

Scientific Facts in the Bible

By Randolph Roper, Sr.

There are mountains rising up from the bottom of the ocean floor

Jonah 2:5-6. *The waters surrounded me, even to my soul; the deep closed around me...I went down to the base of the mountains...*

There are valleys in the oceans

Psalm 18: 15. *The valleys of the sea were exposed and the foundations of the earth laid bare...*

Job 38: 16. (See below).

There are springs at the bottom of the oceans

Job: 38:16. God asks Job: *Have you journeyed to the springs of the sea or walked the recesses [valleys] of the deep?*

Genesis 7: 11. *...on that day all the fountains of the great deep were broken up...*

Until recently, scientists believed that the ocean bottom was sandy and saucer shaped. We did not learn about mountains in the seas until after World War II, when scientists began plotting sections of the ocean floor with sonar. Now we know there are numerous mountains in the oceans. There is a 10,000 mile long mountain range, the longest in the world, going down the middle of the Atlantic Ocean called the Mid-Atlantic Ridge. It even goes around the tip of Africa into the Indian Ocean. Also, after WWII, scientists discovered valleys and canyons on the ocean floor. We call them trenches, such as the Marianas Trench and the Puerto Rico Trench. When scientists developed the deep water bathyscaphe submersibles, such as the *Trieste*, scientists were able to descend down into these trenches. (The deepest parts of the oceans are about 12,000 feet, but the Marianas Trench is 35,800 feet deep. If Mount Everest (29,040 feet) were dropped into this trench, there would still be a mile from the top of the mountain to the surface of the ocean). And while these submersibles were exploring other sections of the ocean bottom, they discovered an amazing phenomenon – springs on the ocean floor! In the early 1970's, deep-sea submersibles, the most famous being *Alvin*, explored the deep sea hot springs for the first time in both the Atlantic and Pacific oceans. <http://pubs.usgs.gov/gip/dynamic/exploring.html>

The water cycle explained

Amos 9: 6. *The Lord God of hosts...who calls for the waters of the sea, and pours them out on the face of the earth – the Lord is His name.*

Job 36: 26-28. *Behold, God is great ... for He draws up drops of water, which distill as rain from the mist, which the clouds drop down and pour abundantly on man.*

In the 16th century, the water cycle, or hydrological cycle, was discovered by Bernard Palissy and Leonardo da Vinci independently of each other: the sun heats the water in the lakes and oceans – water vapor rises to form clouds---the clouds drift over the land and release the water as rain to the earth where streams and rivers return the water to the lakes and oceans. Thus, as meteorologists explain, the hydrological cycle for water distribution consists of evaporation, condensation, atmospheric transportation, and precipitation. God inspired his prophet Amos to know this in 700 B.C. -- 2200 plus years before Palissy and da Vinci. It is believed that either Solomon or Moses wrote the book of Job, so their inspiration was 300 to 700 years earlier than Amos.

The earth hangs in space

Job 26: 7. In expressing God's majesty, Job declares that God *hangs the earth upon nothing*. Job lived approximately 1500 B.C., at a time when the Hindus thought the earth was carried on the backs of animals. A thousand years later, the Greeks believed the earth was carried on the shoulders of a giant named Atlas.

The earth rotates on its axis

Luke 17: 34-36 (New Testament). Jesus said the following concerning His sudden appearing in the last days: *I tell you, in that night there will be two people in one bed: the one will be taken and the other will be left. Two women will be grinding grain together: the one will be taken and the other left. Two men will be in the field: the one will be taken and the other left.*

Jesus says that when He comes again, suddenly, in a moment of time, there will be people sleeping at night and others working in the daytime. The only way such a thing could happen is if a round earth is revolving in a heliocentric solar system, so that at any given moment, there is day and night simultaneously. In saying this, Jesus anticipates the 16th and 17th century discoveries of Copernicus and Galileo. (This could be the Rapture of the church or a picture of people being taken to judgment).

Light can be divided

Job 38:24. God asks Job, "*By what way is light divided?*"

In the 17th century, Isaac Newton showed that white light can be divided into the seven colors by doing several experiments with prisms. Prior to that, people thought that the prisms added color to the light. But God told the writer of the book of Job that light could be divided at least 2600 years before Newton.

The universe had a beginning

Genesis 1:1. *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*

Einstein believed the conventional scientific theory of his day that the universe was static and eternal with no beginning, but his equations showed it was expanding, indicating it had a beginning. When Edwin Hubble invited him on January 29, 1931 to look through the 100 inch telescope on the Wilson Observatory in Pasadena, California, Einstein clearly saw what Hubble had been saying – that the galaxies were rapidly moving away from our galaxy and from each other, and by regressing them, it was clearly evident that they would return to a starting point. After looking through the telescope, Einstein is quoted as saying: "I now believe the universe had a beginning."

