

Facts and Fancy about the Bible - 11

Since Voltaire's time we have seen a fulfilling of Daniel 12:4 "...many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase." Voltaire's arguments against the Bible were from a position of relative ignorance - he had some facts, but lacked the knowledge that has come to light since his times. His contention that matter has always existed, as we saw last time, not only contradicts the Scriptures, but also opposes the current physical evidence of its limited age.

His insistence that creation means producing something from nothing might have seemed self-evident at the time. But once again he was kicking out at the goads of Scripture which may have impinged on his conscience - he declared otherwise, and rejected the possibility that physical evidence would be found to show the solid foundation for Paul's assurance that "Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear" - Hebrews 11:3.

Modern science has reasoned from the observed evidence that the universe began when an indefinitely great amount of energy, mostly in the form of radiation, suddenly appeared. The incredibly hot and dense space in which the energy was confined rapidly expanded in a "big bang." There was not yet any matter as we understand it, no atoms - at that temperature all that existed were the subatomic components which have been described by physicists.

Scientists believe that over time those super-hot subatomic components cooled down until they were able to condense into the simplest atoms which were hydrogen. Voltaire, as a deist, insisted on the existence of one God who created, but denied that he takes any further interest in His creation. But modern atheists say that it all occurred without the intervention of any mind.

The outcome of star formation and the processes within them have resulted in the formation of about 90 different chemical elements, whose properties make life on earth as we know it possible. Their interaction is governed by the laws of physics, as are those of light and the other kinds of radiation. The laws also regulate the various forces at work in the universe - gravitational, electrostatic, magnetic, also the "weak" and "strong" subatomic forces.

All this complexity had to be present from the very beginning. To suggest that this occurred apart from the intervention of an intelligent Creator is irrational. Men have used gunpowder to produce explosive force for the destruction of the enemy and his property, in which nothing constructive was produced. But a pyrotechnist is able to design an entire light show by applying his learning and skill to the construction of fireworks.

The distinguished British astronomer Sir James Jeans, who did much to arouse public interest in the study of the stars, stated that from his own studies he had concluded that "the universe appears to have been designed by a pure mathematician ...Everything points with overwhelming force to a definite creation, or series of events of creation at some time, or times not infinitely remote . . . The universe cannot have originated by chance out of the present ingredients, neither can it always have been the same as now" - Sir James Jeans, *The Mysterious Universe*, Cambridge University Press, p. 140.

Since his time more has been discovered to confirm his conclusion, which has provided more physical evidence of the truth of the statement in Genesis 1:1, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."