

THE BIBLE AND MODERN SCIENCE

By

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CHAPTER 1 -

Modern Science in the Bible

ONE OF THE MOST ARRESTING EVIDENCES of the inspiration of the Bible is the great number of scientific truths that have lain hidden within its pages for thirty centuries or more, only to be discovered by man's enterprise within the last few centuries or even years. Let us look at a few of these.

Consider the field of astronomy. For thousands of years, many wise men have busied themselves with counting the stars and constellations. Before the invention of the telescope in the seventeenth century, the number of the stars was regarded as practically determined. The great Ptolemy gave the number as 1056. Tycho Brahe catalogued 777 and Kepler counted 1005. This number has since been tremendously increased, of course, and the end is not yet even remotely in view. It is now known that there are well over 100 billions of stars in our own galaxy, with probably billions of other galaxies like our own. Verily, as most astronomers now agree, it is not humanly possible to count all the stars. This would not have been admitted by scientists a few centuries ago. But the Bible makes the assertion over and over again. One such instance is in Jeremiah 33:22, ". . . **the host of heaven cannot be numbered.**"

As another example, look at Job 26:7, He "**hangeth the earth upon nothing.**" That sounds amazingly like twentieth-century science! Even the absence of the hypothetical space substance called ether is now believed by many physicists and astronomers to have been disproved. The attraction of gravity is invoked to account for the earth's affinity to the sun, but that explains nothing. No one knows what gravity is or why it is. It is merely a term invented to explain certain observed phenomena. Truly, there is nothing that modern science can add to or take away from the age-old statement that GOD has hung the earth upon nothing.

Or consider Isaiah 40:22, where, speaking of GOD, the prophet says: "**It is he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth.**" The word translated "circle" is the Hebrew *khug*, a more exact connotation of which is "sphericity" or "roundness."

Psalms 19 was long a source of amusement to Bible critics. In speaking of the sun, the psalmist says: "**His going forth is from the end of the heaven, and his circuit unto the ends of it: and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof.**" It was claimed that the writer of this verse obviously believed in the ancient notion of the sun's revolving about the earth.

This charge is most unjust, since we still use words and phrases of the same sort, simply because from our natural viewpoint the sun does rise in the morning, move across the sky, and set in the evening. The whole science of nautical and engineering astronomy is based on the assumption, made purely for convenience, that the earth is the center of a great celestial sphere, moving along

the surface of which in ordered paths are the sun, moon, planets, and stars. And as far as any practical usage is concerned, this is so. On this assumption, courses can be plotted, positions determined, and scores of other applications made.

But the words of the psalmist may have a deeper, more truly scientific meaning than that. It is now believed by the leading astronomers that the sun, with the entire solar system, actually does move through space at the tremendous speed of 720,000 miles per hour in such a gigantic orbit that it requires over two million centuries to complete it. Furthermore, it is probable that our galaxy is also moving with respect to other galaxies. The sun's circuit is from one end of the heavens to the other! Who can accuse the HOLY SPIRIT of ignorance of modern astronomy?

It is glorious to realize that the Great Astronomer and Mathematician who created the heavens, setting all the stars and universes of stars in their appointed courses, and who, according to Psalm 147, ". . . calleth them all by their names," is the same One who calls you and me to eternal life in JESUS CHRIST.

But let us look into the science of meteorology for a moment. The "water cycle," whereby water is precipitated as rain or snow, then drained off by the river system into the ocean, whence it is raised by evaporation back into the skies and carried by the wind back to the land to be again precipitated, is a fundamental fact of this comparatively new field of science. Yet this fact was strikingly set forth in the Bible ages before men discovered it. Furthermore, it is now well known that the major wind currents of the world follow well-defined circuits. These great wind circuits are largely responsible for all the great ocean currents as well as the great air currents of the world. But this great truth is a matter of comparatively recent discovery. Now read Ecclesiastes 1:6, 7, set down by King Solomon three thousand years ago: "**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. 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.**" No wonder we speak of the wisdom of Solomon! But isn't it pertinent to ask how he happened to know these things when no one else knew them until thousands of years later?

