the various concepts of energy, force, power and greatness, and how it did not differentiate between the concepts of what we visualize as wind versus spirit. For wind and spirit, and also such concepts as smell, anger, inspiration, electricity, magnetism, and gravity, they had a word for a concept of *invisible power, force, influence, or energy*. That word is *Ruwach*, which we typically translate to be either spirit, or wind. For the more obvious (less invisible) concepts of energy, force, power and greatness, they had a single concept expressed in the plural form of a word derived from the concept of strength or greatness. Among other uses, they often used it as the name for their God. That word is *Elohiym*, which we typically translate as *Lord*, or *power/powerful*.

So, here is where the speculation begins.

Since the two words the ancients used for two of the three parts of what modern theology terms the trinity, have in common the one concept that modern science had determined to be eternal, (energy) it may be worth a little speculation.

Consider, for a moment, the fact that matter, when properly organized, (as in the human body and mind,) can possess the properties of intelligence and self awareness. (Matter can possess intelligence? What kind of a concept is that? Well, if you do not consider the human body and mind to be anything beyond matter organized in a unique way, then matter can possess intelligence and self awareness.)

Also consider, for a moment, that existence, in the form of matter is not eternal, for modern science has determined that the universe of energy, mass, space, and time, actually had a beginning about 13.7 billion years ago.

Yet, consider for a moment that modern science has determined that energy is eternal, in that energy can be neither created nor destroyed according to the first law of thermodynamics.

Then consider the fact that two of the three concepts of the triune God have as their name that which modern science has considered to be eternal. (We have not discussed the third concept yet.) Also, consider the fact that the other most often

name for God has as its root meaning, the eternal existence.

Then consider, for a moment, the fact that modern science had determined that energy can be converted to a physical form of matter, space, and time according to the formula,  $E=MC^2$ .

Then speculate for a moment that if energy in the physical form, can possess the properties of intelligence, self awareness, and wisdom (the prudent use of information, ) could some pure form of energy might also possess the same characteristics of intelligence, self-awareness, and the prudent use of information?

Since it is agreed, both by modern science, and by the ancient scriptures, that the universe had a beginning, and that the eternal pre-existence is some form of the concept of pure energy, could it be that what converted that pure energy into the material universe was influenced in some way by that characteristic of pure energy that we recognize as intelligence and wisdom?

Remember, that is exactly what Jeremiah of the ancient scriptures actually said:

*He hath made the earth by his power, he hath established the world by his wisdom, and hath stretched out the heavens by his intelligence. Jer 10:12 & 51:15 (MOST)*

Now we get to the real speculation:

So then, if the bible refers to the eternal body that we supposedly get after we die, as the “spiritual body” as opposed to the natural body, then is it more properly translated, the “invisible-energy body” as opposed to the physical matter body?

*It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body. 1Cr 15:44 (KJV)*

Think about it for a moment. The dilemma of both a spiritual body and a physical body occupying the same space at the same time seems to be a problem. Yet, in the realm of modern science, the concept of energy being more or less present in a physical mass is no problem. Consider the pendulum. At each end of the swing, where the pendulum comes to rest and reverses direction, energy is present in the pendulum is in the form of potential energy. At the bottom of the swing when the pendulum is at the lowest point, energy is present in the form of kinetic energy. (the energy of moving mass) Then, when the pendulum is not swinging, there is no detectable difference in any of the measurable physical features of the pendulum. It weighs no more and no less. It is no more or less hot. In physical measurements of the mass of the pendulum itself, independent of its position or motion, there is no detectable physical difference when the energy is there or absent.

And so it is when the speculative *invisible-energy* (spiritual) human body occupies the same space and time as the physical human body.

Could this mean, that the statement in the ancient scriptures that God made man in His own image actually means, the image that is being referred to is the power, intelligence and wisdom referred to by Jeremiah?

Could it be that words actually have meaning?

The first rule of hermeneutics is that words have meaning. You cannot just impose

your own imaginative theology on words to make them say what you want. You cannot take a word that has scientific meaning, and convert it to a word that has meaning only in the realm of theology and give it your own spin.

So then, do the words, *Ruwach*, and *Elohiym* really mean what they say?

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#### 4) Reprint Rights.

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Right now there is not an automated way to sign up. So for now, to sign up, and get future issues, you must put your name and email on the list by sending an email to [signup@anoldscientist.com](mailto:signup@anoldscientist.com). Be sure to put your name on the subject line.

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