

Amazing Scientific Insights of the Bible

by Don Johnson, Ph.D., Computer Science Department, Azusa Pacific University

Scientia (Latin root word): knowledge or truth

Natural science	Study of truths found in nature
Computer science	Study of logical/computational truths
Social science	Study of truths found in society

Science can be Exact/Inexact and Operational/Historical

Christianity and Science

"The sheer act of faith that the universe possessed order and could be interpreted by rational minds... That is... dealing with a rational universe controlled by a creator who did not act upon whim nor interfere with the forces He had set in operation. The experimental method succeeded beyond man's wildest dreams but the faith that brought it into being owes something to the Christian conception of the nature of God. It is surely one of the curious paradoxes of history that science, which professionally has little to do with faith, owes its origins to an act of faith that the universe can be rationally interpreted, and that science today is sustained by that assumption." (Loren Eiseley, Darwin's Century: Evolution and the Men Who Discovered It, 1961)

Great scientists who were Christians include Newton, Faraday, Kelvin, Maxwell, Boyle, Pascal, Pasteur, Kepler, and Galileo.

The scientific concern of science and the supernatural

"The creationist can easily explain any phenomenon by simply saying 'God did it.' This approach, though it may be perfectly correct in the absolute sense, does not foster further inquiry and is therefore intellectually emasculated." (William Stansfield, The Science of Evolution, 1977)

Biblical Basis for Study of Science and the Bible

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." (Matthew 22:37, NIV)

"For the Lord gives wisdom, and from His mouth come knowledge and understanding." (Proverbs 2:6, NIV)

"Keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called." (1 Timothy 6:20-21, KJV)

Amazing scientific insight (for such "primitive" people)

Mass and Energy Conservation: $(\Delta E) + c^2(\Delta M) = 0$

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." (Gen. 1:1)

"His work has been finished since the creation of the world." (Heb. 4:4)

"The Son is ... sustaining all things by this powerful word." (Heb. 1:3)

God is omnipotent, "easily" converting some power to mass

Conversion: $931 \text{ MeV/amu} = 9 \times 10^{13} \text{ J/g} = 2.6 \times 10^7 \text{ kWh/g}$

(12-ounces of soda $\rightarrow 10^6$ homes' energy for 1 year) (2 Peter 3:7-10)

Naturalism requires "matter from nothing", or "eternal existence"

Second LAW of thermodynamics: entropy (S) always increases

- Perpetual-motion is impossible since everything runs-down
- Directed energy is required for an isolated entropy decrease
- Living organisms are energy rich (0.27 ev/at lower entropy)
- Evolution requires decrease in entropy (complexity increases)

"Creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay."

(Romans 8:21; also Psalm 102:25-26)

Man is “fearfully and wonderfully made,” Psalm 139:14

10^5 genes, each with $> 10^3$ bits of information (overlapping)

10^{13} distinctive traits by DNA sequence

$>60,000$ bases in folded $6'$, 10^{-16} gram chain

$3 \cdot 10^{10}$ rungs of digital self-correcting encoded information

Information in 1 teaspoon of DNA: all people + all books

Even the "simplest" organism's DNA has > 5000 nucleotides

DNA/RNA must be fully-formed/functional (with enzymes/proteins)

Each cell is a complex chemical factory (10^{-13} of Viking spacecraft's size)

<1 second to do what scientists can manufacture in weeks

Self-replicating, 3-D, networked computing/storage system

$>10^{15}$ human brain interconnections, performing 10^{15} operations/second

1 second of optic nerve's data would take >2 Cray hours to process

Talking: $>10^5$ neuromuscular events/second, using >100 muscles

(controlling diaphragm, tongue, cheeks, jaw, etc.)

Life's complexity allows a maximum probability of forming:

a) a biologically functional amino acid: 1 part in 10^{175}

c) a normal protein of molecular wt 20,000: $\frac{1}{2}$ part in 10^{320}

d) the required enzymes for life: 1 part in 10^{40000}

e) a living, self-replicating cell: 1 part in $10^{100000000000}$

Fixity of Kinds: “according to their kinds” (Genesis 1)

The fossil record supports creation with:

a) a multitude of life in the oldest fossil-bearing rocks

b) fixity of species over "eons" of time (NO transitional forms)

There is no known evolution mechanism (classical/neo-Darwin)

Chance has NO causative effect: it NEVER produces information!

