Bible’s Inspiration—Scientific Inerrancy

Intro: The Bible is not a science book. However, as with so many other subjects which the Bible touches, it does touch on science. The Bible predates many of the scientific discoveries man has made. The question must be asked, how the Bible writers knew these facts centuries before man discovered them. The only answer is that they were guided in what they wrote by God. Thus, let us consider some evidences of the Bible’s inspiration from the field of science.

I. ASTRONOMY.
   A. Earth is spherical.
      1. Pro. 8:27 “When he prepared the heavens, I was there: when he set a compass upon the face of the depth.” Isa. 40:22 “It is he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers; that stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain, and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in.”
         a. Solomon lived 1033-975 BC
         b. Isaiah lived 745-695 BC
      2. Analysis:
         a. Hebrew chug
            (1) Translated compass in Pro. 8:27
            (2) Translated circle in Isa. 40:22
            (3) Means roundness, sphere, or circle.
         b. “Earth” in Isa. 40:22 is from the Hebrew erets which is used in two ways.
            (1) The entire world.
            (2) The dry land only.
         a. 384-322 BC Aristotle taught circular earth, others rejected it.
         b. AD 1520 Columbus, most thought he would fall off the edge of the earth.
   B. Earth revolves daily.
      1. Job 38:12-14 “Hast thou commanded the morning since thy days; and caused the dayspring to know his place; that it might take hold of the ends of the earth, that the wicked might be shaken out of it? It is turned as clay to the seal; and they stand as a garment.” (2000 BC).
      2. Analysis:
         a. Seals
            (1) Signet rings: were engraved, round and would be pressed into damp clay then the clay turned and the ring held still.
            (2) Cylinder seal: a picture or design engraved on a cylinder, the cylinder rolled over wet clay leaving behind a raised image.
         b. This analogy:
            (1) Ring = Sun
            (2) impression = daybreak
(3) clay = earth
(4) The ring (sun) which makes the impression (daybreak) is held in a fixed position while the clay (earth) which receives the impressions (daybreak) is rotated completely around the ring (sun) so the ring appears in its original position once again.

3. Science:
   a. AD 146-1543 Ptolemy, immovable earth is center of universe.
   b. AD 1543 Copernicus published earth daily and annual rotation around the sun.

C. Earth is not supported.
   1. Job 26:7 “He stretcheth out the north over the empty place, and hangeth the earth upon nothing.” (2000 BC).
   2. Science:
      a. Pre-AD 1543 Ptolemy, the earth is supported and all movements in the heavens.
      b. AD 1687 and the discovery of the telescope enabled us to discover this fact.

D. Universe is a continuously spreading expanse.
   1. Genesis 1:7-8 “And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament: and it was so. And God called the firmament Heaven. And the evening and the morning were the second day.” (1500 BC).
   2. Firmament is from the Hebrew Raqia which actually means spreading out or expanse.
   3. Not until 1948 and the construction of the 200 inch telescope at Mount Palomar did we find out that the universe is expanding.

E. Stars are innumerable.
   1. Bible
      a. Jer. 33:22 “As the host of heaven cannot be numbered, neither the sand of the sea measured: so will I multiply the seed of David my servant, and the Levites that minister unto me.” (628-588 BC)
      b. Heb. 11:12 “Therefore sprang there even of one, and him as good as dead, as many as the stars of the sky in multitude, and as the sand which is by the sea shore innumerable.” (AD 63)
      c. Gen. 15:5 “And he brought him forth abroad, 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.” (1500 BC).
   2. Science:
      a. 150 BC Hipparchus taught less than 3,000 stars.
      b. AD 150 Ptolemy counted 1,056 stars and said there were no more than 3,000.
      c. AD 1608 Galileo used telescope and announced the stars are innumerable.
d. To count the stars in the Milky Way (one galaxy among many) at the rate of 200 per minute it would take 1,000 years.

3. Isaiah 40:26 “Lift up your eyes on high, and behold who hath created these things, that bringeth out their host by number: he calleth them all by names by the greatness of his might, for that he is strong in power; not one faileth.”; Psa. 147:4 “He telleth the number of the stars; he calleth them all by their names.”

F. The stars emit sound.
1. Job 38:7 “When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?” (2000 BC).
2. Science:
   a. In 1932 Karl Jansky discovered natural radio emissions from outer space.
   b. In 1939 Grote Reber detected “cosmic static.”
   c. In 1941 Reber produced the first radio map of the sky.