Also consider the words of Elihu in Job 36:27-29: "**For he maketh small the drops of water: they pour down rain according to the vapour thereof: Which the clouds do drop and distil upon man abundantly. Also can any understand the spreadings of the clouds, or the noise of his tabernacle?**" This passage is a most excellent, concise summary of those phases of the hydrologic cycle involving the very marvelous physical processes of evaporation, condensation, and precipitation.

There is very much for science yet to learn concerning the details of the processes of the water cycle. Each phase of the cycle is absolutely necessary for life to exist on the earth, and offers abundant testimony to its origin at the hands of an infinitely wise, beneficent CREATOR. There are many more references in Scripture to various phases of the sciences of hydrology and meteorology, all remarkably in accord with the most up-to-date studies in these fields.

It is very significant that the medical and sanitary laws and regulations of Moses were very far in advance of the times. To see this, one need only compare the customs and beliefs of the ancient Egyptians and Babylonians, for instance, with those of the Hebrews as given to them in the

Books of Moses. For example, in Leviticus 11 is found a list of animals, fishes, birds, and insects that the Israelites could regard as clean and fit to eat.

The criterion of both chewing the cud and parting the hoof was set as a guide to the clean animals. We still go by the same rule, except that we eat also the pig, the rabbit, and the hare, which were prohibited to the Jews by this rule. It is now known, however, that these latter animals are easily subject to parasitic infection and are safe only if they have been cleanly fed and have been well cooked before eating. The birds and fish the Israelites were permitted to eat are the same as those now known to modern medical knowledge to be the safest and best. The only insects allowed for food were certain locusts, beetles, and grasshoppers, which are now known to be clean feeders, and safe for human consumption. They are still eaten in large quantities in other parts of the world and are evidently quite satisfactory as food.

In Deuteronomy 14:21, Moses forbade the Jews to eat the flesh of any animal that had died a natural death, in spite of the fact that they lived in desert regions and their flocks were very essential sources of food. Yet, this is still regarded as such good advice that similar laws are in force in most civilized countries today.

The subjects of water supply and sewage disposal are of great interest and import to both bacteriologists and civil engineers, as well as to the general public. It was not until a few score years ago that the significance of a clean and sanitary water supply in the prevention of disease was recognized. But Moses seemed to understand something of modern bacteriology, because he forbade the drinking of water from small or stagnant pools, or from water that had been contaminated by coming in contact with animals or meat. (See Leviticus 11:29-36.) In Deuteronomy 23:12-14, directions were given for the disposal of sanitary sewage by burial. All of these sanitary regulations, as well as those concerning the personal cleanliness of the body, were far in advance of the practices in even the so-called civilized countries of the world until within the past hundred years. This is true also of the prescribed segregation and treatment of such diseases as leprosy.

Not only were the scientific and medical laws of Moses: far ahead of the times, but so were the civil laws. It is well known that the laws of Moses form the basis of the law systems of all the great democratic nations of the world today. Although it is true that the early Babylonians and Hittites had codes of laws that were similar in some respects to those of Moses, it is also true that they were not nearly as logical, as just, or as complete, as those in the Pentateuch. Even more important, the Hebrew law was unique in that it centered everything else in the worship and serving of one GOD, JEHOVAH, a concept utterly foreign to the Babylonians and Hittites of that day.

The great truth revealed in Leviticus 17:11 (and a number of other Scriptures) concerning the pre-eminent importance of the blood in the biological mechanism, has only been comprehended with any adequacy in recent years: "**For the life of the flesh is in the blood. . . .**"

Continuance of life depends upon the continued supply of oxygen, water, and food to the cells of all parts of the body. This absolutely necessary function is accomplished in a very marvelous manner by the blood as it circulates constantly throughout the body, year after year. The function of blood in combating disease-producing organisms and in repairing injured tissues is one of the

most significant discoveries of modern medical science, and the use of blood transfusions as one of the most beneficial treatments for nearly every kind of disease further testifies to the supremacy of the blood in the life of the flesh.

