

THE BIBLE AS A BOOK OF SCIENCE

NUMBER 154

OCTOBER 2020

It is not. It is not a book of social justice either. However, if you follow the Bible, social justice will be improved.

Whereas the Bible is not a scientific book, if it makes scientific mistakes it would be discredited. God is supposed to understand science if He is smart enough to have created it. (Ignoring that atheists think it was created with zero IQ. accidents) The good news is that not only does it not make scientific mistakes, it makes scientific prophecies which could not have been known otherwise at the time .

This topic is covered in the Christian Array topical lessons in three places. These are **7.4 Biblical Scientific Statements**, **7.5 Scientific Errors In The Bible**, and **3.9 Scientific Truths Which Were Wrong**. The third is posted in this issue. It has recently been updated with additional examples and information.

There is one case in which we are saying the current belief is wrong and what was formerly believed as true is actually correct (Based on repetitive proofs). We also give three other examples of contemporary beliefs which will be proven wrong in the future (Based on logic).

You may have some additions to this listing. If you do, Contact us at info@occg.institute with those or any other comments.

SEARCH FOR MEANING

“They read from the book of the Law of God, making it clear and giving the meaning so that the people could understand what was being read.” (Neh. 8:8)

Until we understand the message of the text it is meaningless to us. We can wait for someone to explain. Or we can get busy with the extraordinary resources at hand and study for ourselves. Exegesis is the art of finding the intended meaning of Scripture. But separated by thousands of years from the context, culture and language of the Bible, we can use a little help finding the meaning.

Continued on page 2

The Bridge of Forgiveness

All Fall
All Die
Some Perish
Some Rise
By Forgiveness

Forgiveness is the bridge from earth to heaven to reach “the narrow gate.” (Matthew 7: 13-14) If we do not build bridges of forgiveness we become trapped in the land of evil and risk falling into the chasm from which there is no return.

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WINGS OF EAGLES DOWNLOAD PROBLEMS

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THE SEARCH FOR MEANING, p. 2

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ture and language of the Bible, we can use a little help finding the meaning.

The first task of exegesis is to discover the meaning understood by the original recipients and to find the original intent of the words of the Bible. A good translation is an essential part of the process. Before we can get down to interpreting the words we have to know the historical context of the message.

Perhaps the greatest detriment to finding the meaning comes from an innocent habit of simply applying our 21st century meaning to the text. When we read, we take everything with us, our background, education, customs and preconceived ideas. But the Biblical text means today what it meant when it was written.

One good resource for finding Biblical meaning is, “How to Read the Bible for All It’s Worth,” by Gordon D. Fee and Douglas Stuart. We must always do our best to, “... correctly handle the word of truth.”

Elizabeth Brown, Texarkana, TX

Travelers and Visitors

As you travel, you can be of assistance in local congregations in helping them to understand how they are seen by potential visitors and prospects.

On the ocginstitute.org website, Project Papers tab is a paper titled:
MYSTERY GUEST PROGRAM

This paper and the forms included will help you anonymously communicate with the congregation and improve their “curb appeal”.

THE BRIDGE OF FORGIVENESS, P. 2

Jesus sets God's desire to extend grace to all as He teaches us to pray:

"Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil."

For if you forgive others for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive your

Transgressions." (Matthew 6:12-15)

As recorded by Luke, Jesus clarified our responsibility, saying "If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him. If he sins against you seven times a day, and seven times comes back to you and says, 'I repent', forgive him. (Luke 17: 3-4) Jesus also explained in detail how to treat a believer who sins: "If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. But if he will not listen take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by two or three witnesses'. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or tax collector." (Matthew 18: 15-17)

The great importance of making effort to bring about repentance and forgiveness is further explained by James: "My brothers, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring him back, remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of his way will save him from death and cover over a multitude of sins". (James 5:19-20)

The writer in "Our Daily Bread" meditation for November 7, 2018 further clarifies the will of God expressed in the Scripture Colossians 3: 12-15 "Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity." The writer quotes the account of two great

friends, once vowed enemies, who now say "We have this joint mission ... of letting the world know that if you owe an apology to somebody, put your pride down and go apologize. And if you are holding something against somebody, let go of the bitterness because it's like drinking poison and hoping it's hurting them. God calls believers to live in peace and unity. If we have a 'grievance against someone' we can bring it to Him. He will help us to reconcile".

Paul told the Philippians to "Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4: 4-7)

Therefore; let us fix our eyes, minds and hearts upon Jesus – not on the temptations and turbulence that holds us back from the bridge of forgiveness:

"Today, if you hear His voice,
Do not harden your hearts".

