

Science and the Bible Aren't Enemies?

The Water Cycle: Around the year 1580, more than two thousand years *after* these Bible verses were written, Bernard Palissy discovered the modern theory of the water cycle.

<p>All the rivers run into the sea, Yet the sea is not full; To the place from which the rivers come, There they return again. (Ecclesiastes 1:7)</p>	<p>He who builds His layers in the sky, And has founded His strata in the earth; Who calls for the waters of the sea, And pours them out on the face of the earth— The Lord is His name. (Amos 9:6)</p>
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The Weight of Air: In the 1600s, scientists Galileo and Torricelli performed experiments to confirm that the air has weight, over three thousand years *after* this Bible verse was written.

<p>For He looks to the ends of the earth, and sees under the whole heavens, To establish a weight for the wind, and apportion the waters by measure. (Job 28:24-25)</p>

Washing in Running Water: In 1847, horrified by how many women died during childbirth, Dr. Ignaz Semmelweis initiated the practice of hand washing in running water, and the death rate plummeted. Over three thousand years *before*, God told His people to wash in running water.

<p>And when he who has a discharge is cleansed of his discharge, then he shall count for himself seven days for his cleansing, wash his clothes, and bathe his body in running water; then he shall be clean. (Leviticus 15:13)</p>

The Bible is not a science book. Yes, these scientific facts and others can be found within the pages of the Bible, but the primary purpose of the Bible is to tell us about God and salvation through Jesus Christ, not to inform us about science.

Nevertheless, it is important to understand that the Bible and true science do not contradict each other, though you may have been taught otherwise. Many key scientists throughout our history believed that God existed, and that belief guided their scientific research.

Sir Isaac Newton, a key figure in the scientific revolution, had a lot to say about God:

<p>"We account the Scriptures of God to be the most sublime philosophy. I find more sure remarks of authenticity in the Bible than in any profane history whatever."</p>	<p>"It is the perfection of God's works that they are all done with the greatest simplicity. He is the God of order and not of confusion."</p>	<p>"Atheism is so senseless and odious to mankind that it never had many professors. ... Did blind chance know that there was light and what was its refraction and fit the eyes of all creatures after the most curious manner to make use of it? These and such like considerations always have and ever will prevail with man kind to believe that there is a being who made all things and has all things in his power and who is therefore to be feared."</p>
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Though not a Christian, Albert Einstein still recognized the obvious existence of God:

<p>"Science can only be created by those who are thoroughly imbued with the aspiration toward truth and understanding. This source of feeling, however, springs from the sphere of religion. To this there also belongs the faith in the possibility that the regulations valid for the world of existence are rational, that is, comprehensible to reason. I cannot conceive of a genuine scientist without that profound faith."</p>
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Dr. James Simpson, a significant figure in the history of medicine from the 1800s, said:

"Christianity works because it is supremely true and therefore supremely livable. There is nothing incompatible between religion and science."	When asked what his greatest discovery was, Dr. Simpson replied, "It was not chloroform. It was to know I am a sinner and that I could be saved by the grace of God. A man has missed the whole meaning of life if he has not entered into an active, living relationship with God through Christ."
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Even Charles Darwin was not an atheist, though he struggled with the concept of God:

<i>(earlier in life)</i> "When thus reflecting I feel compelled to look to a First Cause having an intelligent mind in some degree analogous to that of man; and I deserve to be called a Theist."	<i>(later in life)</i> "The mystery of the beginning of all things is insoluble by us; and I for one must be content to remain an Agnostic."
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The Bible and Darwin's theory of evolution, however, cannot co-exist. One must be right and the other must be wrong. You have probably been taught that evolution is a proven fact. The truth is that there is no evidence to support evolution, but there is a lot of evidence against it. That is difficult for a believer of evolution to think about, but I urge you to keep an open mind.

Charles Darwin recognized the challenges that the eye posed to his theory of evolution. In a section of his book "On the Origin of Species" entitled "Organs of Extreme Perfection and Complication" (quotes taken from pages 186 and 189), he wrote:

"To suppose that the eye, with all its inimitable contrivances for adjusting the focus to different distances, for admitting different amounts of light, and for the correction of spherical and chromatic aberration, could have been formed by natural selection, seems, I freely confess, absurd in the highest possible degree. Yet reason tells me, that if numerous gradations from a perfect and complex eye to one very imperfect and simple, each grade being useful to its possessor, can be shown to exist ... If it could be demonstrated that any complex organ existed, which could not possibly have been formed by numerous, successive, slight modifications, my theory would absolutely break down. But I can find out no such case."

At the time, Darwin did not believe that even the complex eye could stand in the way of his theory. But he was wise enough to recognize the challenges that the eye posed, and in the 150+ years that have passed since then, science has learned significantly more about the human body. Darwin could "find out no such case" but modern science has demonstrated otherwise.

The eye has irreducible complexity and cannot function without all its parts, providing evidence against the theory of evolution. The eye "could not possibly have been formed by numerous, successive, slight modifications" and, therefore, Darwin's theory does "absolutely break down."

Other stumbling blocks for evolution include the irreducibly complex process of blood clotting, DNA, the existence of two perfectly complementary genders, numbers and mathematics, laws of the universe, the total absence of transitional forms within the fossil record, and the existence of evil in the world. Sadly, people only cling to evolution because they don't like the idea of God.

Much, much more could be written on this topic, but my purpose here is simply to whet your curiosity. If you think the Bible is just a collection of fairy tales for the uneducated, I urge you to read it and to do further research, if you're willing to do so with an open mind.

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