

***SCIENCE AND THE
BIBLE***

PREFACE

A typewritten copy of this address was handed to me a few years ago; I have no idea of the original source from which it was obtained, and I have not been able to check with the original. It will be appreciated, therefore, that I cannot take responsibility for the strict accuracy of the scientific facts and figures contained therein.

My simple desire is to put into wide circulation this powerful and wonderful gospel appeal from the lips of an able and true man whose heart and soul were so deeply moved and filled with the greatness and blessedness of the God of the Universe.

I have, sorrowfully, learned since that he has departed this life in December, 1968, to be for ever with his Lord and Master, Whom he served so well- "...to depart and to be with Christ, which is far better" (Philippians 1:23).

One would earnestly pray that the Holy Spirit of God might graciously lead the reader to a real knowledge of our Saviour God through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ Who suffered on the cross of Calvary for us all. To him be the praise and glory, Amen!

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P.H.
Editor.

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Let us open with a word of prayer: Our Father, we do again realise that without Thee we can do nothing, absolutely nothing, and we depend entirely upon the leading and guiding of the Holy Spirit, that the Lord Jesus Christ may receive all the honor, and we ask it in His Name. Amen.

I think a Christian interpretation of science is essential, because if our religious views and our scientific views have no common ground it adds confusion to a well ordered mind. The Bible and science must interpret each other, you see, because God wrote them both. Since God wrote the Bible and God wrote the 'book of science' there can be no disagreement between them. And if there is any disagreement in our minds between them you will find that it is either because there is something wrong with the observation of the facts or the interpretation of that observation. Now, generally, what can science do for the Christian and what can the Christian do for the scientist? In the first place I think that science can confirm and clarify Scripture. In 2 Peter 3:10, it says that "The elements shall melt with fervent heat" – which takes on a new meaning to us now since the Atomic Age.

Now I believe that the language of the Bible was the language of the common man. It was written in the culture of the day. I am not of the school of thought that tries to smuggle into scripture concepts that are not there. I believe much harm has been done by writers of the past who tried to smuggle into scripture concepts which are not there. I use the word smuggle because I do not know where they get them from. The Divine guidance lay in the fact that none of the writers of scripture tried to interpret what they wrote in the light of the science of the day, because had they done so this book would be full of grotesque errors as are many of the books of today. Now this book is not a scientific text book. If it were written as a scientific text book it would have needed to be written in the terms of final science. And if it were written in terms of final science we today could not understand it and it would be a lost book to men of all ages. Because I am sure that you all here will agree with me that we are not living in the time of final science; as a matter of fact we are just beginning to scratch the surface of things scientific; and with a group of this kind I do not think I have to go any more into a statement of that kind. Under Divine guidance men did not attempt to interpret what they were told to write. I will give you an illustration of that:-

In Jeremiah 33 verse 22 there is a very simple statement: "The host of heaven cannot be numbered." Yet 450 years after Jeremiah made this statement, Hipparchus, the great scientist of his day, said there were exactly 1026 stars in the Universe. Mr. Jeremiah had said for 450 years "The host of heaven cannot be numbered." One hundred and fifty years later at the time of Christ, Ptolemy, the great Roman scientist said there are not 1026 stars in the Universe by 1056 stars. He may have looked up on a clearer night, I do not know, but he made this statement. But 1610 years later, a fellow by the name of Galileo invented a little glass and then looked up and said, there are more stars than this. And as men have developed better and better instruments, they have discovered more and more stars; and as a matter of fact they tell us that in our own Galaxy, the Milky Way, there are 270 billion stars. A couple of years ago I spoke to a group of men at Grand Rapids and I said that we had about 2 million of such Galaxies, and I was right up to date. About 2 months later in the National Geographic they gave us the report of the two hundred-inch telescope, and they said there are not 2 million Galaxies but there are trillions of them. And now we can say officially that "The host of heaven cannot be numbered." We have just caught up with Jeremiah.

Now what view does the Bible have for science or nature? Number one, the Bible's view is that God is the Almighty Creator of heaven and earth; this is no happenstance. Nature or science is a tribute to the majesty, to the wisdom and to the benevolence of God. This is a principle that the Bible takes. But science can enhance our concept of the greatness of God. We have a verse in Psalm 19 which says: "The heavens declare the glory of God." I never understood that until I spoke to a group of men at Teterboro Ontario. I was on the atomic energy work up there and the heads of General Electric were there as well as the department heads, and they took me for a trip through their plant. And as I went from department to department I looked at the great big turbines they were building and shipping all over the world and I thought to myself, 'now what are these fellows trying to impress me with?' And the thought came to me—they were trying to impress me with the glories of General Electric. Ever take someone for a trip through your house to show them what you have accumulated? What were you trying to impress them with? That these reflect upon your glory – right? This verse came to me, "The heavens declare the glory of God."