The Word of GOD was scientifically accurate in this great biological truth thousands of years before man discovered and elaborated it. Yet it was given primarily to reach an even greater spiritual truth - the necessity of the shedding of blood in sacrifice for the remission of sins.

The blood, which is the channel of life, becomes also the carrier of disease and infection through the body when they gain the upper hand in the system. Physical life symbolizes spiritual life, and physical death symbolizes spiritual death. Physical disease and injury symbolize the spiritual disease of sin.

As the infection of sin spreads throughout the soul, it will ultimately produce eternal spiritual death. If spiritual life is to be produced and maintained, new life must be introduced from without, life untainted with sin and containing the power to combat the ravages of sin in the spiritually dying soul. In figure, a transfusion of blood is essential, and it must be from a qualified donor whose blood possesses the purity and efficacy required for the salvation of the spiritually dying soul.

This is the merest glimpse of the depths of spiritual (and even biological) meaning in the Biblical doctrine of substitutionary sacrifice. "**Without shedding of blood is no remission**" (forgiveness) (Hebrews 9:22). This was the symbolism of the animal sacrifices of the Mosaic law. It finds its ultimate and universal culmination in the sacrificial death of the Son of GOD for the sins of the world. JESUS said:

"**this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins**" (Matthew 26:28). By virtue of JESUS' atoning death, each one who receives by faith His life poured out unto death, but raised up again by the power of GOD - receives forgiveness and cleansing of all sin, and in fact receives CHRIST Himself - all this is symbolized by the shed blood. JESUS said:

"**Whoso eateth my flesh and drinketh my blood hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day . . . He that eateth my flesh and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him**" (John 6:54, 56).

Many other examples of scientific truth in Scripture could be cited from practically every field of physical, biological, or social science. Only one further example will be given, but one which is very important.

The basic principle of all physical science is that of the conservation and deterioration of energy. *The law of energy conservation states that in any transformation of energy in a closed system from one sort into another, the total amount of energy remains unchanged. A similar law is the law of mass conservation, which states that although matter may be changed in size, state, form, etc., the total mass cannot be changed. In other words, these laws teach that no creation or destruction of matter or energy is now being accomplished anywhere in the physical universe.*

This law is absolutely basic and of prime importance in all physical science (the law of mass conservation is actually a special part of the law of energy conservation). It was demonstrated quantitatively by science only about a hundred years ago. However, the Bible has taught for thousands of years the same great truth that creation is no longer going on (contrary to the philosophy of continual evolutionary creation), but rather that the present system is merely the result of an original divine creation, which of course is something that would not be susceptible of experimental study at the present time. For example, Hebrews 4:3 affirms: ". . . **the works were finished from the foundation of the world,**" Genesis 2:1, 2 says: "**Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day GOD ended his work which he had made.**"

This law of mass and energy conservation is also known as the first law of thermodynamics, and is almost without controversy the most important and basic law of all physical science. As we have just seen, it was anticipated by the Biblical record of a finished creation.

The second law of thermodynamics, of almost as great significance, enunciates the corollary law of energy deterioration. In any energy transfer or change, although the total amount of energy remains unchanged, the amount of usefulness and availability that the energy possesses is always decreased. This principle is also called the law of entropy increase, "entropy" being a sort of mathematical abstraction which is actually a measure of the nonavailability of the energy of a system.

Thus, in any closed mechanical system, regardless how large or how small, the energy of the system must continually be degraded, as long as any energy change is taking place in the system - with some of the energy being dissipated in nonrecoverable friction or heat energy. Since all activities of nature (including biological activities) involve such energy transfers, there must be an ever-decreasing supply of usable energy for maintaining such processes in the universe as a whole.

This law of entropy increase is responsible for the fact that no machine can be constructed to 100 per cent efficiency and that a perpetual motion machine is impossible. It is of primary importance in the writer's fields of fluid mechanics and hydrology, and in all other disciplines of physical science as well.

Practically all the earth's energy, except its atomic energy, comes, or has come, from the sun.

