

# THE BIBLE & ANCIENT SCIENCE

## 5. CONCLUSIONS & IMPLICATIONS

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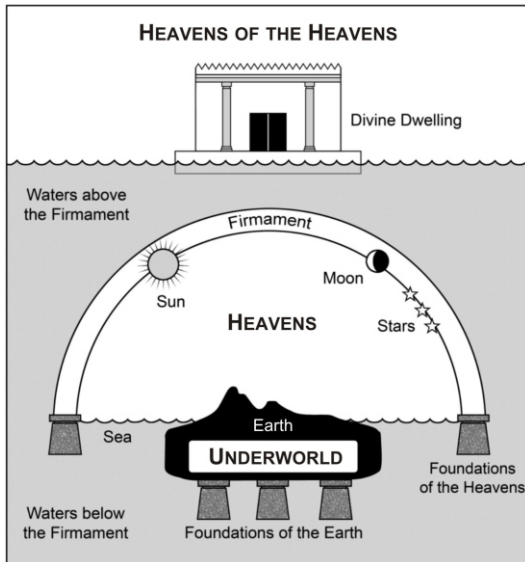
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### CONCLUSIONS

#### 1. Scientific Concordism FAILS

- the facts of science DO NOT align with the Bible.
- God DID NOT revealed scientific facts in the Bible 1000s of yrs before their discovery by modern science.

#### 2. The Bible has an ANCIENT Science



#### 3. The Inspired Biblical Writers Understood Nature from an ANCIENT Phenomenological Perspective

They were *perfectly logical* given their data set

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

#### 4. Message-Incident Principle FREES Christians from Scientific Concordism



#### 5. God DID NOT LIE in the Bible! He Accommodated

By grace, the Lord descended to the level of ancient people & used their ancient understanding of nature in Biblical revelation.

### IMPLICATIONS

#### 1. Sufficiency of Scripture & Proficiency of Readers

Despite the challenges of hermeneutics, the Messages of Faith are revealed to those seeking to meet God.

- The Bible is sufficient in revealing God
- Readers are proficient in grasping Spiritual Truths

NOTE the spiritual/personal aspect to hermeneutics: "those seeking to meet God"

NOT just intellectual → a spiritual/mystical encounter

- ☛ Believers hear the "**Voice of God**" in Scripture

#### LESSON FROM CHURCH HISTORY

The MESSAGE always got through to the Church eg, Divinity of Jesus

The INCIDENT has led to a wide variety of views eg, origin of the world in Scripture

#### 2. Dynamic Equivalent Translation

Translations of Scripture using another INCIDENT & keeping the MESSAGE

**Accommodation** for today's generation

Jesus: "How can we picture God's kingdom? What kind of story can we use? It's like a *pine nut*. When it lands on the ground it is quite small as seeds go, yet once it is planted it grows into a *huge pine tree* with thick branches. Eagles nest in it." Mk 4:31

Eugene Peterson, *The Message New Testament* (1993)

#### GENESIS 1:1-5 & SCIENCE TODAY

- <sup>1</sup>Across a period of billions of years **God created** the heavens and the earth through evolution.
- <sup>2</sup>Now the world did not exist before the creation of space, time, and matter.
- <sup>3</sup>And God said, "Let there be an explosion." And there was an explosion.
- <sup>4</sup>God saw **it was good**, and He separated the explosion from nothingness.
- <sup>5</sup>God called the explosion "The Big Bang." This was the first cosmological epoch.

*Messages of Faith:*

God is the Creator & the Creation is good

**THAT** God created, Not **HOW** God created.

#### 3. Scope of Cognitive Competence

Knowledge boundaries of BOTH the Biblical Writers & the Modern Readers

##### Scope

visual metaphor; "field" of vision

Think: *micro-scopes* & *tele-scopes*

implies limits & boundaries

##### Cognitive

term with a very WIDE number of nuances:

intelligence, knowledge & education

reflects one's culture & point in history

##### Competence

one is either competent or incompetent

Biblical Writers: NARROW SCC. No micro/telescopes

Modern Readers: WIDE SCC. We have & enjoy them!

### Excursus: The “Hermeneutical Brakes”

Were the Biblical Writers COMPETENT in understanding:

X shape of the earth

X size of mustard seeds compared to all other seeds

X human reproductive difficulties

BUT were the Biblical Writers COMPETENT to know:

✓ water had changed to wine

✓ an epileptic boy healed

✓ a dead man had risen

Which questions are FOUNDATIONAL to Christianity?