(Psalm 95:7-8)

When He calls, let us cross with confidence of faith that bridge that can be built with love and grace, supported by trusses of trust. Therefore; "let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race that is marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes upon Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." (Hebrews 12: 2-3)

Jesus himself said: "I have told you these things so that you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." (John 16:33)

L.S. Grubbs, Harrison, Ohio

CHURCH GROWTH: YOU COULD BE A CONSULTANT

If you visit another congregation, there is a very good chance you can give some advise on how to improve their situation. There are things like poor signage, ignoring visitors, and bad grounds keeping which (1) can have a negative impact on visitors and (2) can be unnoticed by regular attenders.

Members at your congregation do not need a sign for the restrooms, they all know where they are. If you are a visitor, it is sometimes a stress point to have to ask where to go to the bathroom. It is a small point, but you do not want unnecessary negative points impeding your Great Commission efforts.

To give advice doesn't have to mean you are smarter than someone else. It can come from different experiences, a different point of view, or just a fresh look at what is happening.

The question is not actually whether you can see things at another congregation which they simply do not notice, the question is whether there are things at your congregation which you do not notice which someone else will. Whereas you can be a good consultant at another congregation, can a similar person from that congregation give you some good advice?

If you are a typical congregation, that situation would be true.

All of us can do better at what we are doing, but we are frequently so wrapped up in our day-to-day routines that we overlook some things which will make our situation easier or better.

Not only are there individuals just like you in other congregations which might give you some good advise, there are a variety of individuals which study this subject.

We have known shepherds who have been carpenters, foremen, accountants, lawyers, presidents, engineers, salesmen, counselors, farmers, architects, teachers, and a variety of other professions. In probably all of these positions you likely take consultation or advice from others.

Frequently as a shepherd or elder in a congregation, you are asked to make shepherding decisions and management decisions. It is our observation that church decline is synonymous with the leadership becoming closed as if they had all the answers.

There is certainly wisdom in being able to ask others for counsel, and when asked to give it.

In an effort to for children placement, Foster's Home for Children is expanding by homes in the



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for Children

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be interviewing and hiring caregivers for these three homes. If you are interested in being considered, it is not too early to submit your application. Consider serving with us as we provide sanctuary and healing to children of trauma. Applications can be found on our website at www.fostershome.org, and submitted to glenn@fostershome.org.

For more information, contact 214 536-6172.

IMPOSSIBLE FOR EVOLUTION #110 – HUMMINGBIRD TONGUE

Last month we discussed the Woodpecker tongue which wraps around its brain. The Hummingbird has this same feature which demonstrates a common designer reusing the same designed components again.

The Woodpecker used a barb on the end to spear a prey whereas the Hummingbird is primarily interested in drinking nectar.

It was concluded about 1883 that the nectar was brought into the Hummingbird's mouth by capillary action. This "scientific truth" was that the nectar wicked up the tongue much like water will travel up a cotton string hung in a glass of water. This works, but is much too slow for a Hummingbird.

In the early 21st century using high speed photography, the "scientific truth" changed to that the tongue was forked with two tubes, plunged into the nectar, opened up to draw the nectar in, and retracted. This happens up to 15 times a second to allow the hummingbird to feed quickly. See the graphics for better details.

As the bird sticks its tongue out, the beak compresses the tubes. When it hits the nectar, it opens up (blooms) and draws the nectar in. The tongue returns to the mouth with a load of

nectar. This time when the tongue goes forward, the action of the end of the beak compressing the tube like structures squeezes or pumps the nectar out of the tongue "tubes" and into the birds mouth. When the tongue returns again the movement of the tongue then drives the nectar further down its throat.

An amazingly simple complex procedure which is repeated up to 15 times a second. You can go online and Google "hummingbird tongue" and see several high speed videos of this happening.

This is not something simply getting bigger over time. This is a specific new design requiring new DNA programming by an intelligent designer.

