

## Science and Scripture...

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believe that there is a conflict between science and scripture. Prior to Darwin and the advent of humanism, scientists in general did not believe there was a conflict between the two and we should remember this. Looking back then over that past 500 years of modern history, you will find a time when science and scripture was in harmony, then science and scripture was in conflict, and today, there is some compromise (usually with the Bible) to try and get science and scripture to harmonize.

Before looking at a positive case for the harmony between science and scripture, let's remind ourselves of the aims of science and of scripture. What is the aim of "science"? "Science", as mentioned above, simply means "to know" or "to understand". We are trying to know or understand the natural world around us. What is the aim of scripture? To know God's plan of salvation for us so that we can be in a right relationship with him and go to heaven. Both of those aims, when practiced properly, are in harmony.

However, we need to be careful with both. When practicing "science", we need to make sure that we always have the facts of science before us and not "science that is falsely so called (1 Timothy 6:20). And when practicing Bible study, we need to make sure we always "handle accurately" the word of truth (2 Timothy 2:15) and never "twist" the scriptures to our own destruction (2 Peter 3:16). - Chris Reeves

## Sentence Sermons

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- It is better in life to ask twice, than to go the wrong way.
- When a dishonest man makes a mistake, he tries to cover it up, but when an honest man makes one, he corrects it.
- Many people are like rivers, crooked and following the path of least resistance.
- Salvation is free, but not cheap.
- Faith comes by hearing God's word.

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## THE WARFIELD BULLETIN

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.  
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

# Is There A Conflict Between Science and Scripture? - Part I

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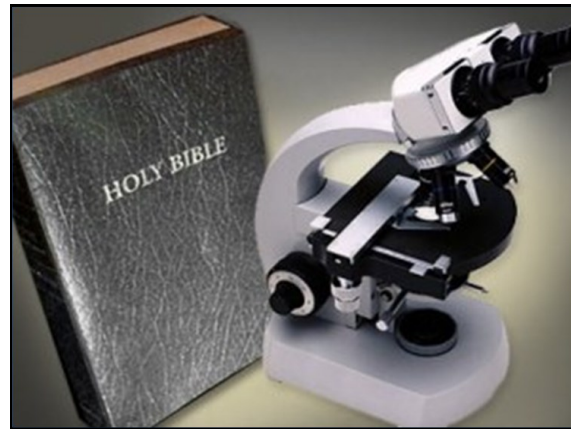
As Christians, we “by faith”, believe that God created the world by his word. Hebrews 11:3 reads: *“By faith we understand that the worlds have been framed by the word of God, so that what is seen has not been made out of things which appear.”* But, many today believe there is a conflict between modern science and ancient scripture. They say that you either believe in science or you believe in the Bible, but you certainly don’t believe in both.

So I ask the question, “Is there a conflict between science and scripture?” Well, it depends upon who you ask. Unbelieving scientists would answer “Yes”, while believing scientists would answer “No”. (And yes, there are actually believing scientists today!) Unbelievers of the Bible would answer “Yes,” while believers of the Bible would answer “No”. The truth is, when both science and scripture are properly understood and interpreted, there is no conflict whatsoever between them.

Many of our young people today are introduced to matters of science (in school) and scripture (in the church) and they need to know that both science and scripture are in harmony. According to Psalm 19, God gave us his **WORLD** (Psalm 19:1-6) and his **WORD** (Psalm 19:7-11) and there is perfect harmony between God’s world (of science) and God’s word (of scripture). Truth never contradicts truth! True science and true religion are not in conflict.

As Christians, we need to be ready to give an answer for our faith in both science and scripture. The Apostle Peter wrote: *“But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asks you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear”* (1 Peter 3:15).

Now, there will be a conflict between science and scripture if people do not handle sci-



ence or scripture properly, If scientists engage in faulty science and if Bible students engage in faulty exegesis of the Bible, then yes, there will be a conflict. Conflict will exist when someone interprets that facts of science the wrong way or when someone interprets the truth of scripture the wrong way. More on this later.

Did you know that in 1633, the Catholic Church persecuted Galileo for teaching that the earth revolved around the sun? They branded him a “heretic”! They did this, in part, because they were ignorant of true science

and a true interpretation of scripture (they thought the earth stood still according to Psalm 104:5).

What is “science”? “Science” simply means “to know” and we can know all that we can about God’s world and about God’s word. Since both the world and the word come from God, there will always be harmony and never conflict.

In fact, in the past 500 years many leading scientists in the world were also believers in God’s word. Did you know that? Men like Sir Francis Bacon, Louis Pasteur, Sir Isaac Newton, Robert Boyle, Lord Kelvin, Gregor Mendel, Louis Agassiz, Leonardo da Vinci, Blaise Pascal, James Joule, Samuel Morse, George Washington Carver, Wernher von Braun, and many others all believed in God’s world (natural revelation) and in God’s word (special revelation). They did not see a conflict between science and scripture. Did you know that 42 of the 68 founding members of the British Royal Society of Science were religious Puritans who read their Bible? Amazing!

What happened was, in the mid-1800’s, Charles Darwin (the father of modern evolution) and his *Origin of the Species* influenced many scientists and religionists to take a humanistic view of science. They slowly removed God from the process of creation. As a result, today we live in a post-Darwin world where many