

# THE SCIENTIFIC ACCURACY OF THE BIBLE<sup>1</sup>

## A. COSMOLOGY:

1. **THE EARTH IS A SPHERE** (round). – **Isa. 40:22** (Date: c. 740-680 B.C.). “*chuwg, khoog... a circle:-circle, circuit, compass.*”<sup>2</sup> Cf. Job 26:10 where the root occurs. The next earliest person I have been able to find who postulated that the earth was spherical was Eratosthenes who lived c. 276-194 B.C.<sup>3</sup> (Eratosthenes was a mathematician and librarian at Alexandria, Egypt.<sup>4</sup>) But Isaiah predated him by around 500 years-**and he was a preacher, not a mathematician!** It should also be pointed out that a large number of people still believed the earth was flat right up to the time Columbus sailed (1492 A.D.).

2. **THE EARTH HANGS ON NOTHING** (i.e. is suspended on nothing/is floating in space). – **Job 26:7**. (Date: *minimum*--1000 B.C., quite possibly as early as 1500-2000 B.C.) For centuries and centuries mankind believed all sorts of things regarding what held up the earth (e.g. Atlas held it on his shoulders; The earth sat on the back of an elephant who in turn stood on four turtles; etc., etc.). Before such silly ideas even came to be held, the Bible had already correctly answered the question!

3. **THE NUMBER OF STARS-INCOMPREHENSIBLE** – **Gen. 15:5; 22:17** (Date: c. 1500-1400 B.C.) Experts have gone from saying that there are 300 stars, to 500,000 stars, to countless stars.<sup>5</sup> Meanwhile the Bible taught that fact from earliest times (cf. **Jer. 33:22** Date: c. 600 B.C.). Humanly speaking, there was no way for Abraham or Jeremiah to know that, since telescopes, etc., had not been invented yet.

4. **THINGS THAT ARE SEEN ARE MADE OF THINGS NOT SEEN** (Atoms?) – **Heb. 11:3** (Date: A.D. 64-68); **Col. 1:16-17** (Date: A.D. 61-64). In these verses we are told that everything is made up of things which cannot be seen (sub-atomic particles?). “1,794 years later the atomic theory is postulated.”<sup>6</sup> The statement in Colossians says that “*by Him (Christ) all things consist* (literally ‘hold together’).” Interestingly, the nucleus of the atom is made up of neutrons (which are neutral, i.e. have no charge) and protons, which are all positively charged. Electrons (negatively charged particles) then “orbit” this nucleus. Since we know from the laws of science that “like charges repel” (i.e. push away from each other), a legitimate question ask is, why don’t atoms fall apart since their nucleus’ (centers) consist of like & neutral charges? The best that secular physicists have been able to come up with by way of explanation is to claim that “*The Strong Force*” holds them together.<sup>7</sup> The statement in Colossians 1:17 may have amazing relevance regarding the source of that force: “...*by Him (Christ) all things hold together*” (Col. 1:17).

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<sup>1</sup> By Rev. Mike Edwards. Originally compiled 1990 in Papua New Guinea, revised 2001 (PNG) 2008 (St. Vincent, West Indies) & 2010 (Madison, Ohio).

<sup>2</sup> James Strong, “*Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible*” (Abingdon Press: Nashville, TN, 1974 ed., Hebrew & Chaldee Dictionary), p. 37.

<sup>3</sup> *The World Book Encyclopedia* vol. 6. (World Book, Inc.: Chicago: IL; 1986), p. 269.

<sup>4</sup> “Eratosthenes, librarian at Alexandria, taught that the earth was spherical and calculated its size at 24,000 miles in circumference (only eight hundred miles short of the modern estimate) and the earth’s distance from the sun at 92,000,000 (the modern estimate is 93,000,000). He also conjectured the existence of the American continent.” [Robert H. Gundry, “*A Survey of the New Testament*”. (Academie Books/Zondervan: Grand Rapids, MI, 1981), pp. 30-31]. cf. “(Eratosthenes) ...a Greek mathematician. He found a way to determine the size of the earth... Eratosthenes based his measurement of the earth on the assumptions that the earth is round and the sun’s rays are parallel... (he) used Euclidean geometry to determine...the diameter (of the earth) to be about 7,850 miles (12,630 kilometers). The correct polar diameter is about 7,900 miles (12,700 kilometers).” (*World Book Encyclopedia*, op cit.).

<sup>5</sup> Information & data taken from a sermon “*An Ancient Book Anticipates Modern Science*,” by Dr. Bob Wood, c. 1992 or 1993.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid*.

<sup>7</sup> Stephen Hawking, “*A Brief History of Time*” (Bantam Books: New York, NY, 1988), pp. 72-ff, 187.

