

November 14, 2010

# THE BIBLE AND SCIENCE

# The Bible And Science



## The Bible was written in ancient cosmology

- Ancient world people believed that the sun rose and set
- See: Psalm 104:19; 113:3

## The Bible was written in ancient physiology

- In the ancient world people believed that the heart was the seat of the emotions
- (Psa. 44:20 - 21)

God adopts the language of the ancient world to communicate His thoughts and did not see reason to explain that the brain was actually the seat of emotion.

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“So, if God aligned revelation with one particular science, it would have been unintelligible to people who lived prior to the time of that science, and it would be obsolete to those who lived after that time. We gain nothing by bringing God’s revelation into accord with today’s science. In contrast, it makes perfect sense that God communicated his revelation to his immediate audience in terms they understood.”

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The Lost World of Genesis One (John H. Walton: IVP Academic)

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- ✘ “The Bible’s message must not be subjected to cultural imperialism. Its message transcends the culture in which it originated, but the form in which the message was imbedded was fully permeated by the ancient culture. This was God’s design and we ignore it at our peril. Sound interpretation proceeds from the belief that the divine and human authors were competent communicators and that we can therefore comprehend their communication.”

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## BEING IN CONCORD

- ✘ Most Christians are Concordists (attempting to find concord between Science and the Bible)
  - + This is really just an attempt to translate our cosmology into their cosmology
  - + To accomplish this we normally have to commandeer the text for our own ends

# The Bible And Science

- ✘ “The Natural World”
  - + The ancient cultures had no idea of “The Natural World” without deity....
  - + Nothing happened without deity
  - + The biblical creation account in Hebrew is functional, *purpose oriented*
  - + In the modern view of science we are *process oriented*

# The Bible And Science



## ✘ Science and Water

- + Water and Wind have Weight (Job 28:24-27;)
- + Evaporation and Condensation (Job 36:27-30)
- + Considering the Clouds (Job 26:8; 37:11)
- + Limits of the sea (Job 38:8)

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## ✘ The Stars

+ Higher than the heights of Heaven

✘ (Job 11:8)

+ An expanding Universe?

✘ (Job 22:12; Psa. 104:2)

+ Unchanging stellar positions and movements

✘ Zodiac Constellations

★ (Job 38:31-33 See also Genesis 1:14)



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- ✘ “It is I who made the earth and created mankind upon it. My own hands stretched out the heavens; I marshaled their starry hosts....”
- ✘ “I am the LORD and there is no other. I have not spoken in secret, from somewhere in a land of darkness....”
  - + Isaiah 45:12, 19

