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Question 97 - What supernatural elements may be seen regarding the scientific actuary of the Bible?

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101 MOST ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE BIBLE

97. What supernatural elements may be seen regarding the scientific accuracy of the Bible?

A. Some key facts of science and the Bible:

It has previously been discussed in this study that although the Bible is primarily a spiritual message from God and not a specific scientific textbook, all scientific statements found in the Scriptures must nevertheless be taken literally and at face value. The devoted believer will find little time for the claim that while we may look to God for the who and why of creation, we must depend upon the scientist for the how and when of this creation. Actually the Bible contains far more specific scientific statements than one might realize. Some of these precepts would include:

1. The fact that the earth is spherical – Some seven centuries B.C. the Hebrew prophet Isaiah wrote: *“It is he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth”* (Isa. 40:22).

While it is true that a few Greek philosophers did postulate this as early as 540 B.C., the common man held the earth to be flat until the introduction of the compass and fifteenth-century voyages of Columbus and Magellan.

2. The fact that the earth is suspended in space – The book of Job is thought to be one of the oldest in the Bible, written perhaps earlier than 1500 B.C. At this time one of the most advanced “scientific” theories concerning the earth was that our planet was flat and rested securely upon the back of a gigantic turtle who was slowly plodding through a cosmic sea of some sort. But note the refreshing (and accurate) words of Job: *“He stretcheth out the north over the empty place, and hangeth the earth upon nothing”*

(Job 26:7). All this was not known by the scientists of the world until the writings of Sir Isaac Newton in 1687.

3. The fact that the stars are innumerable – Nearly 20 centuries B.C., God spoke to Abraham one night and said: *“Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be”* (Gen. 15:5).

Abraham must have at first wondered about this. God was promising him to be the founder of a nation whose descendants would be as uncountable as the stars. But Abraham could count the stars. There they were – a little under 1,200 visible to the naked eye. Was his future nation to be limited to this number? Although we are not told so, he must have reasoned that perhaps there were “a few more” up there that he couldn’t see. And he would not be disappointed, for today scientists tell us there are probably as

many stars in the heavens as there are grains of sand on all the sea shores of the world. In fact, in a previous conversation with Abraham, God used this very comparison. “*And I will make thy seed as the dust of the earth: so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, then shall thy seed also be numbered*” (Gen. 13:16).

Thus does the Bible describe the heavens. (See also Jer. 33:22;

Heb. 11:12). But what about the scientific opinion of that day? As late as A.D. 150, the famous astronomer Ptolemy dogmatically declared the number of the stars to be exactly 1,056.

4. The fact that there are mountains and canyons in the sea – As recently as a century or so ago, the ocean’s volume and size was viewed as a watery bowl, which sloped from the coastline gently downward until the middle, where it was deepest. It then was thought to proceed upward to the other side. Of course we now know this to be totally untrue. Some of the highest mountains and deepest canyons are located on the floor of the Pacific Ocean. In fact, the deepest hole yet found is the Marianas Trench, just off the Philippines; it is over seven miles deep.

But long before ocean science discovered this, the Bible graphically described it. During one of his songs of deliverance, David spoke of the canyons of the sea (2 Sam. 22:16), and a backslidden prophet described the submerged mountains during the world’s first submarine trip. (See Jon. 2:6.)

3. The fact that there are springs and fountains in the sea – Shortly after World War II, research ships discovered many underwater volcanoes. The number is estimated today to be at least 10,000. Further research by Dr. William W. Rubey of the U.S. Geological Survey has shown the present rate of water increase from underwater volcanic outlets to be 430 million tons each year. The earth’s heat drives the entrapped water from underground molten rock and forces it out through one of these natural openings. This interesting fact is vividly described in at least three Old Testament passages. (See Gen. 7:11; 8:2; Prov. 8:28).

4. The fact that there are watery paths (ocean currents) in the sea – In his booklet, *Has God Spoken?* author A. O. Schnabel writes the following: “David said in Psalms 8:8 that God had subjected all things to men, including: ‘Whatsoever passeth through the path of the sea’ ” (p. 38). The Hebrew word *paths* carries the literal meaning of “customary roads.”

Matthew Fountaine Maury is called the “Pathfinder of the Seas.” This American is the father of today’s oceanography and responsible for the establishment of Annapolis Academy. A statue of Maury stands in Richmond, Virginia – charts of the sea in one hand, and Bible in the other.