#### 4. Attribution of Divine Action in Origins

##### QUESTION 1:

Does the Bible reveal the structure of the universe?

ANSWER: **NO**.

The Bible has a 3-tier universe

##### QUESTION 2:

Does the Bible reveal how God created the universe?

ANSWER: **NO**

2<sup>nd</sup> Creation Day: God creates *DE NOVO* the firmament and separates waters above

4<sup>th</sup> Creation Day: God sets *DE NOVO* the sun, moon and stars in the firmament

##### QUESTION 3:

Did God LIE in the Bible?

ANSWER: **NO**

God ACCOMMODATED and used ancient astronomy, ancient geography/geology, and ancient biology as INCIDENTAL vessels to deliver SPIRITUAL TRUTHS

#### Attribution of Divine Action in Origins

God’s creative action in the Bible is filtered/accommodated through an ancient understanding of origins:

**DE NOVO CREATION:** Quick & Complete Divine action  
☛ *de novo* creative acts in Anti-Evolutionism are based on ancient science.

#### 5. Science in Scripture: Conservative OR Liberal?

What defines a Conservative or Liberal Christian?

Will our views of science in Scripture determine this?

ST. AUGUSTINE: Bear in mind that the term ‘firmament’ does not compel us to imagine a stationary heaven: we may understand this name as given to indicate not that it is motionless but that it is *solid* and that it constitutes an impassable boundary between the *waters above* and the *waters below*.”

*Literal Meaning of Genesis* (415)

MATRIN LUTHER: Scripture ... simply says that the moon, the sun, and the stars were placed in the *firmament* of the heaven (*below* and *above* which are the waters) ... The bodies of the stars, like that of the sun, are round, & they are *fastened* to the *firmament* like globes of fire.

*Lectures on Genesis* (1536)

JOHN CALVIN: “We indeed are not ignorant, that the circuit of the heavens is finite, and that the earth, like a little globe, is placed *in the center*... The *primum mobile* [firmament] rolls all the celestial spheres along with it.”

*Commentary on Genesis* (1554)

The “**conservative**” view of astronomy for 1500 yrs accepted: 1. geocentricity  
2. firmament

Therefore, ALL Christians today are liberals!!!

The “**conservative**” view of biological origins for 2000 yrs accepted: 1. *De Novo* creation of plants & animals  
2. *De Novo* creation of Adam & Eve

##### QUESTION

Does rejecting *De Novo* Creation of living organisms, including Adam & Eve, make you a **LIBERAL**?

#### 6. Sir Francis Bacon’s Two Book Hermeneutic

Our Saviour says, “You err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God” [Matt 22:29], laying before us two books or volumes to study, if we will be secure from error; [1] first the Scriptures, revealing the will of God, and [2] then the creatures expressing his power; whereof the latter is a **key** unto the former:

*Advancement of Learning* (1605)

Science contributes to the Biblical interpretation

☛ modern science assist to identify ancient science

#### 7. Biblical Inerrancy: Toward an Incarnational Model

Re-defining inerrancy using parallels between:

- Jesus (The Word) & the Bible (The Word)
- Greatest Act of Revelation (God in human flesh) & Biblical Revelation (God’s Words in human words)

ONTOLOGY OF JESUS Greek *ontos*: being

God: inerrant perfect Spiritual Being

Man: imperfect human physical body

TEMPORALITY OF JESUS

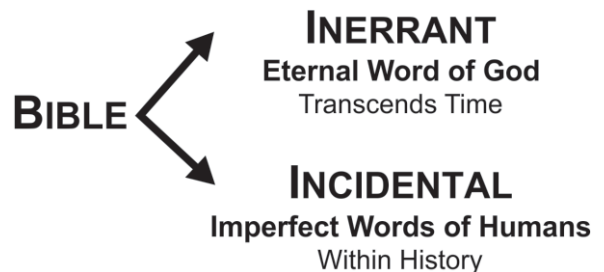
God: eternal & transcends time

Man: bound within time of the 1<sup>st</sup> century

PEDAGOGY OF JESUS

God: taught inerrant Word of God

Man: used incidental & imperfect human words—  
parables & ancient science (eg, mustard seed)



[www.ualberta.ca/~dlamoure](http://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](http://www.ualberta.ca/~dlamoure/ancient_science.pdf).