

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.

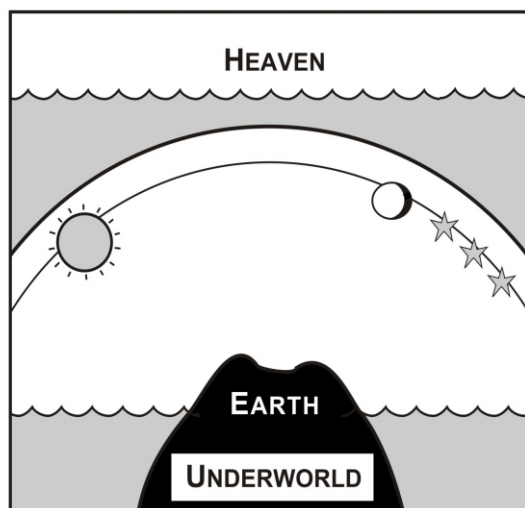
Philippians 2:10-11

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.

καταχθονιος underworld, subterranean world

κατα = down χθονιος = chthonic realm
kata chthonios

The 3-Tier Universe



Hermeneutics

Rules of interpretation for reading any piece of literature.

Eisegesis

Greek *eis*: in, into; *ēgeomai*: to guide

Reading our views or agenda INTO a book.

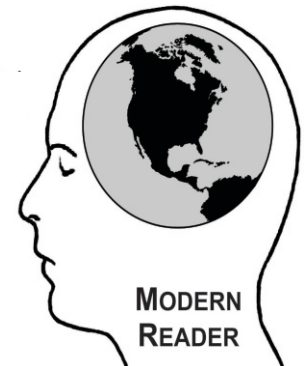
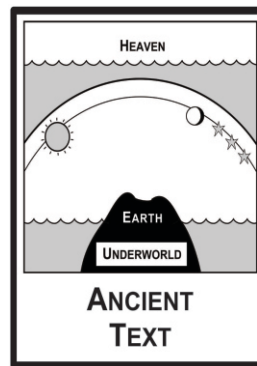
Exegesis

ek: out, out of

Reading a book's views or agenda OUT of it.

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

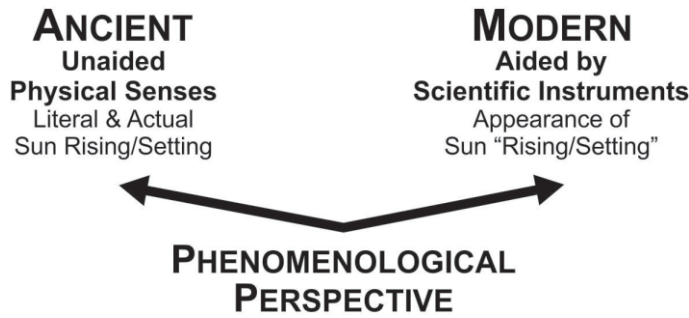
Greek *phenomai*: to appear

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



☛ **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.

Bibliography

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www.ualberta.ca/~dlamoure

Book Chapter: "Ancient Science in the Bible"
from Denis Lamoureux's

I Love Jesus & I Accept Evolution (2009)

www.ualberta.ca/~dlamoure/ancient_science.pdf