However, by far the greater part of the tremendous amount of energy that the sun is continually radiating is dissipated in space in the form of unrecoverable heat energy. This prodigious waste of energy cannot last forever. Eventually, barring supernatural intervention, the sun must burn itself out, and then all activity on the earth must cease as well. The same principle applies to all the stars of the universe, so that the physical universe is, beyond question, growing old, wearing out, and running down.

But this law certainly testifies equally to the necessary truth that the universe had a definite beginning. If it is growing old, it must once have been young; if it is wearing out, it must once have been new; if it is running down, it must first have been "wound up." In short, this law of energy degeneration conveys us back inexorably to an affirmation of the necessary truth of the

existence of a CREATOR, and a definite creation-which must have taken place in the past but which, according to the law of mass and energy conservation, is not continuing in the present.

But now let us note the teaching of Scripture concerning this principle of deterioration. For example, Psalm 102:25-27 says: "**Of old hast thou laid the foundation of the earth: and the heavens are the work of thy hands. 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: but thou art the same, and thy years shall have no end.**"

There are many other passages of similar import in the Bible. Thus, *the Scripture teaches that which science has only discovered in the past hundred years*, namely, that in spite of an original completed creation, the universe is aging and heading inexorably toward ultimate physical death.

However, the Bible also speaks often of that which science cannot discover: a future supernatural intervention of the CREATOR in His creation, destruction of the present system, and creation of "**new heavens and a new earth,**" which "**shall remain**" and "**wherein dwelleth righteousness**" (Revelation 21:1; Isaiah 65:17; 66:22; II Peter 3:13).

An allied truth to these just considered, alluded to previously, is also indicated in Scripture. This is the basic equivalence of mass and energy, one of the most important discoveries of twentieth-century science. It is well known now that matter is actually one form of energy, or better, is a manifestation of that form of energy known as atomic energy. The source of the tremendous energy of the atom is yet unknown and may be, in fact, undiscoverable by science. However, it is certain that a tremendous supply of energy from some source (or rather, tremendous power, since power is the rate of energy supply or expenditure) is necessary to maintain the terrific motions and forces associated with the various subatomic particles.

The magnitudes of such energies are graphically intimated in the energy released by atomic disintegration.

Most significant, then, is the proclamation of Hebrews 1:2,3: "**God... hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and *upholding all things by the word of his power*, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high.**"

This passage teaches that all things - that is, the matter of the physical universe - are maintained by energy or power, the source of which is the CREATOR Himself, the LORD JESUS CHRIST! *****BBB NOTE: If our LORD were to sin even once, the power that holds all things together would cease to be - therefore, our salvation is not dependent upon ourselves - but upon the One that holds all things together. If He were to sin, "eternal" salvation would be meaningless!**

The same tremendous truth is taught in Colossians 1:17, which says: "**he is before all things, and by him all things consist.**"

Then in Hebrews 11:3 appears the following remarkably scientific statement: "**Through faith**

we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear." In other words, the matter of the universe is not ultimately physical, but is composed of something which is not "apparent." All the mysterious nonphysical entities with which science deals - energy, electricity, magnetism, waves, gravity, etc. - though intimately related to and associated with "**things that are seen,**" are in themselves "**things which do not appear.**" *Much is known about their apparent behavior, but practically nothing about their ultimate character and source. In fact, matter itself seems to be understandable only in terms of highly abstract mathematical "models" bearing little or no similarity to any of the large-scale physical phenomena with which our physical senses are familiar. This situation would never have been admitted or imagined by scientists of a few generations ago, who confidently felt that all things could be accurately and completely described in terms of mechanical laws and models with which they were then familiar. Yet, once again, the Bible has been proved to be scientifically accurate as scientific knowledge has increased.*

We have now looked at approximately a score of examples of modern scientific knowledge recorded in Scripture thousands of years before they were discovered by man. This ought to be abundantly convincing evidence of the supernatural source and inspiration of the Bible. But now let us examine briefly some of the best known examples of supposed scientific error or contradiction in the Bible.