Now, what kind of trip would it be if God took us through the Heavens and showed us His glory? I stood there awhile and I said the first stop we would have to make would be our little Solar system. The Sun with all the planets revolving around it. Now, just to give you a measuring stick – here is the Sun big enough that we could put one million of our earth's into it. The closest Planet to the sun is Mercury, thirty six million miles away; takes 88 days to go around once. The third Planet is our Earth, 93 million miles away and of course takes one year to go around. The farthest Planet is Pluto and it is three thousand million miles away and takes 248 years to make one revolution.

Now I only give you this as a ruler; but this whole system – the Sun you know going around a center in this wheel of 270 billion other suns like it. The sun is only an average star in this wheel. It is rotating around a center, about 780 miles an hour. You notice Psalm 19 says, "Which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber and rejoiceth as a strong man to run a race. His going forth is from the end of the heaven, and his

circuit unto the end of it.” Now, this circuit going at the rate of 780 miles an hour, would take two hundred million years to make one revolution, and it is only one third the distance from the center. Now if you got into a rocket ship and traveled at the rate of 186,000 miles a second, the speed of light, how far would you be in five minutes? As you travel from the center around which the Sun is rotating, at the rate of 186,000 miles a second, for twenty-four hours a day, it would take you 35,000 years to get to where the sun is, and that is only one third the distance. And if you wanted to continue on to the outside of the wheel to our next neighbor, you would have to travel at the rate of 186,000 miles a second for nine hundred thousand years.

Someone said, ‘Do you think God is going to allow man to conquer space?’ I said, of course, he can go as far as he wants to. But how far can you go? Who wants to travel at the rate of 186,000 miles a second for nine hundred thousand years? Where would you be? You would not be anywhere. You would only be at the very next Galaxy! You would be pretty old by the time you got back. And there are billions of such Galaxies. You see, with our finite minds we cannot even comprehend endless time and endless space. How can we comprehend God? We cannot comprehend spiritual things unless God gives us the ability to comprehend. The Bible says, we must have the mind of Christ. I sat and thought about this- “The heavens declare (set forth, unfold) the glory of God.” I said: “O God forgive me, for being like ninety-nine percent of the Christians. All my life I have pulled You down to my concepts?” And I sat and thought about that. I started to worship God for Who He is, rather than what He can do for me. My heart is sick whenever I hear Christians say to someone, ‘Well, you receive the Lord Jesus Christ and you’ll be happy’ – or you’ll be a success in business-or receive the Lord Jesus Christ and you’ll go to heaven! Such cheap motives for following Christ! Did you ever worship God for Who He is rather than for what He can do for you? I did.

Well, men wrote as they were moved by the Holy Spirit (2 Peter 1:21). Let me give you another illustration. You know that in order for it to rain there is a definite ratio of land and water. There are 197 million total square miles – 145 million miles of water and only 52 million of land. This is a definite ratio for the law of precipitation to work. In Isaiah 40 we have God who measured the water in the hollow of His hand, and in Psalm 33 we have: “He layeth up the depth in storehouses.” We have the idea of measured and stored water. Now, how are these distributed? Well, you know in Ecclesiastes 1 verse 7 Solomon one day as he was walking along the river, made what was apparently a foolish statement when you measure it in the light of the science of the day. He said: “Unto the place from whence the rivers come, thither they return again.” Now, who ever heard of a river going back up a mountain to the spring from whence it came? But he made the statement. Well, we know how the water gets back to the spring from whence it came. You say, it goes up. How does it go up? Water is eight hundred times heavier than air. How does it go up? It turns into vapor. When it turns into a vapor it occupies 1600 times the space and becomes lighter than air and goes up. Now the basic ingredients of the laws of precipitation are vapor; there is wind for the distribution, there is lightning and there is dust. In Psalm 135 verse 7, we have an amazing statement: “He causeth the vapors to ascend from the ends of the earth” – not waters – “He maketh lightning’s for the rain” – ingredient number 2 “He bringeth the wind out of His treasures” – ingredient number 3. Now where does the dust come from? Not from the ground. One of the things confirmed to us by the signals of Sputnik No. 2, you will remember, was that dust comes from

outer space. And Proverbs chap. 8 verse 26 talks about the highest part of the dust of the world. Did you know that there are 20 million blazing meteors entering our atmosphere every twenty-four hours? As they hit the atmosphere they turn into dust. But here we have in the Bible four of the basic ingredients of the law of precipitation.

