



## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: LESSON 12

**Scripture and Science** – one of the main problems many have in accepting the Bible is the apparent contradictions between the Bible and science, claiming that science has proven the Bible false. God is the author of all truth. Not all truth is in the Bible. God has revealed Himself in nature, history as well as in the Bible. However, since all truth is God’s truth, then there can be no contradiction between truths found in Scripture, and those in nature and history. Also it is important to note that the Bible is not a scientific textbook. It was written for the common person, using everyday observational rather than technical scientific language.

Theology is the fallible human interpretation of Scripture. Science is the fallible human understanding of nature. These may contradict each other and change with correct interpretation and new evidence. When correctly understood there can be no conflict between nature and the Bible, as God is the author of both.

**Flat Earth** – some thought that the world was square and flat, by taking literally verses such as Isaiah 11:12 or Revelation 7:1. However the Bible does not teach that the world is square (Isaiah 40:22). The problem wasn’t the Bible, rather the misinterpretation of the Bible.

**Geocentric System** – many scholars once believed the sun revolved around the earth. Even today’s meteorologists use the language of sunrise and sunset, which is scientifically incorrect. The 17<sup>th</sup> century physicist and astronomer Galileo Galilei expanded on the Copernican heliocentric model, and was condemned for heresy by the Catholic Church, which believed the earth to be the center of the solar system. This was not the Bible disputing nature, but faulty interpretation of the Bible opposing nature.

**Eternal Universe** – prior to the 1920s, almost all scientists believed that the universe was eternal and stationary. But based on further scientific research it was realized that the universe at some point was shrunk down to nothing from which it began to exist with a great explosion (i.e. the “Big Bang”), and has been expanding ever since. This is much closer to the Biblical account of God’s creation. So the problem wasn’t between nature and the Bible, but rather the misunderstanding of the natural world.

**Macro-evolution** – in the 19<sup>th</sup> century Charles Darwin, an English naturalist, made famous what some before him had speculated on, the theory of evolution (i.e. macro-evolution). According to Darwin, all the design, order and complexity of life are the result of time and chance, i.e. natural selection. Macro-evolution is a theory with no scientific evidence, whereas the evidence from nature, order, complexity and design, overwhelmingly point to an intelligent designer, outside and beyond creation itself.

The resistance of the secular scientific community against special creation by a Creator has been mainly due to philosophical rather than scientific grounds. Such scientists try to eliminate God, advancing a materialistic explanation for origins. There is an intense and natural bias against the idea of a divine Creator, special creation, the fall, evil, sin, accountability of man before Him, and other ramifications.

In reality, all modern science is based upon the notion that the universe is ordered, coherent and can be studied. Otherwise if the universe is chaotic, without design and fine-tuning, then the whole scientific pursuit would break down. And this presupposition and teaching is uniquely theistic and Christian.

There have been times in history where accurate scientific information have clarified and corrected, not the Scriptures, but the poor interpretations of Scripture; and on the other hand, the truths of the Bible have rejected scientific theories that have been faulty and unfounded. Far from science rendering God unnecessary, the results of true science point towards and are validated by God’s existence.