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What Science Tells Us About God and Why IT Matters

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Those of us who have had the blessings of the clear Word of God for many years may well ask: "What can science tell us about God, and our relationship to him that the Bible does not?" And I wouldn't object too strongly to someone who might at first reply: "Nothing." After all, the Bible contains everything we need to know for faith and life. It contains specifically what God wants us to know. It is the very breath of God. Yet science can sharpen our appreciation of God's word, and be a particularly valuable apologetic tool for evangelism.

Someone might well say that a musical score contains everything you need to know about a symphony. Ideally, it should contain everything the composer wants you to know in order to play the composition, and a skilled musician should be able to understand it sufficiently. Some musicians can even hear the individual parts in the ear of their mind as they read the score. Still all that information may not be immediately obvious to someone less skilled. Even for the virtuoso, it is hard to discern how the various parts fit together to yield the final effect before the piece is actually played. Lastly there is often something that can be gleaned from an understanding of the historical and personal situation of the composer, and even the audience, that can inform an individual performance of the piece.

We get most of what God wants us to know by reading, but more insight can be gleaned by actually applying it. Genesis and John's Gospel says that God created the heavens and the earth by his word, but the devil asks: "Should you take that literally or figuratively?" We are told, and can observe that the Bible seems to be speaking as a matter of fact. The observations of science tell us that speech is made by our vocal apparatus, propagated by air molecules, and interpreted by our ear and nervous system. Does God have a mouth, and the elements of the universe an ear? The catechism tells us that God's word has authority by its very nature. But it can seem that that authority is disregarded without apparent consequences. These questions should force us back to God's word more humbly. The memory of these unanswered questions can cause us to be fascinated that God spoke to Elijah in a "still small voice" (1 Kings 19:13, KJV), and perhaps to Eliphaz the Temanite "secretly (Job 4:12), and that Jesus performed several miracles without apparently uttering an audible command. Over time it can be seen that the Gospel changes people's hearts, and those who disregard God's word suffer consequences indeed. All these things heightened our appreciation for the fact that "God's word is living and active... [and] penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit,(Heb 4:12)" But for me, nothing demonstrates the power of his word like the creative acts of the six days realizing the vastness of the universe, and the instantaneous response produced in every photon and subatomic particle. Nothing humbles me like realizing that of all the matter, energy, and life forms in the universe, the only ones that hesitate to respond to his word is man yet he suffered, and died to save only this disobedient race.

In Jesus' parable of the sower and the seed (Matt 13, Mark 4, Luke 8), the seed that fell on the path was eaten by the birds. The seed is God's word, the birds are the devil, and the ground is the hearts of those who hear the word of God. Many hearts are hardened today by the tramping of daily life apart from the Bible. Many people are not willing to be patient with their questions, but use them as an excuse for rejecting the Bible. We hear the opinion that God must have let the universe go on all by itself, if he did create it, and that he couldn't possibly take note of an individual, if he exists at all. Many look at science as a second opinion to scripture, and rightly believe that scripture should be consistent with what is observed in the world. They doubt scripture because they have been misled

to believe that science disagrees with the Bible about how everything came to be.

The truth is that God is acting and has acted exactly in accord with the Bible. When we make observations in daily life or in the study of history or science, we can interpret what we see in a way that misrepresents the facts. Our natural sinful nature wants to ignore God and cannot see his hand (or word) at work. But the Holy Spirit working through God's Word can train our eyes to see what our sinful nature would ignore. The evidence of God's work is objectively there in science, history,¹ and life. It is hard for the sinful flesh to make excuses when that evidence is clearly pointed out. Jesus called those who hear his word and put it into practice his mother and brothers. Too often WELS evangelists respond with silence to scientific arguments made so loudly and frequently by representatives of the devil, and by our silence we give the impression they are right. The ground of people's hearts remains hard, and the birds will be back.

1. See for example: Wright, N. T., *The Resurrection of the Son of God* (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2003)

LSI is committed to defending the truth that scripture is not inconsistent with the observations of science and that the Bible is true when it speaks about creation, the flood, and all other matters. We call out the liars who say God's word is a fable. Help us with prayers and support -because the time left for the gospel to take root is short! *LSI*