Until Maury's efforts there were no charts or sailing lanes. One day during a temporary illness, his eldest son was reading to him from the Bible and came to Psalm. 8:8. Maury stopped him and said, "Read that again." After hearing it again, he exclaimed, "It is enough – if the Word of God says there are paths in the sea, they must be there, and I am going to find them." Within a few years he had charted the sea lanes and currents. His *Physical Geography of the Sea* was the first textbook of modern oceanography.

5. The fact of the invisible atom structure of matter – The modern era of atomic physics did not begin until 1895 with the discovery of X-rays. Prior to this, men reasoned that all matter was built from visible things. But scientists now understand that all matter is held together by attraction and energy – things that are not apparent. With all this in mind, consider the following Scripture passages:

"Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high" (Heb. 1:3).

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (Heb. 11:1).

"And he is before all things, and by him all things consist" (Col. 1:17).

"For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse" (Rom. 1:20).

8. The fact that all living things are reproduced after their own kind – *"And God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind: and God saw that it was good" (Gen. 1:21). "And of every living thing of all flesh, two of every sort shalt thou bring into the ark, to keep them alive with thee; they shall be male and female" (Gen. 6:19).*

For hundreds of years scientists followed the spontaneous generation theory of Aristotle (350 B.C.). They believed eggs of all lower animals (insects, etc.) were formed out of rotting substance. Frogs and other small sea life had their origin in slime pools. In fact, it was not until 1862 that Louis Pasteur proved once for all that there was no such thing as spontaneous generation. Then, in 1865, a monk named Gregor Mendel demonstrated even more forcibly the rigid laws of heredity. But one could learn all this in the first few chapters of the Bible.

9. The facts involved in health and sanitation – The great lawgiver in the Bible was Moses, of course, who established hundreds of rules to govern health and sanitation. Moses grew up in the court of Pharaoh, spending the first

40 years of his life there. About this time a famous ancient medical book called *The Papyrus Ebers* was being written in Egypt. Because of Egypt's role in the world at that time, this work soon achieved fame as the official standard for its day. Actually it was filled with quack cures, old wives' tales, and practically every false superstition of its day. In his book *None of These Diseases*, author S. McMillen writes:

"Several hundred remedies for diseases are advised in the *Papyrus Ebers*. The drugs include "lizard's blood, swine's teeth, putrid meat, stinking fat, moisture from pig's ears, milk goose grease, asses' hoofs, animal fats from various sources, excreta from animals, including human beings, donkey's, antelopes, dogs, cats, and even flies." (p. 11)

The point of all the above is simply this – Moses was well acquainted with all the medical knowledge of his day. Yet in all his writings and proven remedies concerning health and sanitation, he never once even indirectly refers to the false ""cures" found in the *Papyrus Ebers*.

10. The facts involved concerning the human bloodstream – The Bible is, among other matters, an expert on human blood. In Leviticus 17:11, God lays down one of his key statements concerning this subject. Here he declares: "*For the life of the flesh is in the blood.*"

One searches in vain to read in this ancient Book any reference whatsoever to that false medical practice known as bloodletting that plagued mankind from the fourth century B.C. until the nineteenth century A.D. Only eternity will reveal how many sick individuals were actually killed through this "cure." No other nonbiblical writer understood the nature of the blood. In fact, many scientists (for example, Herophilus, a physician in the medical museum at Alexandria, Egypt) believed blood to be a carrier of *disease* instead of life. The death of our own George Washington is thought to have been due in part to excessive bloodletting.

11. The facts involved in the two laws of thermodynamics – Apart from gravity itself, two of the most solid and immutable laws in all physics are the first and second laws of thermodynamics. Albert Einstein himself testified that in all the known universe there is no time nor place where the two do not apply.

The first law of thermodynamics – that of energy conservation. This law states that although energy can change forms, it cannot be either created or destroyed, and therefore the sum total remains constant. Thus no energy is now being created or destroyed anywhere in the known universe.

The second law of thermodynamics – that of energy deterioration. This law states that when energy is being transformed from one state to

another, some of it is turned into heat energy that cannot be converted back into useful forms. In other words this universe may be looked upon as a wound up clock that is slowly running down.