Benton F. Baugh

The New York Times

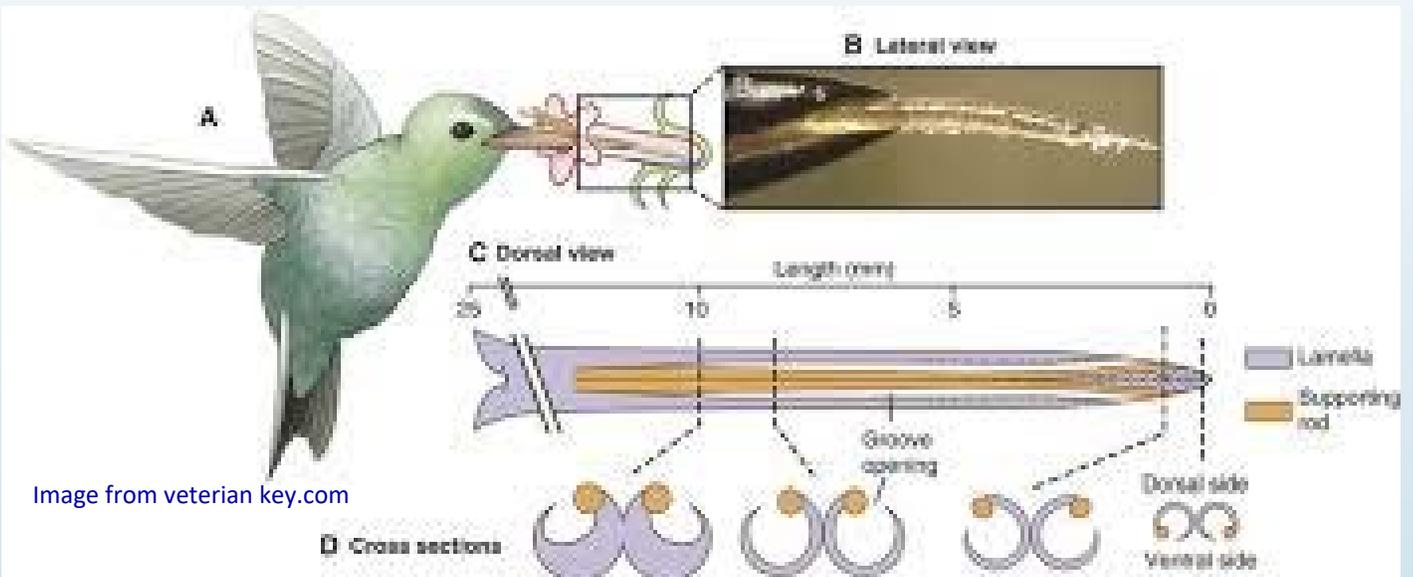
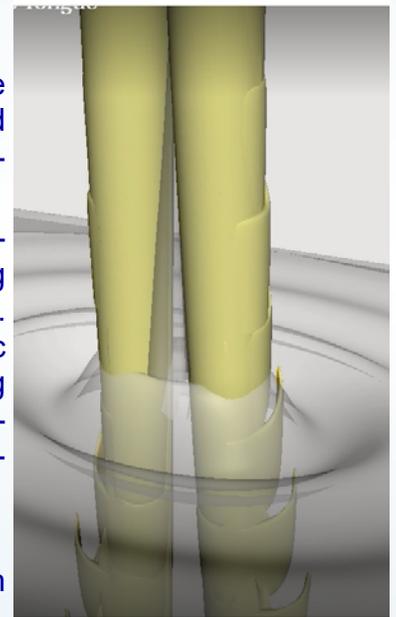


Image from veterian key.com



WINGS OF EAGLES VIDEO SERIES

Fifty years ago we could take it for granted that most people we met believed in God, were of the Christian religion, and that society in general supported church work. Today atheistic evolution is openly taught in schools and we are getting progressively less support for religious practices. After you have established a relationship with a prospect, this series will provide concise Christian apologetics.

This 3 lesson Wings of Eagles DVD personal evangelism series are addressed to our contemporary situation. They can be easily shown in a personal evangelism encounter or a Bible class lesson.

THE LESSON TOPICS ARE:

IF GOD?

A comparison of atheistic evolution with the reality of a god existing, leading to the conclusion that a god exists.

WHICH GOD?

A comparison of the various offerings to be the god, leading to the conclusion that Jehovah and Jesus are God.

WHATS NEXT?

A brief history of the world and of Christianity leading to a discussion of how to find Christ's church.

These lessons are available as a free download at occg.institute under the SERVICES tab. Additional supporting resources are on this website.

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Hello, this is Maxine -- I have questions!



Why do people constantly return to the refrigerator with hopes that something new to eat will have materialized?

Why do people run over a string a dozen times with their vacuum cleaner, then reach down, pick it up, examine it and then put it down to give the vacuum one more chance?

IF GOD?

SCIENTIFIC TRUTHS WHICH WERE WRONG



SUMMARY: Over the ages there have been numerous things which have been considered as scientific truth which were later determined to be wrong. If the Bible made the repetitive scientific mistakes which scientists make, it would be completely discredited as the word of God

Truth is true at any time and place.

