

THE BIBLE & ANCIENT SCIENCE

4. ANCIENT BIOLOGY

Denis O. Lamoureux DDS PhD PhD

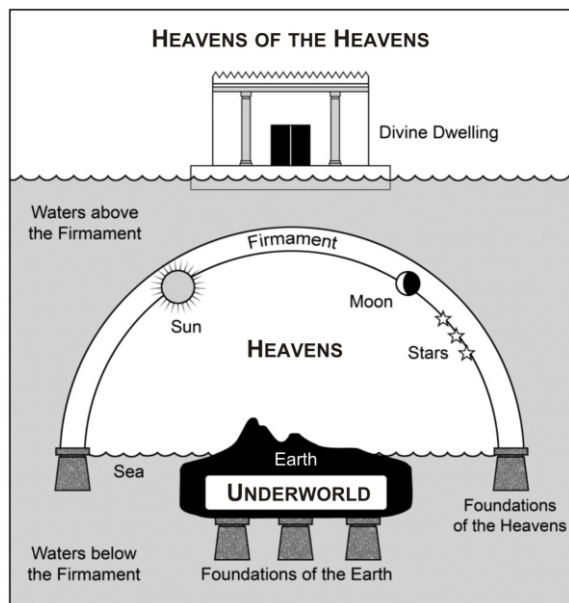
St. Joseph's College, University of Alberta

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.

The 3-Tier Universe



Phenomenological Perspectives of Nature

<p>ANCIENT Unaided Physical Senses Literal & Actual Sun Rising/Setting</p>	<p>MODERN Aided by Scientific Instruments Appearance of Sun "Rising/Setting"</p>
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**PHENOMENOLOGICAL
PERSPECTIVE**

Message-Incident Principle



Principle of Accommodation

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

Features of Living Organisms from an Ancient Phenomenological Perspective

ANCIENT BOTANY

1. Mustard Seeds

Jesus: With what can we compare the Kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, *is the smallest of all the seeds on the earth.* Mk 4:30-31
orchids are much smaller

2. Dying Seeds

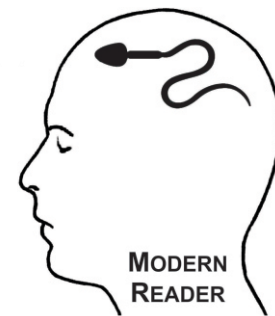
Jesus: "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and *dies*, it remains only a single seed. But if *dies*, it produces many seeds." Jn 12:23-24
if seeds die, they won't germinate

3. Growing Seeds

Jesus: "This is what the Kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts, though he does not know how. *All by itself the soil produces grain*—first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. Mk 4:26-28
DNA in the seed also contributes to growth

ANCIENT REPRODUCTIVE BIOLOGY

4. Only Men Have Seed



σπερμα Greek: *sperma*

1. seed: a. with sex (only males)
b. with fields & farming
2. offspring, family

זָרַע Hebrew: *zera'*
same as *sperma*

- זָרַע *zāra'*
1. to sow seed in fields
 2. to be made pregnant (only females)

One "Seed" Theory (aka Preformatism)
an entire miniature person inside the male "seed"

EXPERIENCE OF SEX

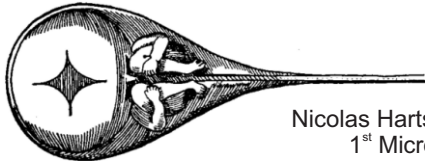
men ejaculate & women do not
perception: sex like farming → men sow seed
women like fields → receive seed

By faith Abraham, even though he was past age—and Sarah herself was *barren*—was enabled to become a father [σπερμα + καταβαλλω] because he considered Him faithful who had made the promise. Heb 11:11

καταβαλλω: to thrown down
 κατα (kata) = down βαλλω (ballō) = to throw
 σπερμα + καταβαλλω: = to ejaculate (only males)

1-SEED THEORY IN THE ANCIENT WORLD

The mother of what is called her child is *no* parent of it, but the nurse only of the young life that is *sown* in her. The parent is the male, and she but a stranger, a friend, who, if fate spares his *plant*, preserves it till it puts forth. Aeschylus, *Eumenides* (v. 658-661) 5th Century BC



Nicolas Hartsoeker (1694)
 1st Microscopes

5. Only Women Are Barren (New Testament)

- They had no children, because Elizabeth was *barren*. Lk 1:7
- They will say, “Blessed are the *barren*, and the wombs that never bore.” Lk 23:29

στειρος Greek *steiros*
 1. barren fields
 2. barren women (women only)
 Feminine: στείρα (*steira*)
 στερεος *stereos*
 hard

5. Only Women Are Barren (Old Testament)

- Now Sarai was *barren*; she had no child. Gen 11:30
- Isaac prayed to God for Rebekah, because she was *barren*. Gen 25:21

עקר *‘āqār* 1. barren fields
 ט ט 2. barren women (women only)
 עקר *‘āqār* to pluck up, to uproot
 - ט There is a time for everything ...
 a time to plant and a time to
 uproot [*‘āqār*] Eccl 3:1-2

Ancient Science of Human Reproductive Problems

Only women were believed to be the cause of infertility
 perfectly logical conclusion for agricultural people
 from an *Ancient Phenomenological Perspective*

EXPERIENCE OF SOWING SEEDS

worst plant germination rate 85% (wheat & barley)
 perception: seeds ALWAYS work

EXPERIENCE OF FIELDS

fields determine whether or not seeds germinate
 EG Parable of the Sower Matt 13:3-9
 hard path & good soil
 perception: barren woman like a HARD FIELD

EXPERIENCE OF MISCARRIAGES

perception: “seedling” seen as UPROOTED

ANCIENT TAXONOMY

6. Bats Are Birds & Rabbits Chew the Cud

- These are the *birds* ... the eagle, the vulture, ... [17 other birds listed] ... and the *bat*. Lev 11:13-19
 bats are not birds; they are mammals
 perception: bats fly
- The rabbit, though it chews the cud ... Lev 11:5-6
 rabbits are not ruminants; they do not have a cud
 perception: they have repetitive jaw movements

7. Living Organisms are Immutable (Unchanging)

3RD DAY OF CREATION: God said, “Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants & trees on land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their kinds.”

Gen 1:11

6TH DAY OF CREATION: God said, “Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: livestock, creatures that move along the ground, and wild animals each according to its kind.” Gen 1:24

Plants & animals:
 created & reproduce “according to their kinds”
 Stated 10X in Genesis 1
 perception: ancient people NEVER saw plants & animals change into different species
 ancient people only saw:
 goats birth → goats birth → goats birth → etc

The Corollary of Immutability

Deduction: plants & animals created *De Novo*
De Novo **Creation** Latin *de*: of *novus*: new
 creation that is Quick & Complete

To understand the origin of living organisms ancient people reversed (*retrojected*) the goats birth goats data set back in time to the beginning of creation:

De Novo Creation ← birth goats ← birth goats
 of 1st goat/s

Retrojection Latin *retro*: backward *jacere* to cast
 to cast back in time

CSI: police take evidence *present* at the scene,
 & cast it back in time to reconstruct the *past*

Anti-Evolutionism & Ancient Taxonomy

Belief in *de novo* creative acts by God in the origin of living organism is based on ancient science.

Conclusions

1. The Bible has an ancient understanding of the structure, operation & origin of plants & animals.
2. The ancient biology in the Bible is based on an **ancient phenomenological perspective** of the living organisms.
3. Scientific Concordism **FAILS**.
4. In order to understand the structure, operation, and origin of living organisms, we need to open the **Book of God’s Works** & do the science.

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.