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## Can Science in the Bible be Used as a Witnessing Tool?

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Have you ever had a conversation with someone who doubts the Bible as being the Word of God? Back in the early 1990s my family and I were living in upstate New York and were attending an ELCA church at a time when new policy from the ELCA headquarters was being discussed. My wife had the opportunity to ask the pastor this question: "Well, aren't the stories in the Bible true?"

His answer was: "No, they are just moral stories." That shocked us and we never went back to that church again. There were other families who left the church that Sunday as well. I think that this pastor forgot what Paul told Timothy about the Bible being "God-breathed":

As for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work (2 Timothy 3:14-17, NIV1984).

In my opinion, the following instances of science in the Bible may be helpful in witnessing to those who believe science has discredited the Bible

### Witnessing Tool One: **Biology and Medicine**

In Genesis 17:12 God tells Abram: "For the generations to come every male among you who is eight days old must be circumcised, including those born in your household or bought with money from a foreigner those who are not your offspring." So then, why does God tell Abram (later renamed Abraham) to circumcise male babies on the eighth day? It just so happens to be the day that Vitamin K is the highest in a baby. Was this explained to Abram, or did Abram merely do as he was told?

We did not find out about Vitamin K until 1935. Dr. Bert Thompson, when answering a question about the circumcision of baby boys on the eighth day, referred to Professor Henrik Dam who had found that vitamin K in foods helps prevent hemorrhaging in baby chicks.<sup>1</sup> Vitamin K, which is produced by the liver, helps coagulate the blood. Here is where it gets really interesting. On the fifth day through the seventh day of a newborn male's life, vitamin K is present in sufficient quantities to help the newborn male's blood coagulate immediately following circumcision. On day eight we see that along with prothrombin (which is elevated over 100 percent of normal in a newborn male) vitamin K helps the baby boy's blood coagulate. In a male's life this eighth day is so important medically because the newborn male has both vitamin K and prothrombin in sufficient quantities for the circumcision to be performed with practically no risk. Now it makes sense to us.

Did God do this by design, or did man figure this out first? Clearly God knows what he is doing since he is the omniscient Almighty One who has made us and has created everything.<sup>2</sup>

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1. HealthAliciousNess, "Henrik Dam Discovers Vitamin K," <http://www.healthaliciousness.com/articles/Dam-discovered-vitamin-K.php>

2. Bert Thompson, Biblical Accuracy and Circumcision on the 8th Day

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### **Witnessing Tool Two:** **Ocean Springs and Ice Caps**

From Job in the Bible we learn about the oceans. We find out that in the depths of the ocean there are springs that feed the ocean. This was discovered in the late 1970s. God tells us about this in Job 38:16: "Have you journeyed to the springs of the sea or walked in the recesses of the deep?" Though many of the ancients were accomplished navigators, we assume that they had no way of exploring the beds of the deep ocean as we do today. The many fresh-water springs on the ocean floor and the distinct channels and pathways in the ocean's depths have been a surprising discovery in modern oceanography. Yet God mentioned these facts in his message to Job.<sup>3</sup>

What about the polar ice caps? How would the author of Job know about the ice caps unless the author not traveled there? God inspired the author of Job and told Job himself about those ice caps in this way: "From whose womb comes the ice? Who gives birth to the frost from the heavens when the waters become hard as stone, when the surface of the deep is frozen?" (Job 38:29-30).

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3. Henry M. Morris, *The Remarkable Record of Job: The Ancient Wisdom, Scientific Accuracy, & Life-Changing Message of an Amazing Book* (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1988), 42.

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### **Witnessing Tool Three:** **Astronomy**

Have you ever looked up in the sky at night, seen the stars, and wondered about the constellations? At Fort Davis, Texas, where the McDonald Observatory is located, the stars are bright, deep in the heart of Texas. Some nights you have a very difficult time finding the constellations. Today we know that the stars are millions of light years away. In fact, the closest star other than our sun is 4½ light years away. A light year is defined as the distance light can travel in a year, almost 6 trillion miles; so the closest star is about 27 trillion miles away from the Earth.