Cain's Wife

The ancient question, "Where did Cain get his wife?" has always been the stock objection of shallow-thinking critics. The story of Cain, who was probably, although it is not definitely so stated, the eldest son of Adam and Eve, is found in Genesis 4. It is stated that, as a result of his murder of Abel, he was condemned by GOD to be "**. . . a fugitive and a vagabond.**" He went out to the land of Nod, on the east of Eden, where according to verse 17, "**. . . Cain knew his wife; and she conceived and bare Enoch: and he builded a city. . .**" This is gleefully pointed to as a glaring inconsistency, since Cain is supposed to have been the only person living at that time, other than Adam and Eve.

However, this supposition is entirely unwarranted. Nowhere is the statement made that he was the only living child of Adam at that time. It is stated elsewhere, however, that Adam had sons and daughters, mentioning, in addition, that he lived 800 years after the birth of Seth, who was probably, though not necessarily, his third child. In all, Adam lived 930 years. The general rule of that day seemed to be longevity and prolificness. In fact, the first command given Adam and Eve was to "**. . . be fruitful and multiply.**" Furthermore, the ability to have children seemed not to be much reduced by advancing age. It is stated that Noah, for example, was 500 years old before he begat Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

These years, incidentally, are not to be understood as shorter than our years, as there is no substantial basis for this belief. Although we may not be able actually to prove or disprove the longevity of the ancients, at least the Bible is consistent within itself.

If we accept, then, the implication that men lived hundreds of years and continued to have sons and daughters most of their lives, and then adopt marriage and birth rates that are very

conservative compared with our present rates, it can be calculated quickly that there were at least twenty million people on the earth at the time of Adam's death. There would have been an ample selection from which Cain could choose a wife in plenty of time to build a great many cities. Of course, some son of Adam had to marry his sister to begin with. But it is foolish to assert that, in that early day before disease and the evils of in-bred heredity had begun to have the effects they do now, such a union would result in feeble-minded or deformed offspring.

Other questions, such as evolution and great length of life, that would affect the above discussion will be considered in more detail later. In any event, it should now be clear that the Bible is not inconsistent within itself on the matter of Cain's wife.

Jonah and the Whale

The story of Jonah and the whale has been difficult also for many to believe. It was formerly claimed that no whale possessed a gullet large enough to admit a man, for example. However, it is now known that there is at least one whale, the sperm whale, which inhabits the Mediterranean, which is quite capable of swallowing a much larger object than a man. There are also a number of other fish with sufficiently large gullets, and it may be significant that the Bible account speaks of a "**great fish**," "**Now the Lord had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights**" (Jonah 1:17).

There have even been a number of accounts, some of them well authenticated, of men in modern times having been swallowed by the sperm whale or some other sea monster, and then later being rescued alive. However, if necessary, there is no reason for us to refuse to believe in an actual miraculous intervention by GOD in the preservation of Jonah's life. It is even possible that Jonah actually died and was then restored to life by God, as Lazarus and others recorded in Scripture. The LORD JESUS (Matthew 12:40) accepted the story of Jonah as authentic history, and even used it as a type or symbol of His own coming death and resurrection.

The Long Day of Joshua

We shall consider one other case in this chapter - the long day of Joshua. This supposedly incredible story is found in Joshua 10. In the great battle between the Israelites and the confederation of the Amorites, it is related how "**. . . the Lord fought for Israel**" by two miracles: (1) causing the sun and moon to be inactive ("stand still") and "**hasted not to go down about a whole day**" in order to give the children of Israel time to completely defeat the Amorites before nightfall; (2) sending a great hailstorm, which probably served the twofold purpose of giving Joshua's army relief from the terrific heat and of slaying large numbers of the enemy. This storm was very likely a result of the atmospheric disturbances that would be induced by the slowing down of the earth's rotation.

Naturally, we have never observed any event of this sort.