The universe is expanding

Isaiah 40:22. In extolling God, the prophet says, *It is He who sits above the circle of the earth...who stretches out the heavens like a canopy...*

This is a very interesting verse in that two Hebrew verbs are used. The literal translation is that God has stretched out the heavens and is continuing to stretch them out. This finished and ongoing description is precisely what modern science believes about the beginning and continuous expansion of the cosmos. <http://www.reasons.org/articles/big-bang---the-bible-taught-it-first>

This verse also indicates that the earth is round, although the Hebrew word used here, *chuwg*, does not also convey "sphere" as a meaning, thus weakening it as a scientific statement.

The stars in the universe are too numerous to be counted

Jeremiah 33:22. God tells Jeremiah: *...the host of the heaven cannot be numbered, nor the sand of the sea measured...*

This was probably considered a mistake in ancient times, as pre-telescope people believed they could count the stars, and early astronomers did. Ptolemy counted 1,056; Tycho Brahe counted 777; and Johannes Kepler counted 1,005. Modern astronomers with high-powered telescopes estimate the number of stars as at least 10^{26} ---or a hundred-million-billion-billion stars---which reflects the same order of magnitude as the grains of sand on the earth. If you could count 10 stars a second, it would take at least a thousand-million-billion years to count them all. The stars truly cannot be numbered by humans as God informs the prophet with this bit of supernatural information. But God is so great that: *He counts the number of the stars; He calls them all by name* (Psalm 147:4).

Earth's early atmosphere contained large amounts of water vapor

Genesis 1:6. *Let there be an expanse between the waters to separate water from water. So God made the expanse and separated the water under the expanse from the water above it. And it was so.*

Geologists now believe that earth's early atmosphere contained large amounts of water vapor: <http://www.physicalgeography.net/fundamentals/5b.html>

The primordial earth was a water-world

Genesis 1:2. *Now the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep... Verse 9: Then God said, "Let the waters be gathered together...and let the dry land appear..."*

The latest scientific research shows this to be the case.

Global warming predicted

Revelation 16: 9 – 12. (New Testament) *And men were scorched with great heat, and they blasphemed the name of God... the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, so that the way of the kings from the east might be prepared.*

Although there is controversy as to whether and to the degree the cause is man-made, most scientists agree that the climate is getting warmer. The Bible says that in the end times it will increase so much that the Euphrates River dries up. The kings of the east will then be able to march overland to the battle of Armageddon. The link below discusses a New York Times front page article which includes pictures of the Euphrates already drying up and even connects it to the apocalyptic prophecy in Revelation.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/07/14/world/middleeast/14euphrates.html? r=0>

The Second Law of Thermodynamics stated

Psalm 102:26. *All the heavens are the work of your hands. They will perish but you will endure; yes, they will grow old like a garment...*

Romans 8:21. *Creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of decay into the glorious liberty of the children of God.* (This will happen when Christ returns).

The Second Law of Thermodynamics states that all matter and energy in the universe is increasing in entropy (decay and dissipation). This is one of the most fundamental and tested of all laws of physics and is absolute as far as we can tell in the observable universe. God revealed it to the Psalmist and the Apostle Paul thousands of years ago.

In the last days, travel and knowledge will increase

Daniel 12:4 *...seal the book until the time of the end; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase.*

Although this has always been the case throughout history to some degree, the acceleration of each is uniquely descriptive of our generation.

Radio signals predicted?

Job 38:35. God asks Job: *Can you send out lightnings, that they may go, and say to you, "Here we are?"*

Lightning is a radio wave pulse called a sferic. Radio waves are part of the electromagnetic spectrum that carries voice to radio and cell phone receivers.

Nuclear war

Zechariah 14:12. During the battle of Armageddon, the soldiers who attack Jerusalem will suffer as follows: *...their flesh shall dissolve while they stand on their feet, their eyes shall dissolve in their sockets, and their tongues shall dissolve in their mouths.*

In a thermonuclear blast, this is what happens. Men's flesh will vaporize before their skeletons hit the ground. It is believed that Israel possesses the neutron bomb. This is a fusion bomb that destroys living flesh with a powerful burst of radiation, but does not harm trees, buildings, etc. (In other words, there is no uranium 235 outer casing to provide a secondary fission blast). The radiation dissipates rapidly and the country's infrastructure is left intact. This is a tactical nuclear weapon that literally vaporizes all living things within its kill zone.

