

The Bible and Science

Famous Scientists Who Believed In God.

Nicholas Copernicus (1473-1543)

Copernicus was the Polish astronomer who put forward the first mathematically based system of planets going around the sun.

Sir Francis Bacon (1561-1627)

Bacon was a philosopher who is known for establishing the scientific method of inquiry based on experimentation and inductive reasoning. Bacon established his goals as being the discovery of truth, service to his country, and service to the church. Although his work was based upon experimentation and reasoning, he rejected atheism as being the result of insufficient depth of philosophy.

Johannes Kepler (1571-1630)

Kepler was a brilliant mathematician and astronomer. He did early work on light, and established the laws of planetary motion about the sun. He also came close to reaching the Newtonian concept of universal gravity - well before Newton was born! His introduction of the idea of force in astronomy changed it radically in a modern direction. Kepler was an extremely sincere and pious Lutheran, whose works on astronomy contain writings about how space and the heavenly bodies represent the Trinity.

Isaac Newton (1642-1727)

In optics, mechanics, and mathematics, Newton was a figure of undisputed genius and innovation. In all his science (including chemistry) he saw mathematics and numbers as central. What is less well known is that he was devoutly religious and saw numbers as involved in understanding God's plan for history from the Bible. In his system of physics, God is essential to the nature and absoluteness of space. In *Principia* he stated, "The most beautiful system of the sun, planets, and comets, could only proceed from the counsel and dominion on an intelligent and powerful Being."

Albert Einstein (1879-1955)

Einstein is probably the best known and most highly revered scientist of the twentieth century, and is associated with major revolutions in our thinking about time, gravity, and the conversion of matter to energy ($E=mc^2$). Although never coming to belief in a personal God, he recognized the impossibility of a non-created universe. The *Encyclopedia Britannica* says of him: "Firmly denying atheism, Einstein expressed a belief in "Spinoza's God who reveals himself in the harmony of what exists." This actually motivated his interest in science, as he once remarked to a young physicist: "I want to know how God created this world, I am not interested in this or that phenomenon, in the spectrum of this or that element. I want to know His thoughts, the rest are details." Einstein's famous epithet on the "uncertainty principle" was "God does not play dice" - and to him this was a real statement about a God in whom he believed. A famous saying of his was "Science without religion is lame, religion without science is blind."

Is The Bible in conflict with Science?

Conflict Thesis: A proposed intrinsic intellectual conflict between religion and science. (*John William Draper, Andrew Dickson White*)

The Bible was not written as a work of science nor was its purpose to describe the workings of the physical world.

It was written to explain:

- ✓ spiritual principles
- ✓ the nature of mankind,
- ✓ the nature of God,
- ✓ how people can have a personal relationship with God.

However, when the Bible describes the physical world, it is accurate. The purpose of this lesson is to illustrate some of the remarkable examples of scientific principles described in the Bible hundreds to thousands of years before they were proved to be true by science.

The Bible and Science in Harmony

Cosmology\Astronomy

I. Scientific Principle: Time had a beginning

Biblical References:

II Timothy 1:9

9 Who hath saved us, and called *us* with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,

Titus 1:2

2 In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;

I Corinthians 2:7

7 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, *even* the hidden *wisdom*, which God ordained before the world unto our glory:

II. Scientific Principle: The universe has a beginning.

Biblical References:

Genesis 1:1

1 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

Genesis 2:4

4 These *are* the generations of the heavens and of the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens,

Isaiah 42:5

5 Thus saith God the LORD, he that created the heavens, and stretched them out; he that spread forth the earth, and that which cometh out of it; he that giveth breath unto the people upon it, and spirit to them that walk therein

III. Scientific Principle: the universe is winding down and will wear out. (2nd law of thermodynamics ensures that the universe will run down due to "heat death"- maximum entropy).

Biblical Reference:

Psalms 102: 25-27

25 Of old hast thou laid the foundation of the earth: and the heavens *are* the work of thy hands.

26 They shall perish, but thou shalt endure: yea, all of them shall wax old like a garment; as a vesture shalt thou change them, and they shall be changed:

27 But thou *art* the same, and thy years shall have no end.

IV. Scientific Principle: every star is different

Biblical Reference

I Corinthians 15:41

41 *There is* one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for *one* star differeth from *another* star in glory.

V. Scientific Principle: earth is suspended in space

Biblical Reference:

Job 26:7

7 He stretcheth out the north over the empty place, *and* hangeth the earth upon nothing.

Earth Sciences

I. Scientific Principle: the water cycle

Biblical References:

Ecclesiastes 1:7

7 All the rivers run into the sea; yet the sea *is* not full; unto the place from whence the rivers come, thither they return again.

Isaiah 55:10

10 For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater:

Job 36: 27-28

27 For he maketh small the drops of water: they pour down rain according to the vapour thereof:

28 Which the clouds do drop *and* distil upon man abundantly.

II. Scientific Principle: air has weight

Biblical Reference:

Job 28:25

25 To make the weight for the winds; and he weigheth the waters by measure.

III. Scientific Principle: winds blows in circular paths

Biblical Reference:

Ecclesiastes 1:6

6 The wind goeth toward the south, and turneth about unto the north; it whirleth about continually, and the wind returneth again according to his circuits.

Biology

I. Scientific Principle: life of creatures in in the blood

Biblical Reference:

11 For the life of the flesh *is* in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it *is* the blood *that* maketh an atonement for the soul.

The Warning Against 'Pseudo Science' " Science Falsely So Called."

I Timothy 6:20

20 O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane *and* vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called:

science falsely so called = There is much science (knowledge) which does not deserve the name, being only speculation.

Pseudo-science is nothing other than evolutionism, which has been in "oppositions" against God as Savior and Creator and the world as His creation since the beginning of time. In Paul's day, it mainly took the form of Epicureanism (based on atheistic evolutionism) and Stoicism (based on pantheistic evolutionism). It soon would take the form of Gnosticism and later of Neo-Platonism, both also assuming evolution. In other parts of the world, it had the form of Taoism, Hinduism, Confucianism, or Buddhism, all based squarely on some form of pantheistic evolution and an infinitely old cosmos. In recent times it assumed the form of Darwinism, though men are now returning again to various forms of eastern religion and their systems of pantheistic evolution, still rejecting God as Creator and Christ as Savior.