The Bible itself says that there was no day like that before it or after it. To state that the story is untrue because it violates natural law is to imply that we know much more about such laws than actually we do. The reason for the earth's rotation upon its axis is even yet a matter of pure conjecture; no one really understands why. The fact that it does rotate is a matter of observation,

and since we've never observed anything else, we call it a "law." But after all, a law requires a "lawgiver." And it is the very height of audacity to aver that He could not suspend this law or invoke other laws unknown to us if He so willed. There is no reason to suppose, furthermore, that this slowing down of the earth's rotation would result in any profound geological disturbances. The same law of gravity that prevents our flying out into space, balancing the huge centrifugal force that is acting upon us as the earth whirls through space, would undoubtedly continue to act in such a way that all things in and on the earth would slow down simultaneously.

If this event actually took place, accomplished by a temporary slowing down of the rotational speed of the earth, it would be reasonable to suppose that people over the whole earth would have noticed it and made some record of it. However, these would now be preserved, if at all, only in the form of semimythical recollections of the event handed down in the folklore of these peoples, since written records of that period (about 1400 B.C.) have not come down at all, except in the Bible and in the fragmentary records of certain nations near the eastern shore of the Mediterranean.

It is significant, therefore, that intimations of such an event can be noted in the mythologies of many peoples from various parts of the earth. So frequent is the occurrence of these, in fact, that they have even been used to bolster the theory that the Biblical account was derived from them. For example, T. W. Doane, in his book *Bible Myths* (Truth Seeker Co., 1882, p. 91), describes accounts of a long day, similar to that of the Bible, in the Orphic hymns, in the legends of the Hindus, the Buddhists, the Chinese, the ancient Mexicans, and others, and then draws the very dubious conclusion that the Biblical record was therefore derived from such as these.

One of the most persistent of the legends of the various American Indian tribes is that of the theft of the sun for a day, according to M. W. Stirling, in the 1945 Report of the Smithsonian Institute, as well as numerous other ethnologists. A very similar legend is found among the Polynesians. The Greek legend of Phaethon, who disrupted the sun's course for a day, could easily have been derived from this event. Herodotus, the Greek historian, states that the priests of Egypt showed him records of such a day. Other mythological reflections of the long day might also be noted, but it should already be evident that the account in the book of Joshua is accompanied by semimythical records from all parts of the world, of just the sort that one would expect to find if the event had actually taken place.

The long day was undoubtedly a supernatural event, but in view of the fact of the existence of a personal GOD, interested in His creation and its ultimate purpose, it is foolish to say, as some have said, that miracles are impossible. GOD has planned and maintained a very efficiently working universe, normally subject to the operation of its regular laws. However, it is eminently reasonable that, if GOD's purposes were better served thereby, He would be expected on occasions to intervene in the normal operation of the so-called "natural laws." In fact, even these latter, as we have seen, along with all things in the physical universe, are actually upheld and maintained directly by the power of GOD.

The question then in the case of any alleged miracle is not whether it could happen, but whether it did happen. The question should certainly be decided in the affirmative if both of the following conditions are satisfied: (1) that there existed adequate reason, in line with GOD's ultimate purposes, for GOD to intervene in the normally operative laws of nature; (2) that there exists adequate testimonial or other evidence to its actual occurrence, evidence such as would be

judged adequate to prove other matters of fact, not necessarily miraculous in nature.

It is believed that both these conditions are abundantly satisfied in all of the Biblical miracles. With regard to Joshua's long day, there was quite sufficient reason for GOD to perform such a miracle at this time. The success of Joshua's entire campaign depended on victory in this battle, and thus also the fulfillment of GOD's promises to the world through the nation Israel. Furthermore, the Canaanite peoples were sun worshipers, and it may well have been that GOD chose to accomplish their defeat through the instrumentality of their supposed god, in order to demonstrate better the falsity of their exceedingly cruel and licentious religious system. It should also be remembered that the miracle followed immediately upon Joshua's command, uttered no doubt as a prayer of implicit faith. GOD answers prayer, many times in very remarkable ways, as all who truly know the LORD JESUS can testify. He has even promised to remove mountains in answer to genuine faith. He had made a specific promise to Joshua in regard to the Canaanite campaign and this particular battle. If needed, still other reasons might be adduced to indicate the necessity for this miracle.

