

On Science and the Scriptures

Far from conflicting, science and the scriptures agree. In perhaps the Bible's oldest book, re Our Creator, we read: "*He stretcheth out the north over the empty place and hangeth the earth upon nothing*" (Job 26:7). Scientists only now know there is indeed a mysterious vast expanse in the northern heavens without a star, and merely observe, but cannot explain, how gravity works. Job 36:27-29, as well as Eccl 1:7, accurately describes the water cycle, while Eccl 1:6 describes the circular global wind patterns. In Job 38:31, God asks Job: "*canst thou bind the sweet influences of Pleiades, or loose the bands of Orion?*" Astronomers now suspect the only stellar constellation in the sky where the stars are not mutually separating is Pleiades with the "7 Sisters" stars, as opposed to others like Orion, and that our solar system pivots around the brightest of those 7 stars (Alcyone).

Speaking of stars, God told Abraham (Gen 22:17) his seed would be as the stars above and the grains of sand on the seashore. Likewise, in Jer 33:22 we read the host of heaven cannot be numbered, while Psalm 19:1 says "the heavens are declaring the glory of God". The gifted astronomer Kepler (1571 - 1630 AD), who formulated the laws of planetary motion, was only able to count 1005 stars, but we currently believe the number of stars (always rising with each revision!) exceeds 10 to the 26th power! Also, the sun is c.400 times bigger in diameter than the moon, but c.400 times further away from us, so the two bodies seem the same size viewed from earth - surely God's sign to us, highlighted in eclipses, of their creation (Gen 1:16). He showed His power over them in Joshua 10:12-13, ancient records in Greece, Egypt, and China all speaking of a "long day" around then. In Isa 40:22, we read God "*sitteth upon the circle of the earth*". The Hebrew word for "circle" here has the connotation of "sphericity". The words of Christ in Luke 17 re His Second Coming in both the day/night also imply the earth is round. Plato, Aristotle, etc. thought the earth was flat.

The laws of Moses re sanitation and hygiene were millennia in advance of their time; e.g. quarantine periods (Lev 13:46), the danger of infection from dead animals (Lev 11:35), washing in running water (Lev 15:13), and burial / incineration of waste (Deut 23:12-13, Lev 4:11-12). We only now know that the 8th day from birth, as God instructed Abraham (Gen 17:12), is literally the very best day for circumcision - 2 blood clotting factors (vitamin K and prothrombin) peak (at 110% of normal) on that precise day of a person's life. Lev 17:11 states the life of the flesh is in the blood - William Harvey only discovered blood circulation, with its importance to life (carrier of oxygen, water and food to the body's cells), in 1616 AD.

There are 2 basic laws in science: (a) The Law of Conservation of Energy, which implies the universe could not have created itself, and (b) The Law of Entropy in thermodynamics, which shows the universe is running down (cf. Ps 102:35-27) and hence had a beginning. Evolution remains just an empty "theory" - only horizontal (within species) as opposed to vertical (new species) evolution has been observed (in line with Gen 1:24). Darwin himself is said to have recanted his theory before his death. Re "who created God?" Gen 1:3 (light's creation) indicates (by Einstein's general relativity theory) that God created our time/space continuum, and dwells outside of time.

Here's a thought-provoker (my own). The church was once criticised for believing (cf. Gen 1:14-18) that the cosmos is earth-centric (the Ptolemy / Copernicus debate). However, in 1965 American physicists Arno Penzias and Robert Wilson discovered uniform background microwave radiation in the sky (thus winning the 1978 Nobel Prize in Physics). Their findings showed all other galaxies are moving away from us, and that the universe looks identical to us whenever/wherever we look - suggesting that we are indeed at the center of the universe. The only (and presently accepted) alternative is the "assumption" that the universe looks the same in every direction as seen from any other galaxy too. Commenting on this, Professor Stephen Hawking of Cambridge University, England (hailed as the most brilliant scientist since Einstein), wrote the following in his 1988 best-seller book **A Brief History of Time**, p42. *"We have no scientific evidence for, or against, this assumption. We believe it only on grounds of modesty: it would be most remarkable if the universe looked the same in every direction around us, but not around other points in the universe!"*

A final challenge: ask Christ into your life - plug into Him by faith - and prove the veracity of the scriptures for yourself.