The Bible & Ancient Science
1. Introductory Principles

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Introduction

Henry Morris
The Bible is a book of science! The Bible does contain all the basic principles upon which true science is built.

Hugh Ross
The order of creation events in Genesis 1 perfectly accords with the findings of modern science...

No author writing more than 3400 years ago, as Moses did, could have so accurately described and sequenced these events without Divine assistance.

Billy Graham
The Bible is not a book of science! The Bible is a Book of Redemption. We have made a mistake by thinking the Bible is a scientific book.

Pope John Paul II
The Bible does not wish to teach how heaven was made, but how one goes to heaven. The Bible expresses itself in the terms of the cosmology [science] in use at the time of the writer.

Scientific Concordism

ASSUMPTION:
• the facts of science align with the Bible.
• that God revealed scientific facts in the Bible 1000s of years before their discovery by modern science.

Philippians 2:10-11
At the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
[1] in heaven and,
[2] on earth and,
[3] under the earth [in the UNDERWORLD],
and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Kαταχθονιος underworld, subterranean world
Kατα = down
Χθονιος = chthonic realm

The 3-Tier Universe

HEAVEN

UNDERWORLD

Eisegesis

Greek eis: in, into; ēgeomai: to guide
Reading our views or agenda INTO a book.

Exegesis

ek: out, out of
Reading a book’s views or agenda OUT of it.

Hermeneutics

Rules of interpretation for reading any piece of literature.

Hermeneutical Horizons

Conceptual worlds of the Ancient Text & Modern Reader

Popular Responses

• The sun rises at one end of the heavens and makes its circuit to the other. Ps 19:6
• The sun rises and the sun sets, and hurries back to where it rises. Eccl 1:5

POETIC LANGUAGE ARGUMENT

Statements about nature in the Bible are often in poetic passages and they use figurative language. They have no basis in physical reality and are simply fanciful figures of speech.

Therefore, do not take these statements literally.

Poetry = Structure Writing
Figures of Speech AND References to Physical Reality
eg, sun, moon & stars in Psalms

PHENOMENOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE ARGUMENT

Greek phenomai: to appear
Statements about nature in the Bible are from the perspective of what they look like to the natural senses (eg. naked eye). They are phenomenological—only appearances and merely visual effects. In fact, check any newspaper today and you will find the times for “sunrise” & “sunset.” But everyone knows that the sun does not literally rise or set.

Therefore, do not take these statements literally.

Distinguish between ANCIENT and MODERN Phenomenological Perspectives
Phenomenological Perspectives of Nature

**ANCIENT PHENOMENOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE**
What the ancients saw, they believed was ACTUAL:
- sun actually moves across the sky daily
- earth actually immovable
Lasts as late as the 1600s
Proof: Galileo Affair

**MODERN PHENOMENOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE**
What we see, we know to be only an APPEARANCE:
- “movement” of the sun across the sky is a visual effect due to rotation of the earth
- “immovability” of earth is a sensory effect due to phenomenon of gravity

⇒ SEPARATE, DON’T CONFLATE!

Message-Incident Principle

**MESSAGE**
Spiritual Truths
INERRANT

**BIBLE**

**INCIDENT**
Ancient Science
Ancient Phenomenological Perspective

⇒ SEPARATE, DON’T CONFLATE!

Principle of Accommodation
The concept that God descended to the level of ancient people and used their ancient understanding of nature in Biblical revelation.

**ARGUMENTS FOR ACCOMMODATION**
- The Example of the **Incarnation**  
  Latin *carnis*: flesh  
  GREATEST ACT OF ACCOMMODATION!  
  God descended to become a human in the person of Jesus
  
  In the beginning was the **Word**, and the **Word**  
  was with God, and **THE WORD WAS GOD**.  
  He was with God in the beginning. Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made....
  **The Word became flesh** and lived for a while among us.  
  John 1:1-3, 14

- A Corollary of Divine Revelation
  *By definition*, a Holy and Infinite Creator has to accommodate and descend to the level of sinful and finite creatures in order to communicate.

- Jesus’s Use of Parables
  **DEF**: earthly story with heavenly meaning

- Personal Prayer
  When God talks to you does He not accommodate and use YOUR language & YOUR concepts?

- Common Teaching Principle
  EG everyone does it when talking to a 4 yr old

Conclusions
1. The Bible includes Ancient Science
2. Ancient and Modern Phenomenological Perspectives are easy to Conflate.
3. Inerrant Spiritual Truths & Incidental Ancient Science are easy to Conflate.
4. God did NOT LIE in the Bible!!!
   By grace, the Lord accommodated and came down to the level of ancient people and used their science in order to reveal His love for us.

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