Astronomy: Genesis 22:17, Jeremiah 33:22

“I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore.” (Genesis 22)

10^{11} galaxies, 10^{11} stars each (only 4,000 of 10^{22} stars viewable)

“He stretches out (*expanding*) the heavens like a tent.” (Psalm 104:2)

Earth: (orbit, rotation, atmosphere, etc. "designed" for life)

“He sits enthroned above the circle of the earth.” (Isaiah 40:22)

“He suspends the earth over nothing.” (Job 26:7)

“He ... fixed securely the fountains of the deep.” (Proverbs 8:27)

Deep valleys in the ocean (>5 mi) described in Psalm 104.

The water cycle is described in Ecclesiastes 1:6-7 and Job 36:27-29

The Universe is “fine-tuned” to allow for life on earth

“An accuracy of one part in 10^{123} ...the precision needed to set the universe on its course.”

Penrose in *The Emperor's New Mind*, p.344

“He who created the heavens, He is God; He who fashioned and made the earth, He founded it; He did not create it to be empty, but formed it to be inhabited.” (Isaiah 45:18)

Health: Laws on washing, quarantine, & diet (especially Leviticus 13-14)

Biology: >250 botanical terms, hundreds of animals described

Description of crucifixion 1000 years before it existed: Psalm 22

Events (v1, 6-8, 18) and graphic description (v14-17)

Bones out of joint, dehydration, pierced hand and feet

Pericardial infusion: heart like wax (John 19:34-35)

(Jesus literally died from a broken heart)

Linguistics & Etymology (study of language & words)

Genesis 11: 1 & 8 -- No "primitive language" exists

"The most ancient languages, for which we have written texts -- Sanskrit, for example -- are often far more intricate and complicated in their grammatical forms than many contemporary languages,"

(What is Linguistics? p.44).

There are ~24,000 ethnic groups with 6,000 different languages.

Tower of Babel (>700' high) described by Herodotus 500 BC

Archaeological verifications--things "higher criticism" discounted

Ebla Tablets include descriptions of many Biblical people, cities

(Sodom, Gomorrah, Zoar, Jerusalem, Salim) and Creation

Jericho's walls (Joshua 6:20) DID fall flat

Annihilated Canaanite tribes (Edomites, Moabites, etc.) existed

The events/circumstances of Daniel have been substantiated

Dead Sea Scrolls verified many people, places, and events of the New Testament

"The excessive skepticism shown toward the Bible...has been progressively discredited. Discovery after discovery has established the accuracy of the Bible as a source of history." (The Archaeology of Palestine)

Statistical probabilities of fulfilled specific prophecies

One chance in:

Tyre:	7×10^7	Samaria:	4×10^4	Edom:	1×10^4
Babylon:	5×10^9	Jerusalem:	8×10^{10}	Jericho:	2×10^5
Moab:	1×10^3	Palestine:	2×10^5	Gaza:	1×10^4

For all 9 of the above to occur: 1 in 2×10^{54}

e.g., Tyre (Ezekiel 26:3-21, 570 BC) prophecies include:

- 1) Nebuchadnezzar destroys (v8): in 538 BC
- 2) Many nations against (v3): included Babylonia, Greece, etc.
- 3) Into the sea to be a bare rock (v4-5, 12): Alexander (332 BC)
- 4) Never rebuilt (v14, 21): today fishermen dry their nets there

Calculated probability of 48 Messianic prophecies is 1 in 10^{157}

(Jesus uniquely fulfilled 60 major prophecies) (Science Speaks)

Conclusions

The Bible IS reliable and can be trusted (2 Timothy 3:16).

Christian faith is fact-based, not "blind" or "anti-logic" (John 8:32).

Our knowledge on any subject is limited (1 Corinthians 13:12).

Proven reliability increases confidence in accuracy of predictions

(Heaven, Hell, judgment, salvation, etc. are based on faith).

The world is blind to many truths (Romans 1:18-32, 1 Corinthians 1:18-2:)