As to the evidence for it, the very fact that the story appears in the Bible is itself strong evidence. As we shall see later, the historical portions of the Bible have been substantiated in scores of instances by archaeological research, including especially many phases of Joshua's conquests. Historically, the Bible is now believed by nearly all authorities in Palestinian archaeology, even by those who deny its supernatural inspiration, to be a very valuable and trustworthy Book. Also, as we shall see, there are very many other independent lines of evidence corroborative of the doctrine of inspiration.

Joshua (or perhaps a later copyist)** was able also to appeal in his account to a corroborative account of the miracle in the then-extant, extra-biblical book of Jasher. Finally, we have already noted the existence of many semilegendary recollections of such an event throughout the various areas of the world. These alone are sufficient to establish the strong probability of the historicity of the Biblical account.

*** As I prepared this material for our site, I was troubled by the phrase "(or perhaps a later copyist)" and started to edit it out. However, it refers to the extrabiblical book of Jasher and not to the precious Word of GOD - so I left it. Certainly a disclaimer to this is needed. Dr. Morris has very adeptly dealt with the horrific heresy of atheistic evolution. As believers, we ought to bear in mind that if our children are attending public schools - THIS IS THE JUNK THAT THEY ARE BEING TAUGHT! It behooves us, therefore, to acquaint ourselves with the basic tenets of this irreligious cult and to learn the answers from GOD's innerant Word in order to confront the darkness with GOD's inexhaustible light.*

The widely publicized theories of Velikovsky may be mentioned in this connection, according to which the earth has experienced a number of severe physical catastrophes in the past. These were attributed by him to the near approaches of a huge comet to the earth, one of which he supposed caused the stopping of the earth's rotation in the days of Joshua. Dr. Velikovsky amassed a really impressive amount of evidence from the myths and legends of many peoples that such a "long day" had actually been recorded and observed all over the world.

However, his explanation of its cause is beset by many difficulties and has not been taken seriously by scientists and his whole work therefore is largely ignored. Nevertheless, he did

point out a great amount of evidence supporting the fact of the long day, even though his ideas concerning its cause were unscientific (and, of course, unscriptural as well).

The Doctrine of the Triune GOD

We shall close this chapter with a very brief and inadequate mention of the most sacred and most profound doctrine of the Holy Scriptures - the doctrine of the Triune GOD. All true Christians believe in GOD the FATHER, GOD the SON, and GOD the HOLY SPIRIT, and that these three, though distinct from one point of view, constitute only one GOD. Many, of course, have scoffed at this belief that GOD is one Person and, at the same time, three Persons. It is contrary to established and inalterable mathematical principles, they say, for Christians to maintain that $1 + 1 + 1 = 1$, rather than 3. It is unscientific and foolish, they are agreed, that the GOD of the universe, even though they should grant for the moment that He might be a real personality, could be both one personality and three personalities at the same time. Therefore, it follows for them, that JESUS was not GOD in the Biblical sense at all.

However, as Dr. Nathan Wood, former president of Gordon College, has shown in a very remarkable volume, the doctrine of the Trinity is not only sound mathematically but is reflected in all true science in such a wonderful way that the assumed fact of an eternally existing Triune GOD is an inductive necessity before the universe, as science knows it today, can be explained at all.

The doctrine of the Trinity is nowhere set forth in the Bible as an explicit doctrine. Rather, it appears indirectly, and yet perfectly naturally, as JESUS speaks of Himself and of the FATHER and of the HOLY SPIRIT. Always the logical, causal order presented is: first, GOD the FATHER - the unseen Source and Cause of all things; second, GOD the SON - who tangibly and visibly reveals the FATHER to man and who executes the will of GOD; third, GOD the HOLY SPIRIT - who is unseen and yet reveals GOD the Son to men through the media of other men and the Word which He inspired, and who makes real in the hearts and lives of men the experience of fellowship with the Son and the FATHER. Yet this is not an order of importance or length of existence. All are equally eternal and equally GOD - one GOD. The Son is presented as "**begotten of the Father**," the Spirit as proceeding from the FATHER through the Son.