# The Bible And Science

## NATURAL LAWS

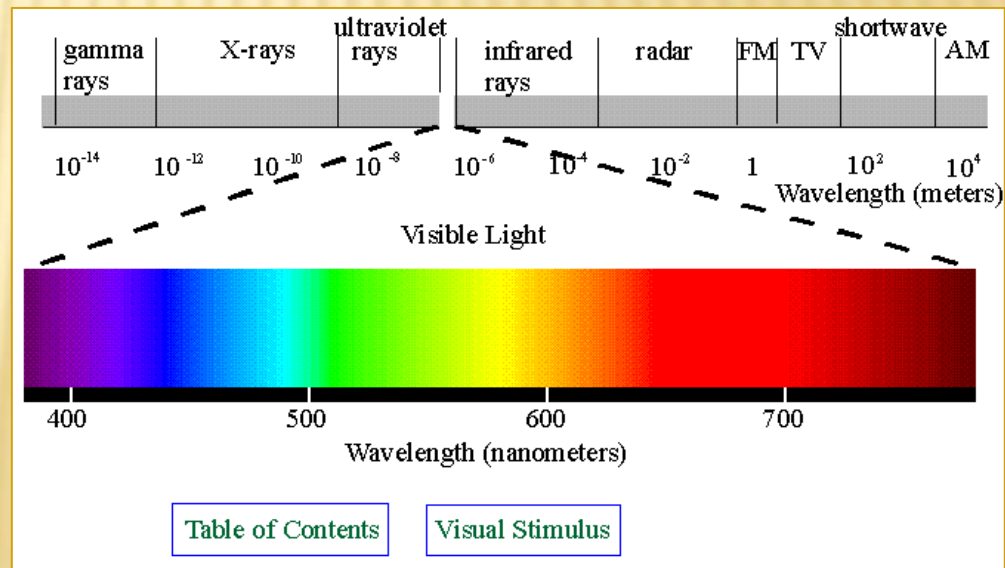
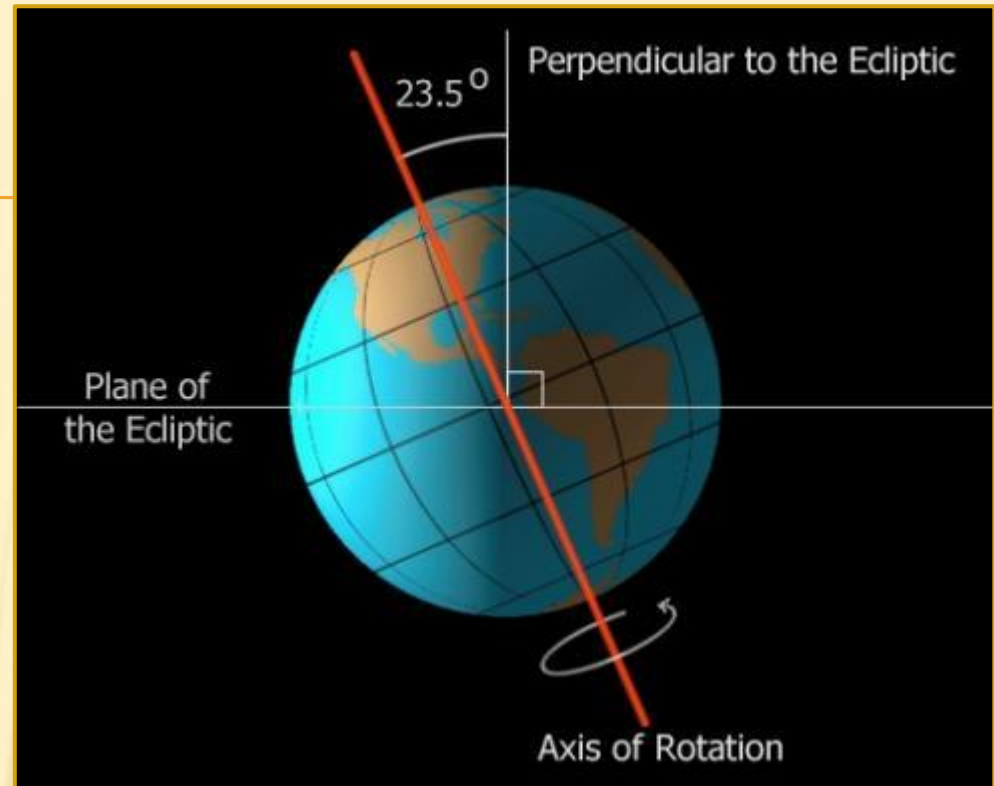
- ✘ Erosion and Growth
  - + Job 14:9; 28:10
- ✘ Springs of the deep
  - + Job 38:16
- ✘ A molten core?
  - + Job 28:5
- ✘ Precious things out of the rocks
  - + Job 28:10-19



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## ✘ Natural Laws

- + The earth is round
  - ✘ Eccl. 1:5
- + North pointing axis
- + Hanging on nothing
  - ✘ (Job 26:7)
- + Earth has two “ends”
  - ✘ (Job 38:12-13)
- + Light travels
- + And is broken down
  - ✘ (Job 38:35; 24)



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- ✘ The allegory of light in the purpose of God
  - + Let there be light
    - ✘ (Genesis 1:3)
  - + The heavens declare
    - ✘ (Psalm 19:1)
  - + “Arise and shine, for your light has come....”
    - ✘ Isa. 60:1
  - + The “brightness” of his glory
    - ✘ (Hebrews 1:3)

# The Bible And Science

- ✘ “...made his **light** shine in our **hearts** to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ....”
  - + 2 Corinthians 4:6
- ✘ “...but we have this treasure in earthen vessels”
  - + 2 Corinthians 4:7

Ancient cosmology is still speaking to our hearts

The ancient physiology is still as relevant today