Next Principle – The bible says the Universe is maintained by the power of God. He sustains the spiritual, physical and moral order. The regularity of nature is a measure of the constancy of God. Now the laws of nature are the laws of God. There are examples of that. In Genesis 1: 20-25 we have the life shall produce their young after their kind. God takes the whole science of genetics in one statement. Man is filling in the details. For 50 years man has been experimenting with *Drosophila* fruit fly which reproduced itself about every four days. They have reproduced the equivalent of one hundred thousand year's of mans life in the laboratories, and whenever they have got a different chromosome number the offspring has been weak or unable to reproduce itself. So after reproducing one hundred thousand years of life, the result? – fruit fly. You know why, don't you? Because the Bible says they shall reproduce after their kind.

Another interesting statement in the Bible in Genesis (8:22) is, "While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter and day and night shall not cease." The seasons must come in their time, God says. Did you ever analyze a statement like that? The Sun and the Moon and the Stars function according to ordinances that God has put there. In Jeremiah chap. 31 it says: "Thus saith the Lord which giveth the sun for a light by day and the ordinances of the moon and of the stars for a light by night." But there He says in Genesis the seasons must come in their times. I sat down and thought about this. What makes the seasons? The revolution of the earth around the sun. Here is this great ball, six thousand million million tons rotating around the sun. It is spinning around its axis at the rate of 1,000 miles an hour. It is going around the sun at the rate of 1140 miles an hour, and it is going with the sun at the rate of 780 miles an hour. Three directions at the same time. Here we have just in one direction going around the sun, the earth covers between five and six hundred million miles a year. And if it lost only five seconds every million miles, the seasons would be six months out of kilter from Adam's time until now. But God said No, the seasons must come in their time. Did you know that this earth does not go in a true circle? As it goes closer to the sun it travels faster and as it goes farther away it travels slower. And all the Planets are exerting a pull on it to get it off its course. But in all its travels it doesn't lose more than one thousandth of a second in a hundred years. And we think we know something about precision. Man thinks he knows precision, but compared with God, we haven't scratched the surface. But the same God Who says that the seasons must come in their time is the same God who says that the soul that sinneth shall die. God is no less exacting in the spiritual than He is in the scientific. Jesus Christ did not say, "I am *a* way." Science is very exacting – Right? There is only one way to do it. This is the way. Jesus Christ said, "I am *the* way." You come to God on His terms. "I am *the* way."

In Colossians 1 verse 16 it says: "By Him – by the Lord Jesus Christ – "were all things created, and for Him, and He is before all things and by Him all things consist" – or are held together. The holding force of the entire universe is the Lord Jesus Christ – the Center of it; and unless our lives rotate around Him as the Center, we are out of phase with the entire design of God. There was a time in my life – I never went to church until I went to high school – when I was as ignorant of spiritual things as any heathen. I was so

ignorant that I thought Jesus Christ was the God of the Christians and Moses the God of the Jews. Until one day I went to a church service, and there for the first time in my life I heard that I was born in sin, and that I could do nothing about it. And you know, as ignorant as I was, I knew instinctively that I needed God. I couldn't wait for that Preacher...he told me that unless I received the Lord Jesus Christ as my Saviour (this is God's terms) I was out of the proper relationship with God. And I couldn't wait for that Preacher to stop preaching. I was under such conviction that I went and knelt down and said, "O God forgive me a sinner."

I received the Lord Jesus Christ as my Saviour. This is God's terms. And you know what happened? God put, from the outside in, a new life. This the Bible calls the new birth. Because I found out later this is a very basic principle. Because just as a stone cannot develop and develop until it becomes a plant, there is nothing from the inanimate kingdom that can develop into the animate kingdom. And regardless of your theory of evolution or your phase of evolution, there is nothing in the animate kingdom of which man is the head that can do anything to become part of the spiritual kingdom. Now let me press this home to you; it is not the church or the denomination you belong to, the job you have in church, the money you give to philanthropic organizations, the time you spend in Christian activity, that will get you anywhere. This is not the basis. You cannot develop by this principle. There is nothing the natural man can do to become spiritual. God said you have got to come *on His terms*. And when I came on His terms and I recognized myself as a sinner before God, I received the Lord Jesus Christ as my Saviour and He put, from the outside in, a new life. And this has changed the entire course of my life. It has given me a new motivating force and Jesus Christ now is the Center around Whom my life rotates.