Scientific truth is true at a time and place. It is what the majority of the educated people think at any given time. Some of the scientific truths we consider to be true are actually what is currently believed to be true today, but are actually wrong.

In the **scientific** method today, there is a clear distinction between **facts**, which can be observed and/or measured, and **theories**, which are **scientists'** explanations and interpretations of the **facts**. As an example, gravity is a fact and evolution of species is a theory. Functionally, evolution of species is taken as a scientific truth today, but it is only a theory and is not a fact.

For this discussion we are going to use the term **current scientific truth** to indicate at any time what would have been considered to be the scientific truth at some time.

This is easier to see historically as we can see some things considered truth in the past which are no longer considered to be truth as we have a new truth. As an example, George Washington was bled to death by leaches because it was considered true at that time that a person was benefitted by getting rid of some "bad blood".

Similarly, some of the things we believe as scientific truth today will be learned to not be true in the future. First, consider scientists today want to ignore scientific mistakes in the past because those people were just not as smart as they are. It may be appropriate to have a little history at this point:

1000 YEARS AGO: al-Haytham (Alhazen), 965–1039 Iraq., is considered by some to be the father of modern scientific methodology, due to his emphasis on experimental data and reproducibility of its results.

2400 YEARS AGO: Aristotle, 384–322 BCE. "As regards his method, Aristotle is recognized as the inventor of scientific method because of his refined analysis of logical implications contained in demonstrative discourse, which goes well beyond natural logic and does not owe anything to the ones who philosophized before him." – Riccardo Pozzo

4000 YEARS AGO: Jacob used selective breeding practices to change the genetic mix of their herds to his advantage. (Genesis 30)

Clearly scientific methods have been used by intelligent people for at least 4000 years.

SAMPLE OF ERRONEOUS SCIENTIFIC TRUTHS:

Consider the following examples of things which were understood to be scientific truth which we know today are not true.

1. **EARTH CENTERED PLANETARY SYSTEM:** Until the 17th century it was current scientific truth that the Sun orbited the earth, rather than that the Earth orbited the Sun. That was Geocentric whereas today we understand the Sun as the center of our solar system or Heliocentric.
2. **FLAT EARTH:** It was conventional scientific truth that the World was flat until the 5th century B.C.
3. **ETHER OR AETHER:** As late as the late 19th century it was current scientific truth that ether or aether filled the universe as some form of substance which allowed light to travel in space like sound does in air. Scientific truth today is that space is functionally a vacuum.
4. **PLATE TECTONICS:** In the 1950s the geologic current scientific truth changed from continental drift (generally continents move without an explanation) to plate tectonics (continents are on plates which are moved by lava flow below and crash into each other or separate during the movements).
5. **SPONTANEOUS GENERATION:** The supposed production of living organisms from nonliving matter, as inferred from the apparent appearance of life in some supposedly sterile environments. In 1668, an Italian physician named Francesco Redi came up with a hypothesis and experiment to disprove the idea of spontaneous generation—specifically. The idea was that maggots could come to life from meat. He then concluded that maggots only form when flies come in contact with meat and that spontaneous generation is not at play.
6. **PHLOGISTON:** in 1669 a fire-like element called phlogiston is contained within combustible bodies and released during combustion. The phenomena of burning was caused by the liberation of phlogiston, with the dephlogisticated substance left as ash or residue. Phlogiston was abandoned before the end of the 18th century following experiments by Antoine Lavoisier and others. The process is now called oxidation.
7. **HUMMINGBIRD TONGUE:** In 1833 it was scientific truth that the Hummingbird extended its tongue into the nectar and drew it into its mouth by capillary action. In the early 21st century using high speed photography, the “scientific truth” changed to that the tongue was forked with two tubes, plunged into the nectar, opened up to draw the nectar in, retracted, and squeezed out of the tongue tubes by the end of the beak as the tongue extended again. Sort of like a mechanical pump. See Christian Array issue #154 for more information.

IF GOD?