G. There are many suns.
1. Gen. 1:14-16 “And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night: and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years: and let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so. And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also.” (1500 BC)
2. Analysis:
   b. In verse 16, “He made” and “also” are not found in the original.
3. Science
   a. Pre-AD 1650 thought the stars only reflected the sun.
   b. Not until the development of the spectra-telescope (AD 1859) was it proved that stars are their own source of light.

H. Light dwells in a direction.
1. Job 38:19 “Where is the way where light dwelleth? and as for darkness, where is the place thereof,” (2000 BC)
2. We now know that light travels at 186,000 miles per second.

I. Light existed before the sun.
1. Gen. 1:3, 14-18 “And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. ... And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years: And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so. And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also. And God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth. And to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness: and God saw that it was good.”
2. Until recently scientists held the same opinion as Sir Isaac Newton that light comes from the sun.
3. It is now agreed that light existed before the sun and the sun became its governor.
II. GEOGRAPHY
A. The Bible abounds in geographical references, yet it is correct in every instance. The cities, plains, towns, deserts, hills and mountains mentioned in the Bible have been found exactly where the Bible locates them.
B. When the Bible says, “they were up to Jerusalem,” it is literally uphill. When it says, “down to Jericho,” the terrain is literally downhill.
C. There has never been found an error or discrepancy in Biblical geographical record.

III. GEOLOGY
A. All seas lie in one bed.
   1. Gen. 1:9-10 “And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear: and it was so. 10 And God called the dry land Earth; and the gathering together of the waters called he Seas: and God saw that it was good.”
   2. In Moses time men believed there was but one small sea or ocean.
   3. We now know that there are many and that they are all connected and have just one bed.
B. “The fact that the Standard Oil Company discovered oil and is operating wells in Egypt is generally know, but the reason for its going to that ancient land to look for oil is probably not so well known. It is asserted that one of the directors of the company happened to read the second chapter of Exodus. The third verse caught his attention. It stated that the ark of bulrushes which the mother of Moses made for her child was daubed with slime and with pitch. This gentleman reckoned that where there was pitch there must be oil, and if there was oil in Moses’ time, it is probably there still. So the company sent out Charles Whitshott, its geologist and oil expert, to make investigations, with the result that oil was discovered.” (Faith R. Williams).

IV. OCEANOGRAPHY
A. Paths of the seas.
   1. Psalm 8:8 “The fowl of the air, and the fish of the sea, and whatsoever passeth through the paths of the seas.”
   2. Matthew Fontaine Maury—the pathfinder of the seas and the founder of the science of oceanography.
      a. On monument row in Richmond, Virginia, is a statue of him.
         (1) He is sitting with charts of the sea in his left hand and pencil and compass in his right.
         (2) A globe he helped to explore is behind him.
         (3) Next to his chair on the left side is a Bible.
      b. He was a firm believer in the Bible.
         (1) During an illness his wife was reading the Bible and read Psalms 8:8 which inspired him to discover the ocean currents.
(2) W. M. Morris II reported seeing the original documents: “There is a diary in the Library of Congress in Washington D.C. along with the ‘Maury Papers’ as they are called that has the situation mentioned.... Further I also told you that it was not Matthew’s son but his wife and that the original documents are in the Library of Congress.”

(3) He dedicated his life to finding those “paths of the sea” and those he charted are still in use today by oceangoing vessels.

c. The inscription on his monument in Goshen Pass reads:

MATTHEW FONTAINE MAURY
PATHFINDER OF THE SEAS
THE GENIUS WHO FIRST SNATCHED
FROM THE OCEAN AND ATMOSPHERE
THE SECRET OF THEIR LAWS.

Born January 14th, 1806
Died at Lexington, Va., February 1st, 1873
Carried through Goshen Pass to his Final
Resting Place in Richmond, Virginia.

EVERY MARINER
FOR COUNTLESS AGES
AS HE TAKES HIS CHART TO SHAPE
HIS COURSE ACROSS THE SEAS,
WILL THINK OF THEE.

HIS INSPIRATION HOLY WRIT
Psalms 8 and 107, Verses 8, 23 and 24
Ecclesiastes Chap. 1, Verse 8
A TRIBUTE BY HIS NATIVE STATE
VIRGINIA.

