

Faith and Science Need Not Collide

John 21:25 Now there are also many other things that Jesus did. Were every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.

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Faith and Science

- Get along well when technology guided by science creates wealth, sufficient food, medicine and other life saving-life easing inventions
- Clash when people try to use science to disprove God or Scripture

Science

- Body of objective facts verifiable by anyone
- Logical way of getting more facts
- Unifying theory
- Can make verifiable predictions

- Ancient examples
 - Farming
 - Cooking

Misuse

- Every good thing given to us has been misused
- Misuse does not invalidate the good thing
- Started with Cain (misused his strength)
- Unavoidable as sin, death and taxes
- We must fight misuse

Misuse: Use of Science to Disprove Christianity

- Since all truth is good, this should be hard.
- Made possible if Christians assert things pertaining to the natural world which are wrong.
- Such assertions can be made if one reads scripture literally or misunderstands the intent of a passage
- Even if Christians avoid these problems, there will be atheists who will try anyway but these people existed in every century. We don't need to make their life easier.

Non Literal Reading of Scripture

- John 3:3-4 Jesus rebukes Nicodemus for thinking literally
- Isaiah 41:9 Earth has corners
- **Jer. 51:16** Earth has ends and that is where our weather comes from. When he thunders, the waters in the heavens roar; he makes clouds rise from the **ends** of the earth.

Scripture and Science

Consider this my assertion

- God made everything
- Science gives us details
- Incidental discussion of the natural world is in Hebrew using Hebrew terms.
 - There is no affirmation of Semitic cosmology
 - In a later time, Jesus contemporaries believed in the geocentric system, Jesus did not bother to correct them

Bible Self Limitation

- Bible has no instruction on:
 - Farming (Crops)
 - Care of domestic animals
 - Medicine
 - Building construction
 - Manufacturing (Clothing, Pottery, etc)
- For the purpose of bringing us to and keeping us in a saving relationship with Jesus –**These topics are useless**

The Bible Speaks to

- describe or illustrate the works and the nature of God,
- describe/illustrate the moral condition and actions of mankind
- show how God and man do or can interact.
- **All of this is done with the purpose of bringing us to and keeping us in a saving relationship with Jesus**

Conflict Points

There are three major places where faith and science appear to collide:

- Creation
- The Garden and the Fall
- The Flood

Miracles are too unique to be considered and the text itself says these are intervention by God

Creation Lessons Genesis 1

- God did it , alone, un-aided un-constrained,
 - No polytheism, no heavenly strife
- Sun and Moon are merely objects
 - These were deities in neighboring religions
- Creation was created good
 - Matter is not evil,
 - The world is not intrinsically evil
- People have an honored place
 - The finishing touch of creation; not an afterthought
 - Not slaves to do work the gods did not want to do
- Who, why and purpose-not how is the main thrust of this chapter

Incidentals

- Time
 - The meaning of 'Day'
- Completeness
 - Things not visible to the ancients are not mentioned
- Sequence
 - Order is different than current understanding

Day יום *Yom*

- n.m. day (24 hours), daytime (in contrast to night); by extension: an indefinite period of time, an era with a certain characteristic, such as “the day of the LORD” and the prophetic “on that day”. ~ *day, today, year*
- 2,301 uses in OT

Day as Multiple 24 hours Examples

- **Gen. 2:4** These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the **day** that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens Genesis ESV
- **Psa. 20:1** May the **LORD** answer you in the **day** of trouble! May the name of the God of Jacob protect you!
- **Joel 3:14** Multitudes, multitudes, in the valley of decision! For the **day** of the **LORD** is near in the valley of decision

Elastic Time

- Peter makes this comment about those impatient for Jesus return:

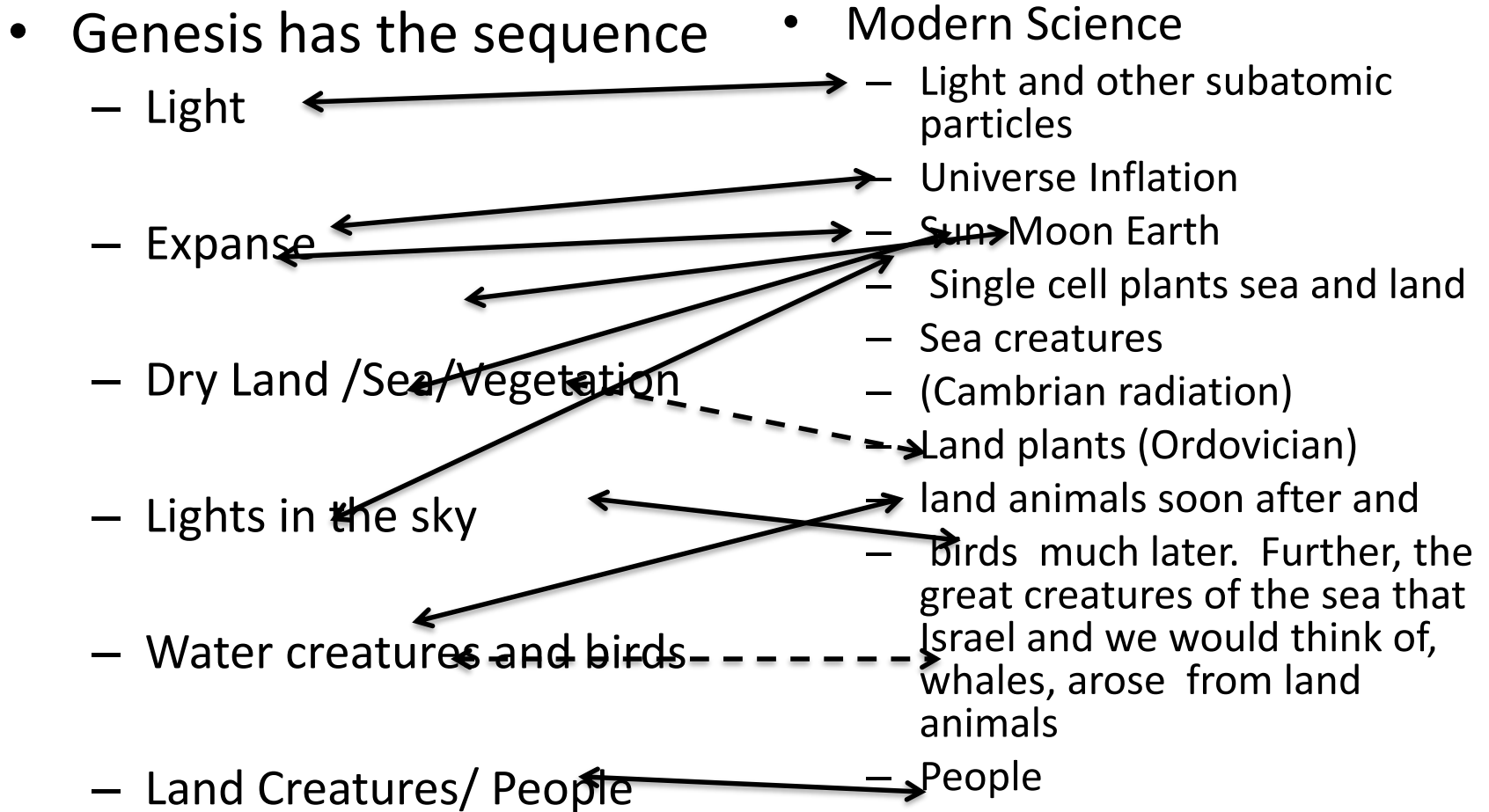
2Pet. 3:8 But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one **day** is as a **thousand years**, and a **thousand years** as one **day**.

- Peter gives notice that, for God, time is rather elastic.
- Koine Greek has a word for
 - Thousand
 - Ten Thousand
 - But nothing higher

Not Complete (*nor is that asserted*)

- **John 21:25** Now there are also many other things that Jesus did. Were every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.
- Creation of light but not matter
- Sun and moon but not the stars and planets
- Land plants, animals and fish but not seaweed
- Nothing that is invisible to the unaided eye
- No mention of extinct life forms or of their fossils

Sequence and Completeness



Matching Genesis 1 to Science

- Concordism
 - Interpretation to make the two match
 - Unsuccessful in the long term
- Change Science to match the Bible
 - Unsuccessful in the short term
- Conclude that these are separate topics

*Nobody has died either physically or spiritually because they did not know creation order or the layout of the solar system. **People die spiritually because they do not know that the Lord is the creator of good, now fallen but redeemed creation .***

The Garden and the Fall

- The key elements to reconcile are
 - that God created Adam and Eve in His image
 - there was fellowship and a command which was disobeyed which then broke the fellowship.
 - Cain's fear of other people and his eventual marriage
 - Continuous (Enough) Fossil record including hominids
 - Includes ancient geological and cosmological age)
 - 1 Corinthians 15:22

If one can account for these 5 elements one has a good theory of how it happened.