These two absolute laws were not fully realized nor established by scientists until around A.D. 1850. Yet there are literally dozens of specific references to these laws in the Word of God.

“Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made” (Gen. 2:1-2). “By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth. He gathereth the waters of the sea together as an heap: he layeth up the depth in storehouses. For he spake, and it was done; he commanded, and it stood fast ” (Psa. 33:6-7, 9) “For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world. For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his” (Heb. 4:3, 10).

- Passages describing the second law – *“Of old hast thou laid the foundation of the earth: and the heavens are the work of thy hands. They shall perish, but thou shalt endure: yea, all of them shall wax old like a garment; as a vesture shalt thou change them, and they shall be changed: But thou art the same, and thy years shall have no end” (Psa. 102:25-27).*

“Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory he will give us later. For all creation is waiting patiently and hopefully for that future day when God will resurrect his children. For on that day thorns and thistles, sin, death, and decay – the things that overcame the world against its will at God’s command – will all disappear, and the world around us will share in the glorious freedom from sin which God’s children enjoy. For we know that even the things of nature, like animals and plants, suffer in sickness and death as they await this great event. And even we Christians, although we have the Holy Spirit within us as a foretaste of future glory, also groan to be released from pain and suffering. We, too, wait anxiously for that day when God will give us our full rights as his children, including the new bodies he has promised us – bodies that will never be sick again and will never die.”

(Rom. 8:18-23, The Living Bible).

“And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands: They shall perish; but thou remainest; and they all shall wax old as doth a garment; And as a vesture shalt thou fold them up, and they shall be changed: but thou art the same, and thy years shall not fail” (Heb. 1:10-12).

It may be furthermore stated that God brought the first law into being after the original creation (see Gen. 1:31) and instituted the second law after man's fall (Gen. 3:17). Finally, it may be said that both laws will be rescinded after the Great White Throne Judgment. *"For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind"* (Isa. 65:17). *"For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before me, saith the LORD, so shall your seed and your name remain"* (Isa. 66:22). *"Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness"* (2 Pet. 3:13). (See also Rev. 21:1-5.)

Here then are at least 11 scientific principles accurately described in the Bible, some of them centuries before man discovered them. Not only does the Word of God include that which is scientifically correct, but it also totally avoids the scientific nonsense that is found in all other ancient religious writings.

The Egyptians believed the world was hatched from a great cosmic egg. The egg had wings and flew. This resulted in mitosis. They also believed the sun was a reflection of earth's light, and that man sprang from little white worms they found in the slime and ooze after the overflow of the Nile.

In the sacred Vedas of India we read: "The moon is 50,000 leagues higher than the sun, and shines by its own light; night is caused by the sun's setting behind a huge mountain, several thousand feet high, located in the center of the earth; that this world, flat and triangular is composed of seven states – one of honey, another of sugar, a third of butter, and still another of wine, and the whole mass is borne on the heads of countless elephants which in shaking produce earthquakes."

In the Library of the Louvre in Paris there are three and a half miles of obsolete science books. In 1861 the French Academy of Science published a brochure of 51 "scientific facts" that supposedly contradicted the Bible. These were used by the atheists of that day in ridiculing Christians. Today all 51 of those "facts" are *unacceptable* to modern scientists.

Surely the devout Christian can utter a hearty amen with Dr. James Dwight Dana of Yale University, probably the most eminent geologist in American history, who once addressed a graduating class in these words: "Young men! As you go out into the world to face scientific problems, remember that I, an old man who has known only science all his life long, say to you, that there is nothing truer in all the universe than the scientific statements contained in the Word of God!"