1923

B. Hydrologic cycle.

1. Ecc. 1:7 “All the rivers run into the sea; yet the sea is not full; unto the place from whence the rivers come, thither they return again.”
   a. Consider the Mississippi River, at an average rate of flow, dumps 6,052,500 gallons of water into the Gulf of Mexico per second.
   b. Where does all the water go?
      (1) Ecc. 11:3 “If the clouds be full of rain, they empty themselves upon the earth: and if the tree fall toward the south, or toward the north, in the place where the tree falleth, there it shall be.”
      (2) Amos 9:6 “It is he that buildeth his stories in the heaven, and hath founded his troop in the earth; he that calleth for the waters of the sea, and poureth them out upon the face of the earth: The LORD is his name.”
c. The Scriptures indicate a complete water cycle.

   a. The idea of a complete water cycle was not fully understood or accepted until the 16th and 17th centuries.
   b. The first substantial evidence came from the experiments of Pierre Perrault and Edme Mariotte.

V. Physics

A. The first law of thermodynamics.
   1. Thermodynamics
      a. *Thermo* means heat
      b. *Dynamics* is energy
      c. This law has been universally accepted as the basic law of all physical science.
   2. This law states that matter can be changed into various shapes, sizes, forms, etc., but the total mass cannot be changed.
      a. There is no creation going on
      b. The amount of energy has remained constant through man’s history on earth.
   3. The Bible states: everything had its origin in the very beginning (creation) and it has not been changed, and will not be changed.
      a. It was completed in the very beginning
      b. Heb. 4:3 “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.”
      c. When God brought everything into existence, His works were finished.

B. The Universe is decaying.
   1. Bible
      a. Isa. 51:6 “Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look upon the earth beneath: for the heavens shall vanish away like smoke, and the earth shall wax old like a garment, and they that dwell therein shall die in like manner: but my salvation shall be for ever, and my righteousness shall not be abolished.” (700 BC)
      b. Psa. 102:26 “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:” (538 BC).
   2. Analysis: “Wax”
      a. Is from the Hebrew *balah* and means to become old or worn out.
      b. The earth is growing old, becoming worn out.
   3. Science: The second law of thermodynamics or the law of entropy says this exact thing but was only discovered in 1850.

C. Light parting.
2. Olaf Roemer discovered light is in a way in 1675.

VI.  **BIOLOGY.**

A. Three great kingdoms.
   1. Gen. 1:1-10  the mineral kingdom
      Gen. 1:11-19  the vegetable kingdom
      Gen. 1:20-31  the animal kingdom
   2. Science: It is now conceded that there are but three great kingdoms: mineral, vegetable, and animal. It is thought that Carolus Linnaeus, a Swedish botanist, was the first to recognize these kingdoms in 1735.

B. Mankind is of one origin.
   1. Acts 17:26 “And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation;” (AD 63).
   2. Science:
      a. 1775 Johann Friedrich Blumennbach, the founder of anthropology outlined five distinct original races based on skin color.
      b. 1900 Karl Landsteiner discovered that all human blood has one common base, plasma.
         (1) That developed by Blumennback was based on the blood line.
         (2) We now know that all blood has the same base, therefore all races are biologically the same.

C. Life is in the blood.
   1. Lev. 17:11 “For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.”
   2. Pre-1900 it was thought that life was in the breath.
      a. Many barber-surgeons would practice bleeding a person to rid him of disease.
      b. Not until the 20th century did scientists discover that the continuance of life depends upon the continued temperature control, waste removal, water, food, and regulation to the cells of all parts of the body and therefore the very life and nourishment of the body are furnished by the blood.

D. Seed of woman.
   1. Gen. 3:15 “And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.” (1500 BC).
   2. Before 1880 it was thought that man had the seed and woman just provided the soil for the growth of the seed.
      a. We now know that the male sperm joins with the female ovum to produce the fertilized egg.
b. Thus, a seed both of man and of a seed of woman, confirming the Bible.

VII. PRINCIPLES OF NATURE.

A. Herbert Spencer (1820-1903) towards the close of his life announced that there were five great basic principles dominating nature in the precise order as he gave them. All else he said were based on these fundamentals. All the scientific world accepted his findings as newly found fact. They were:
   1. Time
   2. Force
   3. Action
   4. Space
   5. Matter

B. Gen. 1:1 “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.”
   1. In the beginning—Time
   2. God—Force
   3. Created—Action
   4. The heaven—Space
   5. And the earth—Matter

Conclusion: The only way the Bible writers could have such foreknowledge is if they were being directed in their writing by one who is greater and all-knowing—that is by God. True science and the Bible always harmonize. 1 Tim. 6:20 “O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called.”