

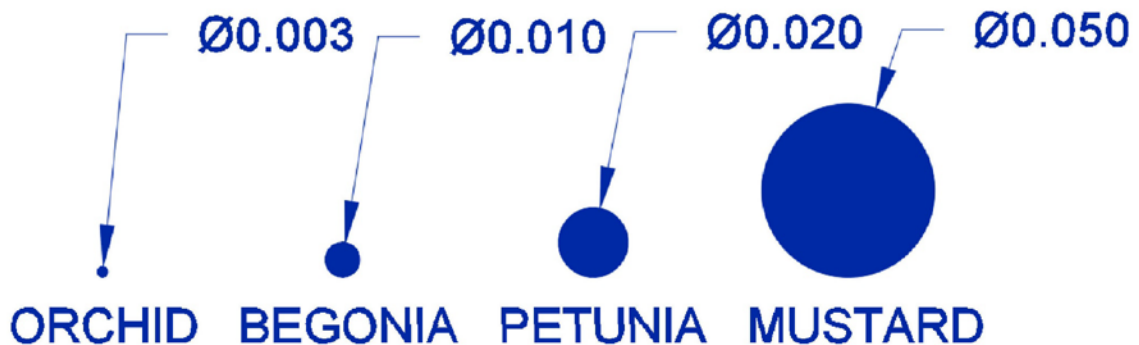
SUMMARY: There are frequent lists about all the scientific errors in the Bible. Study of the cases listed indicate that the items listed are not mistakes but rather than the Bible is reliable when it makes a scientific statement. Some of the Biblical statements need to be understood within the context and some are metaphors. If the Bible had reported some of the conventional “scientific truths” believed at the time, it would have been discredited.

What is a “scientific error”? How is this distinguished from “scientific truth” which follows in a later section. Generally, “scientific truth” is the consensus of the educated class at any time and may or may not actually be true. A scientific error would be a violation of actual truth, irrespective of the “scientific truth” at the time. As an instance, it was “scientific truth” in the Holy Land that the Mustard seed was the smallest seed as likely no one had ever seen a smaller seed. The actual truth was and is that an Orchid seed is smaller. If someone in the first century Holy Land said the Mustard seed was the smallest seed, it would have been “scientific truth, would have violated actual science and been wrong.

The following “scientific errors” in the Bible are found on rationalwiki.org, along with a few others not worth discussing. **These represent contemporary “scientific” teachings and implications of those teachings, not some middle ages myth. The word “scientific” is used as actual contemporary scientist would likely disagree with them.** This makes this a good test of the truth of the Bible.

1. **MUSTARD SEEDS:** Mark 4:31-34 NASB “It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the soil, though it is smaller than all the seeds that are upon the soil, yet when it is sown, it grows up and becomes larger than all the garden plants and forms large branches; so that the birds of the air can nest under its shade. With many such parables He was speaking the word to them, so far as they were able to hear it; and He did not speak to them without a parable; but He was explaining everything privately to His own disciples.”

Error: The Mustard seed is not the smallest seed; the Orchid seed is smaller.



- A. It is speaking in parable form. It was likely the smallest seed that anyone in the area knew about. It is a bit like telling your child to get the smallest chair. The child understands it is the smallest chair in the house, not in the world.
- B. An Orchid seed is not sown on the ground. Orchid seeds are dispersed into the air like minute dust particles and come to rest in the upper canopy of rainforest trees, where they eventually germinate. Good for discussion, however, Orchid seeds are 1/300th of an inch (.003”), the seed of the begonia plant is about 1/100th of an inch (.010”) in size, that of the petunia plant about 1/50th of an inch (.020 in), and that of the mustard plant (family Brassicaceae) about 1/20th of an inch (.050”). At least some of these could be sown, which is a planting method of scattering the seeds by hand from a standing position.
- C. The seeds are qualified as “small”, “sown”, and “in the garden”. It is highly unlikely that any of the seeds smaller than the Mustard seed were sown at the time of the parable. If they had been known at all they would have been planted rather than sown, which would have made this a scientifically correct parable. Further, if they were planted, it would be in a flower bed rather than a garden as they are not food. It would be a correct statement when made, even if a thousand years later someone decided to try to sow Orchid seeds just to try to prove the Bible wrong.

The Bible makes a correct statement, the contemporary teachings are wrong.

- 2. **CANAANITES:** Canaanites were annihilated in Deuteronomy 20:16-18, whereas recently analyzed DNA evidence shows that Canaanites left many descendants.
 - A. The Canaanites were basically a people who occupied an area, who may have had relatives living elsewhere. If they annihilated all people who lived in that area, it would not have wiped out all their foreign relatives so traces of them could still show up, if you could actually tell.
 - B. I have personally had my DNA done by 2 different services under slightly different names to test the credibility of what they are saying. On a recent DNA test run by 2 services under slightly different names at the same time, my dominant English heritage varies from 95.7% to 59.6% and my next most dominant Scandinavian heritage varies from 29.1% to 1.1%. With that level of short term accuracy, it is incomprehensible that anyone could claim that they have identified a people who lived in a small area 3500 years ago.

The contemporary teachings are wrong. The Bible cannot be proven as right here, but it is not shown to be wrong.

