

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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1) What's Happening at Science and the Bible?

By Max B. Frederick, AnOldScientist

As the year draws to a close, the questions raised by the study of science and the bible are greater than before we started looking into the matter. I would like to leave you with some questions. Maybe you can suggest some answers—or at least suggest a direction to go in search of answers. Remember, the purpose of this E-Zine is not to placate you with lofty words, but to get to the truth without fear. No fear is more fearsome than the fear that one's faith, one's basic beliefs, are based on believing something that you know is not true. That fear is the one great impediment to serious study of science and the bible. My hope for next year is to present some of the evidences to alleviate that fear. For now, let's look at a few basic principles.

Several years ago I was given a copy of a book entitled, "The Seven Mighty Blows to Traditional Beliefs."

In that book each of seven traditional religious beliefs are destroyed. It is implied that

each of these traditional beliefs are what the bible actually says.

The conclusion is then drawn that this book has destroyed the credibility of the bible. On the back cover is the statement, "A basic course in biblical studies and in science and religion." Then a testimonial is quoted, "Just think! You've spent a lifetime studying the Bible only to find there's nothing to it. And you can't expect seminaries to buy *Blows*, as it destroys everything they're trying to do."

While the book does a good job of destroying traditional religious beliefs, it does not recognize that they are based on misinterpretations of the bible. It is a false conclusion they jump to when they suppose by destroying misinterpretations of the bible, the bible itself is destroyed. The opposite is true. The credibility of the bible is unscathed because that which is destroyed is not from the bible, but from the imaginative interpretations of humans.

The perceived disagreement between science and the bible is not between science and the bible, but is between the interpretations of the bible by theologians, and the interpretations of scientifically derived facts by scientists.

In reality, the disagreement is between religion and the bible, with science being on the side of the bible.

Read the article and you will see the reality of the true makeup of the two teams that are perceived to be competing in the search truth. Science and the bible are on one team, traditional religion on the other.

2) The Fear of Truth.

By Max B. Frederick, AnOldScientist

"Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free. John 8:32

The Fear of Truth:

Of all people who fear truth, those most fearful are the religious people.

The love of money is the root of all kinds of evil.

But, the love of religion comes in a close second.

It has been said that religion is the Devil's most effective tool.

Of all the evil that is going on in the world today, it is hard to miss the fact that we are engaged in a war that is instigated by religious beliefs.

And defended against by people who religiously believe.

Everyone believes their religion is true...

"Methinks thou dost protest too much.
Misquote from Shakespeare's Hamlet

And they defend it with the fanaticism betrayal of their fear that their faith is

believing something that they know is not true.

Why are religious people so afraid?

The basis for this fear among Christians, is the fact that many doctrines, even in the various denominations of the Christian religion, are based on erroneous interpretation of the holy book upon which Christianity is based.

A careful search of that book reveals a much closer accord with truth than you can find in any such religious interpretation.

The examples are many.

The religious leaders of Jesus' time are often condemned by modern Christians for knowing the truth, rejecting it, and choosing to be evil.

However, is it not more likely that the religious leaders were so steeped in their religious beliefs that they missed the obvious? Could it be that, based upon their misinterpretation of the obvious truth that is found in their holy book, they missed the obvious in favor of their religion? In retrospect, it is easy for us to see the truth, and accuse their motive to be evil selfishness. We can see the truth so plainly. But were they in fact, blinded to the truth by their religion?

Could the same be true of many religious leaders of today?

In Christianity, look at any doctrine that has been debated for the ages, and is still a sore point. As much as both sides believe their view is, in fact, the proper interpretation, none of these doctrines are as explicitly defined in the bible as their proponents wish they were.

With this in mind, in the quest for truth today, could we be just as blinded by our religious beliefs?

At first, according to traditional religious beliefs, it would seem obvious that there are two opposing points of view, two opposing teams, so to speak, in the quest for truth and reality: In most such discussions today, the first team is assumed to be all the religions of the world. The opposing team then, according to traditional religious political correctness, is assumed to be the truth seekers in the field of modern science.

But what about the bible? On which team is the bible? It is commonly assumed the bible is teamed up with religion. However, upon closer scrutiny, the differences between the ancient scriptures of the bible and religion are at least as great as the discord between religion and modern science.

Does that mean that there are three opposing teams in the game of truth seeking?

Are the three teams, religion vs. the bible vs. modern science?

Serious study reveals that the reality first published in the bible is more in agreement with the later independent discoveries of modern science than it is with the traditional beliefs of any religion—including Christianity.

So, in reality, in the game of truth seeking, this leaves us with only two teams:

One is the team of people advocating traditional religious beliefs.

