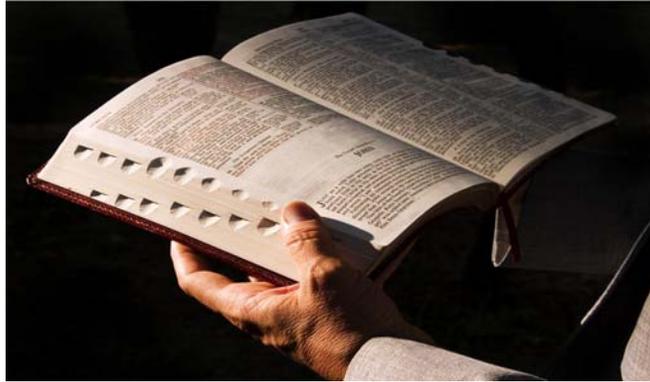


Spring 2015 Newsletter

# Detroit Bible Students Ecclesia

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## THE WORLD'S GREATEST BOOK

*“Thy word is truth.” John 17:17*

THE BIBLE. Of all the books in circulation today, the Bible is the best seller. However, though it has been translated into 1200 languages and dialects, it is one of the least read publications. While admitting that the Bible contains good maxims and valuable lessons, many people feel unequal to the challenge of understanding it and therefore leave it alone.

The Bible was written by around 40 men over a period of 1600 years, from roughly 1500 B.C. to 100 A.D. Of all the writings of ancient authors, including those as well-known as Plato, Aristotle and Homer, the Bible has vastly more existing manuscripts dating back to within 100 years of the last events recorded. The next nearest is Homer's Iliad with copies dating no earlier than 500 years after his lifetime. Yet the Bible is the constant target of critics who impugn its authenticity and challenge its record of history and creation. We have already examined the Bible's prophetic accuracy (see *Winter 2014 Newsletter, "Bible Prophecy,"* available at [biblnewsletter.org](http://biblnewsletter.org)) In this issue we will examine the Bible's scientific accuracy.

### Science or Myth?

Science is the systematic knowledge of the physical or material universe gained by observable facts. The sacred writings of all world religions basically contain a system of faith but each also makes statements within the province of science that provide a

uniquely valid test of their authenticity. If their scientific observations are in reality superstitions reflective of the culture in which they were written, these books are disqualified as the inspired Scripture of God.

If, however, the scientific observations of any of these purported Holy scriptures agree with the facts of science known today, then that writing is the inspired Word of a true and living God. Why? The God and Creator of the universe is the God of science; the author of the scientific laws that govern His universe. Only the God of science could cause scientific facts to be recorded hundreds or thousands of years before scientists discovered them. Let us examine the various sacred writings.

### What Holds the Earth Up?

Three thousand years ago the Hindu scriptures recorded that the earth was resting on the backs of several huge elephants. The elephants were resting on the back of a very large turtle that was swimming in a sea. Greek mythology claimed that the god Atlas was holding the earth on his shoulders. But our Bible says in Job 26:7, “[God] hangeth the earth on nothing.” What a remarkable statement of fact. The earth is suspended in space. Nothing is holding it up. Job wrote about the same time the Hindu Scripture was written. How did Job know this scientific fact? Only God could have revealed this to him.

## Flat Versus Round Earth

For thousands of years people believed the earth was flat. If one went too far, he would fall over the edge. This was taught in both Hindu and Buddhist scripture as well as accepted in the illiterate Christian world during the Dark Ages. In the 1500s, the first ship sailed around the world. This provided empirical proof for many that the world was round. But that the earth was round had been recorded in the Judeo-Christian Bible long before.



The prophet Isaiah (40:22) spoke of the "circle of the earth." Solomon wrote, "He [God] set a compass [circle] upon the face of the deep." (Proverbs 8:27) About 3,000 years ago, our Bible said the earth was round. Indeed, the Judeo-Christian Bible is the inspired Word of God.

## The Bottom of the Ocean

Until modern times, people thought the ocean floor was sandy like the desert and saucer shaped; deepest in the middle. This was even true of the pre-1900 geologists. But in the 1900s oceanographers found that the sea had many deep valleys or canyons. The deepest canyons were called trenches. The Marianas Trench in the Pacific is so deep that if Mt. Everest (29,000 feet high) was dropped into it, the peak would still be a mile below the water's surface. There are also underwater mountains. The Atlantic Ocean contains an undersea range of mountains 10,000 miles long.

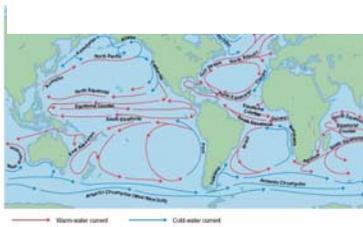
Three thousand years ago the Judeo-Christian Bible spoke of the valleys and mountains of the sea. In Psalm 18:15 (NIV) David wrote of God's being the creator of "the valleys of the sea." God asked Job (38:16 NIV): "Have you walked in the recesses [valleys] of the sea?" The prophet Jonah was thrown off a ship and spoke of falling to the bottom of the mountains in the sea (Jonah 2:6).

The Judeo-Christian Bible recorded the existence of the valleys and mountains of the sea thousands of years before scientists discovered them. Indeed our Bible is the inspired Word of God.

## The Paths of the Sea

In the 1800s, Matthew Maury, an officer in the United States Navy believed his Bible. One day Maury was reading Psalm 8. He was amazed that verse 8 spoke of the fish and all creatures that swim in the "paths of the sea." "Paths of the sea"; how could this be? He never knew there was such a thing. He was determined to find them. Maury discovered that the oceans have many paths or currents, which were like rivers flowing through the sea. Maury

wrote the first book on oceanography and became known as "the pathfinder of the seas"; "The father of modern navigation."



