

# **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)

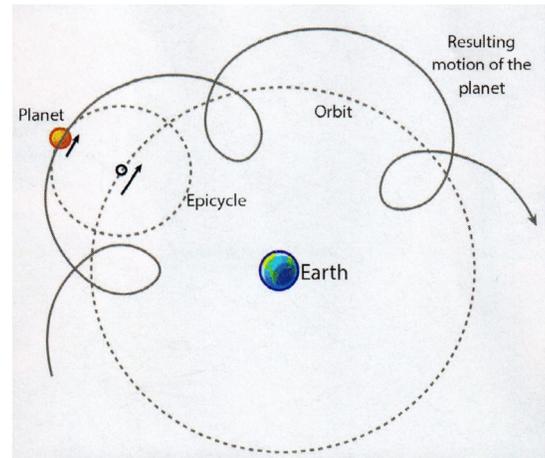
Clearly scientific methods have been used by intelligent people for at least 4000 years.

### 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:**

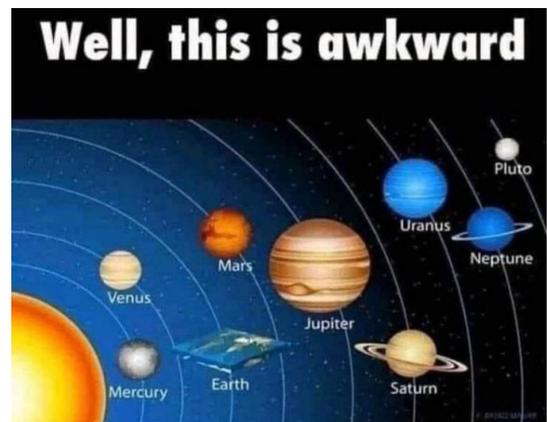
Until the 17th century it was current scientific truth that the Sun orbited the earth, rather than that the Earth orbited the Sun. That was Geocentric whereas today we understand the Sun as the center of our solar system or Heliocentric. From the Geocentric point of view the Sun would appear to orbit the earth in a circle, however, the apparent movement of the other planets relative to the earth appeared to have an epicyclic movement such as is illustrated in the graphic. From the Earth's point of view sometimes they appeared to be going forward and sometimes backwards. Galileo was literally put under house arrest for suggesting that our solar system was Sun centered.



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 18<sup>th</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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
8. **APPENDIX AS A VESTIGIAL 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. Because of 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 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> 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. **PROTOPLASM:** In this 1860s and 1870s scientists believed life was composed of a simple substance called protoplasm that could be easily constructed by combining and recombining simple chemicals such as carbon dioxide, oxygen, and nitrogen. (RETURN OF THE GOD HYPOTHESIS, p. 170)
15. **LIGHT:** In the 18<sup>th</sup> century, light was believed to be material corpuscles (Isaac Newton’s *Opticks*). Then influenced by Einstein, Planck and others it became scientific truth that

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- 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)
16. **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.
  17. **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.
  18. **HONING A KNIFE BLADE:** The official truth (per the 1950s 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.
  19. **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 landfills 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.
  20. **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.
  21. **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.
  22. **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.
  23. **AIR WAS WEIGHTLESS:** Until 1638 when Galileo experimented with Aristotle’s leather-bag experiment, air was believed to be weightless. Galileo proved it had weight. Isaac’s Storm, Vintage Books, p. 43.
  24. **HURRICANES ROTATE:** Until 1831 it was believed that hurricanes were winds in a single direction until the study by William Redfield in Connecticut. Isaac’s Storm, Vintage Books, p. 53.
  25. **CIGARETTES MAKE PEOPLE STUPID:** In 1900 cigarettes were banished from the U.S. weather stations because it was believed that smoking made people stupid. Isaac’s Storm, Vintage Books, p. 73.

26. **HARDENING OF THE ARTERIES:** “Traditionally it was thought that cardiovascular disease arose from the hardening and building up of plaque – made partly out of cholesterol – in arteries. But now doctors understand that this is a disorder both of cholesterol and inflammation.” SHOULD I EAT THIS?, 4<sup>th</sup> edition, Consumer Reports, 2020, page 47.
27. **EGGS GIVE YOU CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE:** In the 1970s it was taught that there was a connection between eggs and cardiovascular disease. No studies since then have shown a link between eggs and heart attacks and eating eggs doesn’t raise the levels of cholesterol in your blood much anyway. When eaten as a part of a healthy diet, eggs are unlikely to harm your health. SHOULD I EAT THIS?, 4<sup>th</sup> edition, Consumer Reports, 2020, page 168.

If the Bible taught any of these concepts which were a contemporary scientific truth at times in the past and believed by scientists at that time, it would be completely discredited.

**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](mailto: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 be 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, as if an Intelligent Designer laid it out like a canvas to work on.
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.