Revelation 6: 3-8. (New Testament) *Another horse, fiery red, went out. And it was granted to the one who sat on it to take peace from the earth, and that people should kill one another; and there was given to him a great sword.*

The second horseman of the apocalypse is on a red horse bringing war to the earth. Soon ¼ of the population of the earth is dead. Down through the centuries people wondered what the "great sword" could be that would cause such destruction. But the people of our generation know the answer – the nuclear bomb.

Satellite TV predicted

Revelation 11:9. (New Testament)

Then those from the peoples, tribes, tongues, and nations will see their dead bodies three-and-a-half days, and not allow their dead bodies to be put into graves. And those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them, make merry, and send gifts to one another...

Even 50 years ago, such a thing was impossible. People throughout the centuries mocked the Bible because of this statement. Yet now, with Satellite TV and internet streaming to computers and even smart phones, people all over the world can see the same thing at the same time.

Writings of Other World Religions Regarding Scientific Facts

The Hindu Vedas and Upanishads go back to 1000 BC, and contain much superstition. They state that the sun, moon, earth, clouds, rain, rivers, rocks, etc. are alive. The Buddhists (Buddha lived approximately 500 BC) claim that the sun, moon, lightnings and mountains are alive. Similar

superstitions are also contained in the writings of Confucius and the Taoists. Moreover, in the writings of Muhammad (600 AD), there are also scientific inaccuracies. The Koran states that the sun sets in a spring of murky water on the earth where a tribe of people live, and rises out of the earth where another tribe lives. It also says that Allah created seven heavens one atop the other; the stars are in the lowest heaven, and the moon is in the midst of the seven heavens. Therefore, according to the Koran, the stars are closer to the earth than the moon.

The Gnostic gospels are very popular these days. They are the basis of the Da Vinci Code book by Dan Brown and the movie. The Gnostic gospels were written 150 – 200 years after Christ. They are not really biographies, but rather supposed conversations between Jesus and his disciples through which the Gnostics inserted their spin. Moreover, all reputable scholars admit that the Gnostics used pseudonyms, signing their works by names of the Apostles to give them more importance. But again, they contain much absurdity. In the gospel of Thomas, Jesus agrees with Peter that women are unworthy of eternal life. But Jesus says he will make Mary Magdalene male, “for every woman who will make herself male will enter the kingdom of heaven” (Saying # 114). And in the gospel of Philip, it states that it is wrong to pray in winter (paragraph 4). It also states that if a married woman is also intimate with a lover, her children will resemble the one she loves the most (12th paragraph from end). The Gnostics, of course, were unaware that genetics would trip them up 1800 years later.

Gospel of Thomas: <http://www.gnosis.org/naghamm/gthlamb.html>

Gospel of Philip: <http://www.gnosis.org/naghamm/gop.html>

Astronomer Shown Verses from book of Job

In the 1920's, a prominent scientist named Charles Burckhalter was director of the Chabot Observatory in Oakland, California. (He was a contemporary of Edwin Hubble, who did research at the Wilson Observatory at Pasadena and after whom the Hubble space telescope is named). One of his special interests was the giant red star, Arcturus. It has three small stars in its wake, and thus is referred to as “Arcturus and his sons” or “the Bear and his cubs.” This star is 400 times the diameter of our sun and is moving at super fast speed. Here is what Burckhalter wrote about this star:

This high velocity places Arcturus in that very small class of stars that apparently are a law unto themselves. He is an outsider, a visitor, a stranger within the gates; to speak plainly, Arcturus is a runaway. Newton gives the velocity of a star under control as not more than 25 miles a second, and Arcturus is going 257 miles a second. Therefore, combined attraction of all the stars we know cannot stop him or even turn him in his path.

But is it out of control? Or does God keep it from crashing into other stars and planets? Someone showed Burckhalter a statement in Job that amazed him, in which God asks Job about the stars: *Can you guide the Great Bear with its cubs?* (Job 38:32). This really intrigued him. How could someone living in 1500 B.C. know that Arcturus needed to be guided? Then he was shown another verse in which God asks Job: *Can you bind the cluster of the Pleiades?* (Job 38: 31). Now this really got Burckhalter's attention. The star cluster of Pleiades amazes scientists, and Burckhalter was no exception. These seven bright bluish stars are referred to as the “seven sisters.” In Burckhalter's time, the cluster was known to actually consist of 250 stars, and now it has been determined that it numbers 800 or more. But incredibly, they are connected together in some mysterious way – all floating through space at the same speed and in the same direction – as if, as one scientist wrote, “they are bound

together in close kinship, or like a large flock of birds traveling to a distant location.” How did the writer of Job know this star cluster was bound together? (It is believed that either Moses or Solomon wrote the book of Job).