The other is the team of the ancient scriptures of the bible as verified by modern science.

When the bible and science together gang up against traditional religious belief, which do you believe?

The traditional belief?

Or do you go with the team with the better track record, the bible and science team?

So, religious people have good reason to fear the truth...

"...let God be true, but every man a liar;..." Romans 3:4

The Fear of Science and the Bible:

Many Christians fear the truths associated with science. It is as though they are convinced that faith really is believing what you know is not true.

But truth is not to be feared. Jesus, Himself said, "...Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free."

The bible, especially the teachings of Jesus, mentions truth more than any other virtue, including love, faith, forgiveness, redemption, eternal life, or any other virtue you want to look up.

Many of you have gone through "*The Truth Project*." There you were introduced to the concept of Veritology. Veritology is a newly coined word describing the science of verification. The word *verily*, found so many times in the older translations of the bible as in, "verily, verily I say unto you," is the ancient word for truly.

It is this emphasis on truth that distinguishes the bible from all religions of the world—including Christianity.

Yet, Truth is *not* one of those virtues universally associated with religion—even among Christians.

"Among the top ten objections... the church is filled with hypocrites."
R. C. Sproul "*Is the Church Full of Hypocrites?*"

This leaves us in the awkward position of being afraid of the virtue most touted by the bible, of being afraid of truth.

As a result, many Christians are afraid of any impartial investigation as to truth.

That fear needs to go away.

Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free from that fear.

The Fear of Knowledge:

" [be] ready always to [give] an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you..." I Peter 3:16 (KJV)

There are a few things that a Christian needs to know.

They may not be essential for salvation, but are necessary for continued confidence.

Among those need to know items, are evidences from science , evidences of the

supernatural authorship of the bible.

It has been said that no one is persuaded to become a Christian by arguments from science.

But it has been shown that a great many of our brightest young Christians reject the Christianity of their upbringing when they are challenged by scientific sounding arguments when they go off to college.

As a result, great fear of so many Christian parents is that when their child learns the truth of science, they will reject the faith of their parents.

Historically, that fear is well founded. Several studies have shown that during the first year of college, up to seventy-five percent of young Christians convert to Humanism. And many espouse humanism more fervently than they did their Christianity.

In 2007, a report of a secular study was published to promote the deception that going to college does not cause a Christian to lose their faith. That report has caused many Christian organizations to lower their guard. However, hidden deep within the report of that study is the definition of retaining their faith. That definition says that retaining faith is separate from retaining what they have faith in. Faith is defined to be the strength of conviction that what you believe is correct, the zeal with which you believe what you believe. College graduates having "faith" when they entered, are reported to have their "faith" strengthened, to have more "faith" when they finish. But, the report admits, deep within the report, that their faith has changed from their earlier religion to faith in their new found religion of humanism where they believe there is no such thing as a supernatural God, nor any such thing as eternal life.

But, if you believe there is no such thing as eternal life, or an entity (god) that can grant eternal life, is that knowledge? Or is it just another religious belief which you hold with a stronger conviction?

Now we are getting to the real question. Is there any such thing as life outside this earthly existence?

Where do we go to find knowledge of the answer?

Or are we too overwhelmed by the fear of the answer that knowledge will bring?

Is there anyone who has sufficient knowledge to factually answer that question?

Or do we just assume it is knowledge when someone answers in the negative?

The Fear of the Real Question:

The Real Question: Is the bible credible?

Is the bible the product of some supernatural influence having knowledge that is not otherwise available to mankind?

Can the bible be shown to have knowledge that, when it was written, was not otherwise available to mankind?

Or

Is the bible the product of the creativity of the human intellect and imagination?

For thousands of years, followers of the various the Judeo/Christian religions believed option one. They believed the bible to be supernatural.

However, recently, a new theology has arisen as to the origin of that ancient book, a new theology that questions the credibility of the ancient scriptures of the bible.

In the new theology, the purposelessly evolved creativity of the human mind has been credited with the origin of those ancient scriptures.

This new theology has gained acceptance even among many religious leaders.

If option two, the new theology, is true, all religions could in fact be considered to be equal. That is, they could all be considered to be the product of the imagination and creativity of the human mind, not the product of some non-human supernatural power. None could validly claim to be exclusive, since none could be supernatural.

But should the answer to option one be positive, there is no equality of religions because the bible claims to be the only source of the way to eternal life. Therefore, it follows that only a religion based on the one supernatural set of ancient scriptures has any possibility of being a supernatural religion. Of course, there is the possibility that none could be considered to be truly based on the bible, but based on the misinterpretations of the bible by human theologians. In that case, none would be supernaturally the one and only true religion, and could therefore all be considered to be at least a little fraudulent.