Now consider the physical universe which logically should reflect in a very intimate way its CREATOR. All knowable things in this universe may be classified under the heads of space, matter, or time. Now space, at least as far as we can comprehend it, consists of exactly three dimensions, each equally important and absolutely essential. There would be no space, no reality, if there were only two dimensions. Three distinct dimensions exist-yet each comprises the whole of space. Yet there is just one space. Note that to get the cubical contents of any certain confined space, one does not add the length and breadth and width, but rather multiplies them together. Analogously, the mathematics of the Trinity is not $1 + 1 + 1 = 1$, but $1 \times 1 \times 1 = 1$.

The analogy is even more striking in matter. The new physics has come to regard matter more and more as "simply" tremendous energy in motion. Depending on the rates and types of motion, there are then various phenomena presented to our senses - sound, color, heat, texture, hardness, etc. Energy is the unseen source manifesting itself in motion and thus producing phenomena. Matter involves these three phases and no others that cannot rightly be included in one of three. Each is distinct, yet each involves the whole of matter, and none of the three can exist by itself

without the other two. Energy is first in a logical, causal order, but not in order of importance or precedence. Motion, which embodies, reveals, and is begotten of energy, is the second. Phenomena proceed from motion and comprise the ways in which motion itself touches and affects men, even as the HOLY SPIRIT reveals the Son and, through Him, the FATHER to men.

Finally, the last of the triad, time, is one entity but consists of the future, the present, and the past. Each contains the whole of time, yet is distinct and, further, cannot exist without the other two. The future is the unseen source of time and is embodied and made real, moment by moment, in the present. The past then proceeds from the present, becoming invisible again, yet continually influencing us with regard to the present, and helping us to interpret and understand the present and even, to some extent, the future.

Thus every detail of the physical universe is remarkably cast in the same mold as that of the Triune GOD presented in the Bible. This cannot be coincidence. There must be an adequate reason for these resemblances which are so fundamental that they are likely to be quite overlooked or ignored.

But this same remarkable phenomenon can be seen in the realm of human life, as well. The Bible says that man was created in the image of GOD; so this should be expected.

Notice that each individual is a person, who can be physically observed and described. But back of that person is his nature, which is unseen and yet is the source of all that the person embodies. But that person, and through the person his nature, is known to other men only through his personality, which is an unseen, intangible thing, yet is the way in which the person touches the lives of others. So, then, human life consists of three things - nature, person, and personality - and no others. They are equally important and equally the whole of the man, yet always exist in the above logical order. None of the three can exist without the other two. *The nature is the source, revealed and embodied in the person. The personality proceeds from the person. It is invisible, but is felt and influences the lives of others in regard to the person. Thus, man is, in minute detail, a finite reflection of GOD, who made him in His own image. It is true that sin has marred even this finite reflection but, nevertheless, man still reflects the image of GOD in an even more significant way than does the physical universe.*

This same triunity seems to pervade everything in life. Every moral action of man consists of: first, the motive; second, the act; third, the consequences. The same relations apply among these as among the triunities we have already mentioned. Similarly, all forms of thought or reason proceed logically from the universal to the particular thing to that thing as related to other things.

These thoughts are developed in much greater clarity and fullness, along with many others, by Dr. Wood. But even this brief discussion should suffice to indicate something of the basic system of three-in-oneness pervading the whole creation. While these facts cannot be held to prove that the CREATOR of the universe and of life is a Triune Being, it should be obvious that such a cause would be eminently adequate to account for all these facts, while it is certainly difficult and perhaps impossible to formulate any other hypothesis as satisfactory as this to account for the existence of such universal triunity in nature. The doctrine of the Trinity is no unscientific, aboriginal absurdity, but an intensely scientific and tremendously important living reality. GOD was manifested and revealed by and in His Son, who as a man was JESUS CHRIST. There can be nothing more important for any individual then, than to become rightly related to this

triuniverse and its Triune GOD. This means unreserved acceptance of CHRIST, for "**in him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.**"

~ end of chapter 1 ~