Burckhalter was then shown the next line, in which God asks, [Can you] *loose the belt of Orion?* The constellation Orion, also known as “The Hunter,” has three very bright stars at its center known as the Hunter’s belt. But unlike the Pleiades, the stars making up the belt, and even the entire constellation, are not bound together but coming apart. They are all traveling at different speeds and in completely different directions. In a short time – i.e., short in cosmological time – the belt will dissipate and indeed be loosed, and the entire constellation will disappear. After seeing these verses in Job, Burckhalter made a statement that attracted much attention:

“The study of the Book of Job and its comparison with the latest scientific discoveries has brought me to the matured conviction that the Bible is an inspired book and was written by the One who made the stars.” (Phillip L. Knox, *Wonder Worlds*, Herald Publishing Company, 1964, p.61.)

The Science of Probabilities

Scattered throughout the Old Testament are approximately 200 prophecies of the coming Messiah which Jesus fulfilled. The probability of any man fulfilling just 8 of the prophecies is 1 in 10 to the 17th power (1 followed by 17 zeroes). This is the same chance as trying to find a secretly marked silver dollar out of a pile 2 feet deep covering the state of Texas. The chance of fulfilling 48 of the prophecies is so great that electrons must be used to illustrate the chances (from *Science Speaks* by Peter W. Stoner). However, Jesus fulfilled some 200 prophecies. Incredibly, 29 were fulfilled in the last 48 hours before His death. (Peter W. Stoner, M.S., Chairman of the Departments of Mathematics and Astronomy at Pasadena City College until 1953; Chairman of the science division, Westmont College, 1953-57; Professor Emeritus of Science, Westmont College; Professor Emeritus of Mathematics and Astronomy, Pasadena City College.)

God’s Signature on the Bible

The English language does not convey the full meaning of the Greek word *theopneustos*, which the Apostle Peter used to describe all Scripture, and which we translate “inspiration of God.” The inspiration of the Bible should not be thought of in the same way as, for example, when we say that Shakespeare was inspired to write his plays, or the Beatles were inspired to write their songs. In the Greek, *theopneustos* means *divinity breathed in* or *God breathed*. It is as if the prophets in the Old Testament and apostles in the New Testament had their brains tuned to the “God channel” with no static interference. Thus they could hear God speaking clearly and could often see visions at the same time. The Old Testament prophets would say, ‘The word of the Lord came to me saying, son of man, tell my people...’ and they would write it all down. In some of those prophecies, scientific statements would be included. The scientific statements are God’s way of reaching out to people in our generation with our knowledge of modern science, and urging them to believe the Bible. It is God's way of putting His signature on the Bible for us.

Critics argue that the Bible contains scientific inaccuracies and thus should be considered a myth. They point to a few verses that indicate a flat earth, such as in Nebuchadnezzar’s dream in which he sees a tree so tall it can be seen *to the ends of all the earth*, or to a couple of verses that indicate the sun going

around the earth. For example, Solomon writes in Ecclesiastes, *The sun also rises and the sun goes down, and hastens to the place where it arose*. But God was simply accommodating Himself to ancient man's primitive views about the earth and the solar system. Moreover, these inaccuracies are found primarily where Bible writers are chronicling events in the lives of the Israelites and their kings, such as the battles they fought; whether or not they served the Lord; their punishment for worshiping pagan gods, etc., but not in the writings of the prophets who wrote over 50% of the Old Testament. It is a testament to their position as God's spokespersons that they never make an unscientific statement—whether teaching or instructing the people in righteousness; admonishing them for their sins; or speaking prophetically with a “Thus says the Lord”. If the prophets were not hearing directly from God, they would undoubtedly have made blunders as in the following hypothetical: ‘Thus says the Lord, just as the sun never fails to go around the earth, I will never fail to watch over my people...’ But you will never see such scientific inaccuracies in their writings. Solomon did make such a blunder, but he was not a prophet.

Furthermore, in the very first chapter of the Bible, in Genesis 1:28, God gives man a charge or commission to “subdue” the earth, and have dominion over the fish, the birds, and over every living creature that moves on the earth. This is known as the dominion verse in the Bible. The Hebrew word for *subdue* is *Kabash*, which means to subdue, to bring into subjection. Part of subduing the earth would involve gaining knowledge of it, and this is where science comes in. Science is defined as the systematic knowledge of the physical or material world. God, therefore, gave man the responsibility for scientific discovery, and thus He does not correct the Bible writers concerning their unscientific views. God focuses on instructing people concerning who He is and what He requires of them. It is man's responsibility to discover scientific facts, but as we have seen in the above examples from scripture, God did on occasion reveal scientific truths supernaturally to His prophets thousands of years before history books say they were “discovered”.