- 3. **ANT BEHAVIOR:** Proverbs 6:6-8 “Ants are wise, have no captain, supervisor or ruler, she makes sure she has food and safeguards her food during the harvest.” RationalWiki says ants live in colonies subject to a queen and are subject to the

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population for survival. It is probably reasonable to say ants act by instinct, including taking care of a Queen, but take no instructions from a captain, supervisor, or ruler. To take instructions implies someone has a voice.

The Bible makes a correct statement, the contemporary teachings are wrong.

4. **PI:** The Bible says the circumference is 3 times the diameter (II Chron. 4:2-5), whereas the Rationalwiki.org's number is "3.14159265358979323846264338327950288..? That number is a mistake as it is rounded off to 35 decimal places. Pi is an irrational number which means it never comes to a solution, but rather goes on forever. (1/3 is irrational as it is 0.333333.., 1/4 is rational as it is 0.25 exactly) Our usual 3.14 rounds it off to 2 decimal places and 3 rounds it off even more but is still an accurate answer. This is a criticism for not properly using the decimal system, which wasn't even invented at the time.

The Bible makes a correct statement, the contemporary teachings are wrong.

5. **FIRMAMENT:** In Genesis 1:6 in the highly figurative description of creation is criticized as "The "firmament" is claimed to be a solid "roof" over the world." This is criticizing someone's interpretation of the Bible and using the archaic language of the KJV to do it. NASV more contemporarily interprets it an expanse, which is reasonable.

The Bible makes a correct statement, the contemporary teachings are wrong.

6. **MOON:** "In Genesis, the moon is referred to as a "light" ("lesser light" actually). The moon is merely a reflector of the sun's light and produces no visible light. Answer: The light at night comes from the Moon (reflected from the Sun), which means the Moon is a light. There is no inherent requirement for the Moon to generate light to be a light. Consider indirect lighting in your home. It is still light.

The Bible makes a correct statement, the contemporary teachings are wrong.

7. **STAR FALLING DOWN AT THE SECOND COMING:** Revelation 8:10 "And the third angel sounded, and there fell a great star from heaven, burning as it were a lamp, and it fell upon the third part of the rivers, and upon the fountains of waters;" Answer: A future time prophecy of a miraculous return is not a violation of a scientific principle. If you have the miraculous power to make a star fall, you can shrink it also.

The Bible makes a future statement of a miracle, it cannot be judged by physical laws.

8. **THE CREATION IN GENESIS:** The criticism that the Genesis creation description conflicts with someone else's speculation as to what happened presumes and that their speculation is scientific. Answer: Science is observable, repeatable, and testable. Anyone's speculation as to a historical event is just that, historical speculation, not science.

The Bible makes a statement of a miraculous beginning. That it conflicts with someone else's theory of what happened (which also requires a miraculous start) does not prove the one is the Bible is wrong.

9. **SUN GOING AROUND THE EARTH:** "The sun also ariseth, and the sun goeth down, and hasteth to his place where he arose." Ecclesiastes 1:5 It would be interesting to find any person at any time who never said the Sun set, which is correct in your frame of reference. The Sun certainly does go around the Earth, from the point of view of the Earth's frame of reference. This says the writer was writing from the Earth's frame of reference. The Qur'an' saying the Sun sets in a muddy puddle, would be an error.

The Bible makes a correct scientific statement, the contemporary teachings suggest you are constrained to use the frame of reference of the Sun, which is wrong.

10. **BAT CLASSIFICATION:** "These, moreover, you shall detest among the birds; they are abhorrent, not to be eaten: the eagle and the vulture and the buzzard, and the kite and the falcon in its kind, every raven in its kind, and the ostrich and the owl and the sea gull and the hawk in its kind, and the little owl and the cormorant and the great owl, and the white owl and the pelican and the carrion vulture, and the stork, the heron in its kinds, and the hoopoe, and the bat. All the winged insects that walk on all fours are detestable to you." Leviticus 11:13-20 | NASB

The Old Testament is being criticized for classifying bats with fowls about 3500 years ago. The present-day classification system classifies them with mammals rather than birds. Presently birds are defined as **endothermic vertebrates, characterized by feathers, toothless beaks and laying hard shell eggs**. Answer: Today no classification system is universally accepted. (Wikipedia, Mammal classification) It is hard to imagine criticizing not matching today's classification system when the current classification system cannot even be standardized. It is reasonable to understand that the "classification system" at that time was birds are small things that fly, such as bats.

As near as we can tell, the Bible makes a correct statement within the arbitrary classification system used at the time. The contemporary teachings are wrong for saying you are making a mistake by not following different arbitrary classification system which was not in existence at the time.

11. **GOLD AND SILVER RUSTING:** "Your gold and your silver have rusted; and their rust will be a witness against you and will consume your flesh like fire. It is in the last days that you have stored up your treasure!" James 5:3, NASV

This not on the lists seen, but is interesting to understand. Whatever the "rust" is will be a witness against them. There is some characteristic of gold which can be a witness, not necessarily an oxidation.

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This was written in about AD 50-65 and iron had been around for about hundreds of years, so the writer would have been well aware of what rust was and anyone who knew what gold was would know that gold does not rust like iron does.

Verse 1 indicates he is talking about a future event, is talking about at that time their riches have rotted and their garments are moth eaten. At that time their gold and silver will have rusted and will be a witness against them.

It is reasonable to understand this as a metaphorical statement that the gold they treasure will have its value go to nothing (i.e. rust away) at judgment day. Instead of gold being a value, it will be a witness against them.