In light of the above amazing facts revealed thousands of years ago in the Bible but only “discovered” relatively recently, one man has well said: “*Whoever is in charge of this concern has nothing to learn!*”<sup>8</sup>

## **B. EARTH SCIENCE:**

1. **THE HYDROLOGICAL (water) CYCLE & THE EVAPORATION PROCESS.** – Eccl. 1:7; Ps. 135:7 (c. 1100-950 B.C.). Fully three thousand years ago David and Solomon explained in phenomenological language the water cycle. (cf. also Jer. 10:13b, approx. 600 B.C.)
2. **WIND PATTERNS** – Eccl. 1:6 (c. 950 B.C.) The discovery of the jet stream and related wind patterns is very recent. Yet 3000 years ago Solomon asserted that such existed.
3. **THE INTERIOR OF THE EARTH MOLTEN?** – Job 28:5 (date uncertain, possibly 2000 B.C.). This verse appears to imply that beneath the surface of the earth it is molten: “*under it is turned up as it were fire*” (“*underneath it is turned up as by fire*”-ESV).

## **C. BIOLOGY/MEDICAL SCIENCE:**

1. **BLOOD AS THE SOURCE AND SUSTAINER OF LIFE** – Lev. 17:11 (Date: c. 1400 B.C.). The importance and integral nature of blood for survival is well known today. “Blood is the life stream of the human body. This red fluid performs many tasks, and no part of the body can live without it. Blood supplies the cells of the body with the food and oxygen they need for work and growth. It carries waste products to special organs that remove them from the body or break them down into harmless substances. Blood also fights disease germs that enter the body.”<sup>9</sup> While we know these facts today, blood’s importance to life is a relatively recent discovery that was strongly opposed by the medical establishment even in the 1600’s.<sup>10</sup> Bloodletting, the practice of cutting a person and draining some blood out of a sick person to help him get better (sic), was a common medical practice of the 1600’s & 1700’s. Allegedly, when George Washington contracted the illness from which he would die, his physicians “let” blood from him. If so, it surely didn’t help him! Perhaps if Washington’s doctors had only listened to Moses, who under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit penned the amazingly accurate statement in Leviticus approximately 3,000 years before William Harvey, maybe he would have lived a bit longer?
2. **THE USE OF MASKS DURING SURGERY AND FOR THE PREVENTION OF INFECTION** – Lev. 13:45 (c. 1400 B.C.). The wearing of masks during surgery, etc., came about only in the middle to late 1800’s,<sup>11</sup> yet the Bible taught that practice around 3,500 years ago.
3. **HEALTH/SANITATION** – Dt. 23:13 (c. 1400 B.C.). Burying of human excrement was commanded, a wise sanitation practice.

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<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> op cit., World Book Encyclopedia

<sup>10</sup> “William Harvey (1578-1657) was an English physician who discovered how blood circulates in the human body. His discovery became an important foundation of medicine. (His) book, ‘*An Anatomical Treatise on the Motion of the Heart and Blood in Animals*’ appeared in 1628. It is considered the most important single volume in the history of physiology... Although his theories were attacked by followers of the ancient Greek physician Galen, they were based on firsthand observation and experiment. Harvey lived to see his discovery widely accepted, although full credit for it came only after his death.” (*World Book Encyclopedia*, vol. 9, op cit., pp. 83-84)

<sup>11</sup> Ignaz Semmelweis (1818-1865) & Joseph Lister (1827-1912) were instrumental in promoting cleanliness, sterilization of wounds, and preventive techniques (aseptic surgery) via the washing of hands and wearing of masks, gloves, etc.

4. **GENETICS/INHERITANCE OF PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS** – Ps. 139:13-16 (c. 1000 B.C.); Heb. 7:9-10 (A.D. 63-68). Modern genetics began around 1911, and DNA was discovered in 1944 (i.e. the inheritance of characteristics). Yet the Bible taught this way before that! For example, it speaks of Levi being “*in the loins of Abraham*” which is genetically correct.

### **CONCLUSION:**

A review of the scientifically accurate and amazingly predictive facts from the Bible listed above, would seemingly lead an open-minded person to acknowledge that the Bible is, indeed, the Word of God. But sadly, that is not always the case. At times God must be amused as He watches man diligently, fervently, seeking to discover scientific truths that He has revealed through His Word thousands of years before.

Dr. Bob Wood has amusingly portrayed this penchant by man to “reinvent the wheel,” so to speak:

*“It’s sort of like the guy who scratched and clawed and struggled to be the first to reach the top of the highest mountain, only to find, when he pulled himself onto the top of it, that there was a telephone booth sitting there!”<sup>12</sup>*

Psalm 2:4a, though referring to a future time and an altogether different situation, seems quite appropriate:

***“He who sits in the heavens laughs...”*** (NASV)

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<sup>12</sup> Wood, op cit.