B. Some key men of science and the Bible:

Scientific Disciplines Established by Bible-believing Scientists

| Discipline | Scientist |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Antiseptic Surgery | Joseph Lister (1827 – 1912) |
| Bacteriology | Louis Pasteur (1822 – 1895) |
| Calculus | Isaac Newton (1642 – 1727) |
| Celestial Mechanics | Johann Kepler (1571 – 1630) |
| Chemistry | Robert Boyle (1627 - 1691) |
| Comparative Anatomy | Georges Cuvier (1769 – 1832) |
| Computer Science | Charles Babbage (1792 – 1871) |
| Dimensional Analysis | Lord Rayleigh (1842 – 1919) |
| Dynamics | Isaac Newton (1642 – 1727) |
| Electrodynamics | James Clerk Maxwell (1831 – 1879) |
| Electromagnetics | Michael Faraday (1791 – 1867) |
| Electronics | Ambrose Fleming (1849 – 1945) |
| Energetics | Lord Kelvin (1824 – 1907) |
| Entomology of Living Insects | Henri Fabre (1823 – 1915) |
| Field Theory | Michael Faraday (1791 – 1867) |
| Fluid Mechanics | George Stokes (1819 – 1903) |
| Galactic Astronomy | William Herschel (1738 – 1822) |
| Gas Dynamics | Robert Boyle (1627 – 1691) |
| Genetics | Gregor Mendel (1822 – 1884) |
| Glacial Geology | Louis Agassiz (1807 – 1873) |
| Gynecology | James Simpson (1811 – 1870) |
| Hydraulics | Leonardo da Vinci (1452 – 1519) |
| Hydrography | Matthew Maury (1806 – 1873) |
| Hydrostatics | Blaise Pascal (1623 – 1662) |
| Ichthyology | Louis Agassiz (1807 – 1873) |

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Isotopic Chemistry | William Ramsay (1852 – 1916) |
| Model Analysis | Lord Rayleigh (1842 – 1919) |
| Natural History | John Ray (1627 –1705) |
| Non-Euclidean Geometry | Bernhard Riemann (1826 – 1866) |
| Oceanography | Matthew Maury (1806 – 1873) |
| Optical Mineralogy | David Brewster (1781 – 1868) |
| Paleontology | John Woodward (1665 – 1728) |
| Pathology | Rudolph Virchow (1821 – 1902) |
| Physical Astronomy | Johann Kepler (1571 – 1630) |
| Reversible Thermodynamics | James Joule (1818 – 1889) |
| Statistical Thermodynamics | James Clerk Maxwell (1831 – 1879) |
| Stratigraphy | Nicholas Steno (1631 – 1686) |
| Systematic Biology | Carolus Linnaeus (1707 – 1778) |
| Thermodynamics | Lord Kelvin (1824 – 1907) |
| Thermokinetics | Humphrey Davy (1778 – 1829) |
| Vertebrate Paleontology | Georges Cuvier (1769 – 1832) |

Notable Inventions, Discoveries, or Developments by
Bible-believing Scientists

| Contribution | Scientists |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Absolute Temperature Scale | Lord Kelvin (1824 – 1907) |
| Actuarial Tables | Charles Babbage (1792 – 1871) |
| Barometer | Blaise Pascal (1623 – 1662) |
| Biogenesis Law | Louis Pasteur (1822 – 1895) |
| Calculating Machine | Charles Babbage (1792 – 1871) |
| Chloroform | James Simpson (1811 – 1870) |
| Classification System | Carolus Linnaeus (1707 – 1778) |
| Double Stars | William Herschel (1738 – 1822) |
| Electric Generator | Michael Faraday (1791 – 1867) |

| | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Electric Motor | Joseph Henry (1797 – 1878) |
| Ephemeris Tables | Johann Kepler (1571 – 1630) |
| Fermentation Control | Louis Pasteur (1822 – 1895) |
| Galvanometer | Joseph Henry (1797 – 1878) |
| Global Star Catalog | John Herschel (1792 – 1871) |
| Inert Gases | William Ramsay (1852 – 1916) |
| Kaleidoscope | David Brewster (1781 – 1868) |
| Law of Gravity | Isaac Newton (1642 – 1727) |
| Mine Safety Lamp | Humphrey Davy (1778 – 1829) |
| Pasteurization | Louis Pasteur (1822 – 1895) |
| Reflecting Telescope | Isaac Newton (1642 – 1727) |
| Scientific Method | Francis Bacon (1561 – 1626) |
| Self-induction | Joseph Henry (1797 – 1878) |
| Telegraph | Samuel F. B. Morse (1791 – 1872) |
| Thermionic Valve | Ambrose Fleming (1849 – 1945) |
| Trans-Atlantic Cable | Lord Kelvin (1824 – 1907) |
| Vaccination and Immunization | Louis Pasteur (1822 – 1895) |

(This listing of Bible believing scientists is taken from Henry Morris' book, *The Biblical Basis for Modern Science*. Baker Book House. Grand Rapids, Michigan. 1984. pp. 463-465.)