SCIENTIFIC TRUTHS WHICH WERE WRONG



8. **APPENDIX AS A VESTIGAL ORGAN:** The appendix was defined as a vestigial organ as having no function and it is now discovered that the appendix keeps a flora of bacteria stored so that when you have diarrhea it will provide the digestive bacteria quickly to restore normal digestion.
9. **END OF OIL:** It was current scientific truth in 1970, 1980, and 1990 that we were going to run out of oil in 20 years. We have discovered so much more oil since then that they no longer talk about the end of oil.
10. **INDESTRUCTABLE DIAMONDS:** It was current scientific truth that diamonds could not be destroyed by a hammer. Specifically, in India if someone thought they had found a large diamond, it was struck with a hammer to see if it was a diamond. By that current scientific truth they destroyed a number of large diamonds.
11. **PLUTO** was discovered in 1930 and it became current scientific truth that it was a planet. In 2006 when it became current scientific truth that it was not a planet. It is now current scientific truth that it is a dwarf planet.
12. **BAD BLOOD:** In the 18th and 19th centuries it was scientific truth that if you bled the blood from sick people you could have gotten rid of illnesses. George Washington was bled to death by the application of leaches.
13. **CORPUSCLE:** “After about 1630, for example, and particularly after the appearance of Descartes’s immensely influential scientific writings, most physical scientists assumed that the universe was composed of microscopic corpuscles and that natural phenomena could be explained in terms of corpuscular shape, size, motion, and interaction.” (THE STRUCTURE OF SCIENTIFIC REVOLUTIONS , p. 41)
14. **LIGHT:** In the 18th century, light was believed to be material corpuscles (Isaac Newton’s *Opticks*). Then influenced by Einstein, Planck and others it became scientific truth that light was transverse wave motion. For the past half century the new truth is that light is photons which exhibit some characteristics of waves and some of particles.(THE STRUCTURE OF SCIENTIFIC REVOLUTIONS, p. 12)
15. **EATING COLD FOOD:** “In the early 1800s, Americans thought that eating cold food was unhealthy and bad for digestion.” The Old Farmer’s Almanac Calendar, 2020, Aug.
16. **MOON DUST:** In the 1950s before space exploration it was “truth” that the dust layer on the Moon was about 20’ thick because the dust just landed over the long ages and was not integrated into the soil like it is on earth. Big soft moon lander wheels were being designed to cope with it. When the first rockets landed on the Moon it was discovered that the dust layer was only a couple of inches thick. The long ages estimates were not changed, it was just ignored that this had proven them wrong.
17. **HONING A KNIFE BLADE:** The official truth (per the Boy Scout Manual) was that blades should be sharpened going away from the cutting edge. It changed in the next Boy Scout Manual to going towards the blade as the better method.

18. **GRASS CLIPPINGS:** In the 1950s and 1960s it was bad to leave the grass clippings on the yard because it smothered the grass and promoted Cinch Bugs. When the land fills were becoming overrun with grass clippings in non-biodegradable plastic bags, it became “truth” that it was better to leave the grass clippings in the yard.
19. **WIND POWER:** In the 19th century wind power scientific truth in wind turbine efficiency was having a maximum amount of blade area (e.g. a farmer’s windmill). In the 20th century the truth in wind power became having the maximum area swept by the blades and not of blade area itself (see conventional wind turbines) resulting typically today in 3 skinny blades sweeping a large area.
20. **SAIL POWER:** Until about the year 1800, square sails were perceived to be the correct way to power ships. At that time triangular sails with a boom across the bottom became the way to build wind powered ships.
21. **TOMATOES ARE POISONOUS:** From about 1600 to 1800 tomatoes were understood to be poisonous at least in Europe and North America because of the tomatoes and eating on pewter plates which have a high concentration of lead. The acidic tomatoes leached the lead out of the plates, so it was actually lead poisoning.

CURRENT SCIENTIFIC TRUTH WHICH ARE GOING TO BE SHOWN TO BE WRONG:

The following are offered for your interest, but are not the subject of this article. If you want to discuss any of these, contact us at info@occg.institute.

1. **WIND POWER:** The current scientific truth that wind power in wind turbines is a function of swept area rather than blade area will come to be recognized as wrong. This is proven regularly in testing at Oklahoma Christian University.
2. **BIG BANG:** The spontaneous creation of matter in a “big bang” will shown to be wrong. A starting fact is that a “big bang” would result in a spherical universe. The universe is flat rather than spherical.
3. **THE SPEED OF LIGHT IN A VACUUM IS EXACTLY 186,282 miles per second (299,792 kilometers per second):** The speed of light can be controlled by an electromagnetic field. It will be demonstrated that the speed of light in space is controlled by the strength of the electromagnetic fields rather than be uncontrolled at an exact speed.
4. **YOU CANNOT TRAVEL FASTER THAN THE SPEED OF LIGHT:** There is no absolute stationary point in the universe but rather all speed is relative to something else. All you need to do is to define a reference system which is moving toward you at the speed of light and run towards it.

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