

Science & the Bible: Conflict or Confirmation?

Mark James, CMI, 7 Oct 2018

Introduction

CMI is ministry set up to support the church in proclaiming the Gospel message by upholding the truth of the Word of God, especially where it comes under attack through the use of science. We believe the Bible is the inerrant Word of God and that the account of origins presented in Genesis is a simple but factual presentation of actual events.

Today I believe Satan is undermining faith in the Bible as the inerrant word of God by encouraging believers to question the true meaning of Genesis. These questions are often scientific challenges to the book of Genesis.

At CMI, our aim is to provide real-world answers to questions about creation and evolution, questions that can be a stumbling block to people accepting the Gospel.

The Bible tells us we should... "Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks us to give the reason for the hope that we have. But do this with gentleness and respect

Science

1. Creationists and evolutionists don't disagree about the scientific evidence, we disagree about how the evidence is interpreted
2. There are two types of science: Operational science and Historical Science"

Operational science involves doing experiments in the present, drawing conclusions and then doing more experiments to test those conclusions

Historical science is where observations made in the present are used to work out what happened in the past and requires assumptions

What's presented as science may be little more than an interpretation of the evidence based on the scientists own personal world-view.

The Bible is not a science textbook, but it is the unchanging Word of God, who cannot lie, which means it has to be true in everything it teaches. So, whenever the Bible touches on matters that have scientific implications, it must be true, otherwise the skeptics are right and the Bible can't be trusted.

Why is this topic important?

According to the evolutionary account, death, disease and suffering were part of the process that led to the creation of man. This clearly puts death before Adam. But in the Biblical account, death only came into the world as a result of Adam's rebellion. So there are major theological problems with the evolutionary account.

Examples of scientific evidence that supports the Biblical account - the age of the earth

Of all the scientific methods used to determine age, over 90% point to a young earth and universe.

1. The earth's magnetic field has been decreasing over time since it was first

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measured in 1835 and can't have been decaying for more than 10,000 years
2. Scientists find blood cells, soft tissue and carbon 14 in dinosaur bones

Examples of scientific evidence that supports the Biblical account - biological evolution

Changes in the inherited characteristics of biological populations can, and do, happen over time but only within kinds of organisms. We call this speciation, or variation.

Biological evolution has to happen in the DNA and requires 3 processes:

1. Copying of the DNA and makes new organisms -reproduction
2. Random changes to the DNA during copying - mutations
3. Selection of the changed organism - natural selection

(Natural selection does not create new genes, it can only sort existing genes. The changes that are observed generally involve a loss of characteristics.)

The key step is mutation - only if there is change to the DNA can new features be added. Evolution requires mutations that add new, coherent information to DNA and there must have been billions of billions of these mutations.

No random mutation has ever been found that adds the complex coded information needed for brand new features to be added to an existing organism.

According to the theory of evolution genetic information has increased over time, starting in the distant past with the appearance of the first life form and culminating in life as we know it today. But if we take a closer look at what's happening today, scientists actually observe a relatively rapid loss of genetic information, exactly the opposite of what evolutionists would expect to see.

Genetic complexity increases as we go back in the past - go back the right number of generations and there is a distinct possibility of arriving at a point where the DNA carries no mutations.

Genesis 1:13 tells us that, at the end of the Creation week God saw all that He had made and, it was very good. In other words everything was created perfect. The Bible also tells us that since the fall "the whole Creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time."

And in the verse before this we are told that Creation will be liberated from its bondage to decay. Which means that, since the Fall, everything, including DNA, has been decaying.

This is exactly what scientists see happening! An honest interpretation of what scientists know about DNA actually confirms the Biblical account of Creation and the Fall.

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We Christians don't have to avoid talking about science. We can have confidence in the Bible as the inerrant Word of God. It is true in everything it teaches, from the very first verse.

Genesis and the Gospel message

In 1 Corinthians 15:21–22 Paul refers to Genesis and reminds us that death was a result of Adam's rebellion. And then he highlights the Gospel connection:

"For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive."

What we believe about Creation is NOT a salvation issue; we are saved by grace, through faith. But how we interpret Genesis is central to our understanding of why we need to be saved.

When we call into question the reliability of the facts of Genesis we are effectively taking away the foundation of the Gospel message.