Maury conceived his idea about ocean currents from reading Psalm 8:8 which was written about 3,000 years ago by King David. David wrote as he was

moved by the Spirit of God and probably never actually saw an ocean. Incidentally, Psalm 8:8 also spoke of fish in the "paths of the seas." All fishing boats make a good catch in the currents or paths of the sea. They have learned this is where the fish swim.

## Lightning, Thunder and Rain

In ancient times, most religious scripture taught that lightning bolts were missiles thrown in anger by their gods. Since rain is so necessary to life, ancient people pondered what caused it. Some tried to stab holes in the clouds with spears. The Vedas (Hindu scripture) advised tying a frog with its mouth open to the right tree and saying certain specific words to bring rainfall.



Job stated (28:26): "God made decrees [rules] for the rain. And He set a way for the lightning of the thunder" Only 300 years ago, Galileo discovered the "rules for the rain," or the water cycle, that Job talked about. The sun

evaporates water from the ocean. Then the water vapor rises and becomes clouds. This water in the clouds falls back to earth as rain, collects in streams and rivers, and makes its way back to the ocean. That process repeats itself again and again.

Amazingly, the Scriptures described this cycle centuries before Christ. The prophet Amos (9:6) wrote that God "calls for the water of the sea. He pours them out on the land." Amos wrote as he was moved by the Spirit of God.

## The Stars of Heaven

Job 38 deals with the wonders of God's creation. In Job 38:31, 32 God tells Job: "Canst thou bind the sweet influences of Pleiades or loose the bands of Orion? Canst thou guide Arcturus with his sons?"

**Orion** "Canst thou...loose the bands of Orion?" Garrett P. Serviss, the noted astronomer, wrote about the bands of Orion in his book Curiosities of the Sky. At the present time this band consists of an almost perfect straight line. In the course of time, however, the two right-hand stars, Mintaka and Alnilam, will approach each other and form a naked-eye double; but the third,

Alnitak, will drift away eastward so that the band will no longer exist.

Thus, these stars that we see forming one of the bands of Orion are like three ships out on the high seas that happen to be in line at the present moment, but in the future will be separated by thousands of miles of ocean. In fact, all these stars that at the present time constitute the constellation of Orion are bound for different ports, and all are journeying to different corners of the universe, so that the bands are being dissolved.

**The Pleiades** "Canst thou bind the sweet influence of the

Pleiades...?" Notice the amazing astronomical contrast with the Pleiades. The seven stars of the Pleiades are in reality a grouping of 250 suns. Photographs now reveal that 250 blazing suns in this group are all traveling together in one common direction.



From Lick Observatory came this statement of Dr. Robert J. Trumpler: "The Pleiades stars may thus be compared to a swarm of birds, flying together to a distant goal. This leaves no doubt that the Pleiades are not a temporary or accidental agglomeration of stars, but a system in which the stars are bound together by a close kinship."

Incredible! God's laws of cosmology are loosing or dissolving the constellation Orion. Sometime in the far distant future, Orion will be no more. Conversely, wonder of wonders; every last one of the 250 blazing suns in the Pleiades are ordained of God to orbit together in their symmetrical beauty throughout eternity.

**Arcturus** "Canst thou guide Arcturus with his sons?" Garrett P. Serviss wrote: "Arcturus, one of the greatest suns in the universe, is a runaway whose speed of flight is 257 miles per second. Arcturus, we have every reason to believe, possesses thousands of times the mass of our sun. Think of it! Our sun is traveling only 12-1/2 miles a second, but Arcturus is traveling 257 miles a second. Think then of the prodigious momentum this motion implies.

"It could only be stopped by collision head on with a body of enormous mass. Barring such accidents, it must, as far as we can see, keep on until it has traversed our stellar system, whence it may escape and pass out into space beyond to join perhaps one of those other island universes..."

The wonders of God's universe never cease to amaze us. Arcturus and his sons are individual runaway suns that seem to be out of orbit in our galaxy. Traveling at such incredible speeds, why don't they crash with other suns or planets? Where are they

headed? Only God knows. Indeed they are not runaways. They will not crash. Why? God is guiding them.

When Mr. Burckhalter of Chabot Observatory had his attention called to this text in the book of Job, he studied it in the light of modern discovery and made a statement that has attracted worldwide attention: "The study of the Book of Job and its comparison with the latest scientific discoveries has brought me to the matured conviction that the Bible is an inspired book and was written by the One who made the stars."

## Creation

Various creation stories exist amongst the religions of the world. Without going into detail, only the Bible contains an outline of the development of life that agrees with the now known fossil record. The objection to the creation account of the Bible lies in the use of the term "day." When properly understood, the difficulty vanishes. A day in the Bible can mean 40 years (Psalm 95:8), 1,000 years (2 Peter 3:8) or a year (Ezekiel 4:6) or an epoch. In other words, the "days" spoken of in Genesis are creative eras of unspecified length, characterized by a specific work and marked by a beginning and ending, and thus fully in agreement with the scientific record which records "explosions" of life forms (i.e. the Cambrian Explosion).

The Judeo-Christian Scripture contains scientific observations that were not confirmed until thousands of years later by modern science, while the sacred scriptures of other world religions merely reflect the scientific superstitions of their culture. How could the Judeo-Christian Scripture anticipate scientific discovery by 3,000 years? The Judeo-Christian Bible was written by men who were inspired by God—the Creator of the Universe. Only the Judeo-Christian Bible is the Divine Revelation provided by our infinite Creator to direct us in the path to eternity. **"Thy Word is Truth!"**

Please send me the FREE booklet:

### **Science and Creation**

Mail your request to:

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