1Corinthians 15:22

- **1Cor. 15:22** for even as in Adam all die, so also in the Christ all shall be made alive,
 - Not a concept that comes easily to individualistic Americans
 - Actions of the past affect us despite our attempts to distance ourselves

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Basic Ideas in Broad-brush

- Literal Adam Recent or Ancient
- Adam and Eve are archetypes
- Evolutionary view: Adam is a metaphor

My Assumptions

- .For mankind, God intervened to present His image and command obedience either on a previously created body or on one that He created specially. *The key is God intervened.*
- The image of God is unique, on earth, to mankind. There are three features of Gods image and 2 important irrelevancies
 - to be able *to love in the agape fashion*; philo, eros and love of kin are seen in animals and are therefore not a defining characteristic.
 - to be able to *know and respond to God* (probably requires language)
 - The ability to *make a moral choice* (requires freewill)
 - the details *of our physical form is irrelevant.*
 - *Technical ability is irrelevant* the use of tools, fire etc do not make us in God's image.
- *God's image is carried by all people* now living and has been at least since before the flood.
- *Time is not a constraint* per above discussion.

Literal Adam and Eve

- that God created Adam and Eve in His image **OK**
- there was fellowship and a command which was disobeyed which then broke the fellowship. **OK**
- Cain's fear of other people and his eventual marriage **Problematic**
- Continuous (Enough) Fossil record **Contradicts**
- 1 Corinthians 15:22 **OK**
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Adam and Eve are Archtypes

- that God created Adam and Eve in His image
- *OK for Adam and Eve but transmission to others is problematic*
- there was fellowship and a command which was disobeyed which then broke the fellowship.
 - *Once the image is transmitted this is OK*
- Cain's fear of other people and his eventual marriage
 - *Once the image is transmitted this is OK*
- Continuous (Enough) Fossil record *acceptable*
- 1 Corinthians 15:22 Ok
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Adam and Eve are Purely a product of evolution

- that God created Adam and Eve in His image
 - *How does one have a partial image of God?*
- there was fellowship and a command which was disobeyed which then broke the fellowship.
 - *If you can solve the first one then this follows.*
 - *To be fair,*
 - *how do we approach the responsibility of a 7 year old?*
 - *if any of us swapped places with Adam and Eve we would fall too*
- Cain's fear of other people and his eventual marriage
 - *If you can solve the first one then this follows*
- Continuous (Enough) Fossil record *acceptable*
- 1 Corinthians 15:22 *Can use the singular Adam to the unique Jesus connection as a concession to Paul's immediate readers*

The Flood

- Fewer Alternative Ideas here
- Problems
 - The genetic diversity of many animals is greater than people even though fewer of each species was left to repopulate the earth than people
 - The size of the ark
 - Lack of unambiguous universal geologic evidence
 - Dispersal and racial differentiation

Land אֶרֶץ *erets*

- 2,505x
- n.f. & m. . world, earth, all inhabited lands; parts of the earth, land (in contrast to water), ground, soil; country, region, territory; “heaven and earth” means the totality of creation; “the ends of the earth” means “a very distant place”.
earth; land.
- **Gen. 7:17** (NIV) For forty days^a the flood kept coming on the earth, and as the waters increased they lifted the ark high above the **earth**.
 - Same word in Hebrew

Flood Lesson

- The Important Lesson
 - 1) God abhors sin
 - 2) He does judge
 - 3) even in isolation Noah resumed sinning .
 - 4) sin was not/cannot be cut out/scared out of mankind even for one man's lifetime
- Natural or Miraculous, Local or World Wide there is the timing, Noah just happened to have a boat ready and loaded which marks this as the work of God

Summary

- For these three topics I have provided sketches of alternative interpretations of scripture which maintain the action of God
- You do not need to choose between a literal reading and atheism
- We can express reservations on Bible conforming interpretations on the basis of science
- In all of these passages the spiritual message dwarfs the scientific message

Summary 2

Heb. 11:1-2 Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. This is what the ancients were commended for.

The ancients had faith that Jesus would come without knowing the details

We too can have faith without knowing exactly how science and scripture mesh.

Hold fast to Jesus.