Job asks Eliphaz: “Is not God in the heights of heaven? And see how lofty are the highest stars!” (Job 22:12). Here Job is trying to explain to Eliphaz that the stars are vast and that God is the creator of all stars.

Did you know that some stars actually make noise? Why do we care about stars that make noise? God asks the question in Job 38:6-7: “On what were its footings set, or who laid its cornerstone — while the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy?” The only way we can hear the stars making noise is through radio telescopes which were invented in the 20th century.

Why did God want Job to know this, or was God challenging us to find the stars that sing to us through the radio telescopes?

Job replies to his friend Bildad this way: “He spreads out of the northern skies over empty space; he suspends the earth over nothing” (Job 26:7). What is interesting is that until the beginning of the 20th century scientists thought that the earth had been suspended with ether, but we now know it is all about gravity.

In 1985 Dr. Michael Walthrop pointed his telescope to the North Pole and discovered that there was an empty zone of stars in a cone shape measuring 300,000 light years.<sup>4</sup> How did Job know this? God was revealing to Job certain truths about his creation, and today scientists are discovering some of those very things written in the book of Job.

Is Job speaking of an eclipse of the moon when he states in 26:9: “He covers the face of the full moon, spreading his clouds over it”? Could be!

We read in Job 38:31-33: “Can you bind the beautiful Pleiades? Can you loose the cords of Orion? Can you bring forth the constellations in their seasons or lead out the Bear with its cubs? Do you know the laws of the heavens? Can you set up God’s dominion over the earth?” God has directed Job’s attention to the heavenly constellations. In his second speech Job himself had briefly mentioned some of them.<sup>5</sup> Job stated in Job 9:9: “He is the Maker of the Bear and Orion, the Pleiades and the constellations of the south.” In these verses God mentions one additional group of stars, referred to in Job 38:32 as the constellations. In the Hebrew that word is in the plural and refers to a cluster of stars which scientists have still not been able to identify with certainty.

God describes the stars comprising the Pleiades as “beautiful.” He created them and other stars and describes everything he created as “very good” in the opening chapter of the Bible. As other stars and planets, they are beautiful to behold, and throughout the ages they have fascinated people.<sup>6</sup> Those four constellations had not yet been named, but God names them in this passage. Later in history the Greeks and Romans gave the constellations the names by which we know them now. I wonder whether they had read the book of Job?

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4. Grant Jefferies, *The Signature of God* (Nashville: W Publishing Group, 1998), 139-140.

5. Rudolph E. Honsey, *The People’s Bible: Job* (Milwaukee: Northwestern Publishing House, 1992), 302. Group, 1998), 139-140.

6. Honsey, 302

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## **Witnessing Tool Four:** **Dead Sea Scrolls**

For those who do not believe that the Bible is the God-breathed Word which he gave to his chosen prophets and apostles and evangelists to write down for us, ask about the Dead Sea Scrolls (DSS). Among them were found copies of all biblical books (except Esther). Although the DSS were produced over a thousand years before our previously oldest Old Testament manuscripts — the so-called Masoretic Text (MT) — the DSS were found to have very, very few differences compared to the MT on which our modern Bibles are based. Yet how often have people changed words in some of our classic books and plays throughout history?

## **Conclusion**

The next time you have a chance to witness to those who believe that science is the one and only truth, you might want to point them to some of the science that was used in the Bible.

Just get into a conversation; don't let it get heated or upsetting to the other person. Rather, just plant the seed and let God water and nurture it. It just may be that the seed you plant will someday take root, and we will see another sinner won for Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. After all, that saving knowledge of Jesus Christ, our Creator and Savior, is the real "science" behind all things!

Never forget the words Paul writes in 1 Timothy 6:20-21: "Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to your care. Turn away from godless chatter and the opposing ideas of what is falsely called knowledge, which some have professed and in so doing have wandered from the faith. Grace be with you." LSI

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