So, the question is not which, or if a religion is supernatural, but the real question is: Is the bible credible? Is there any such thing as life after death?

Therein lies the importance of the real question.

There is a growing number of religious leaders in some denominations of the Christian religion who are of the opinion that their bible is the product of the creativity of the human mind. (The Hypocrisy is, to their congregations, currently they do not yet openly espouse that opinion.)

There is a school of thought that is rampant among the leadership of at least one major denomination of the religion of Christianity in the United States today that believes the only creating that is related to Christianity is the creative activity of the human brain in inventing the concept of an all powerful creating, controlling God.

And that statement is not easy for me to make. I do not make it lightly. It is from first hand experience with those very leaders.

That leaves us in the awkward position of fearing the real question as to the reality of a supernatural origin of the bible.

Scientific Evidence Bearing on the Real Question:

*Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go?
Thou hast the words of eternal life. John 6:68 (KJV)*

So, there are a few things every Christian needs to know.

And among those things is the scientific evidence of the supernatural authorship of the bible. Because, so far, the bible, if it is credible, is the only place we can find “the words of eternal life.”

It has been said that you cannot prove that God exists.

But that is different than the statement that there is *no* evidence for the existence of a supernatural author of the bible.

Evidence for the supernatural authorship of the bible is not evidence that proves the existence of God.

But it defuses the opposition’s argument that there is *no* evidence for a supernatural God.

And the argument that there is *no* evidence is exactly the wedge that is so effective against the faith of young Christians when they go away from home to college.

But what is the standard of proof needed to be of practical use? How much evidence is enough?

I’m not talking about some impractical far out philosophy that asks, “Does reality really exist?” I am talking about practicality such as:

Can you prove that a rock exists so that you do not deny its existence and drop it on your foot?

Can you prove a stove is hot so you do not burn your hand?

Can you prove that power exists?

Can you prove that intelligence exists?

Can you prove that Wisdom exists?

In a practical sense, Yes, you can.

Can you provide sufficient evidence to lead a prudent person to believe that God really exists?

That depends upon what you call God. That depends upon how you define God.

If God is some made up entity, the product of the imagination of human minds, of course you cannot prove the existence of that which does not really exist.

But, what if God is defined as a real entity that really does exist? Does that make the effort worth trying?

Before we narrow that definition, lets look at just one aspect of the yet to be defined “God” That aspect would be something like: The (supernatural?) influence or entity responsible for the high correlation of the ancient scriptures with the realities of science independently discovered thousands of years after being recorded in the ancient scriptures of the bible.

Without presenting the evidence here, at least consider the basic principle that:

Human People Cannot Make up Truth Without External Information.

Information cannot be generated by human imagination.

Information cannot be generated by the creativity of the human mind.

There is a principle of human nature that dictates that any explanation to fill in some gap in knowledge of reality will be contaminated with non-reality.

When a crime is committed and authorities are interviewing potential suspects, some of the known details surrounding the crime are withheld from the public. If one of the suspects mentions one of those particular details, even if in the form of a denial, they have found the guilty party.

The same principle is true in plagiarism in literature. No two authors can make up the same poem or song. One must have copied the other.

So it is of eyewitness accounts. Two witnesses cannot have the same testimony of the same event unless they both have actual knowledge of what happened. When testimony among witnesses is in conflict in the details, at least one of them is not in accord with reality. Thus, at least one is a discredited witness.

There is information in fingerprint patterns.

There is information in DNA.

Random patterns are always present such that in any two different fingerprints there may be found one or two points that are the same. But as the points of similarity increases, so does the certainty the information came from the same fingerprint.

So it is with DNA.

So it is with eye-witness accounts. The more points of similarity between reality and any particular account, the greater the credibility that the account is based on what really happened as opposed to imagination.

And so it is with the many creation accounts of the bible.

(We are not talking here about the popular traditional interpretations of just one of those accounts as promoted by religion, but with the actual details recorded in all of the many biblical creation accounts. We are talking about all the biblical accounts of the origins that are methodically ignored by religion.)

The actual details of what happened before humans were present to witness such happenings are recorded in the bible. Those details, and the supernatural appearance of them in those ancient scriptures of the bible, are such evidence as we are looking for. Those details, and their later independent discovered by modern science, is beyond the scope of this article. For such details, see my other writings.

As you notice, references are absent from this article. For references on any point of detail, contact the author via his web sites at www.ScienceAndTheBible.net or www.AnOldScientist.com.

So, is it possible to overcome the fear of seeking the truth when it comes to questions concerning science and the bible.

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