

## Talk It Over

## BARRIERS

(Week 3)

### Hasn't science disproved the Bible?

#### SMALL TALK

1. Why do you appreciate the Bible?
2. What was your last difficult decision to make? How did you make it?

#### VIEWPOINT

3. **READ John 7:17.** According to Jesus, how can someone be sure that what he speaks has God's authority?
4. Many science truths were revealed in the Bible long before science discovered them:

Geophysics  
Planetology  
Astronomy  
Earth Science  
Oceanography  
Hydrology  
Genetics  
Hematology  
Urology  
Epidemiology  
Public Health

Isaiah 40:22  
Job 26:7  
Genesis 15:5; 22:17  
2 Samuel 22:16; Jonah 2:6  
Psalm 8:8; Genesis 7:11; 8:2; Proverbs 8:28  
Job 26:8; 36:27–28; 38:25–27  
Genesis 1:21  
Leviticus 17:14  
Genesis 17:12  
Deuteronomy 23:12–13  
Leviticus 7:24; 11:33; 15:12; 13:3; 14:47–54; 14:34–47; 15:11

The fathers of science, people like Galileo, Sir Francis Bacon, and Sir Isaac Newton, would tell you the reason science works is because our world is ordered and designed and therefore predictable and can be studied by laws and principles. These laws of science are discoverable and predictable because our world is not random or accidental. Scientists studied our world to learn about the design and how things work. Though the Bible is not a science text, the Bible reveals many scientific facts.

True science and true theology from the Bible never contradict. Truth is cohesive. All truth is God's truth.

#### **#1. Geophysics:**

*For many thousands of years, common people believed the earth was flat. Until 16th century astronomers Copernicus and Kepler postulated otherwise; only a few Greek philosophers opposed the prevalent belief that a ship could sail off the edge of the earth!*

- *The "earth is flat" scientific theory held fast until the invention of the compass and Magellan's voyage in 1521.*

- The 1<sup>st</sup> person to circle the globe, Magellan, demonstrated that a ship could continually travel west (or east) around the world and return to its original point of departure... without falling off the edge!

However, this scientific truth had been revealed in the Bible more than 3,100 years before Magellan by Isaiah the 8<sup>th</sup> century b.c. prophet. Obviously, Isaiah did not get his wisdom from the knowledge base of man, in the science of his day. Isaiah proclaimed a revelation of the truth which came from God.

**Isaiah 40:22 (NIV)** He [God] sits enthroned above the circle [chug] of the earth... The Hebrew word chug means "circle, sphere, circuit." Isaiah's earth was indeed a circular sphere.

**Geophysics: The Bible Teaches the Earth is a sphere, not Flat**

### **#2. Planetology:**

Many ancient people believed "planet earth" was flat.

- Earth was believed to be carried on the back of a gigantic turtle swimming through some cosmic sea.
- Other later theories presented the earth as carried on the back of a tiger or an elephant. (The shaking of the elephant accounted for earthquakes.)
- Only in the 17th century a.d. did the scientific community, with Newton's gravitational theory, discover the force that propels celestial bodies through space.

However, this scientific truth had been revealed in the Bible much earlier in the Book of Job, written around the 15<sup>th</sup> century b.c.....

"He [God] spreads out the northern skies over empty space; he suspends the earth over nothing." ([Job 26:7](#))

**Planetology: The Bible Teaches the earth is suspended in space.**

### **#3. Astronomy:**

For thousands of years during Old Testament times, the number of stars in the skies was considered to be between 1,200 and 4,000 as seen by the naked eye. In a.d. 150 the world-renowned astronomer Ptolemy emphatically stated the exact number of stars to be 1,056.

Yet earlier, around 2000 b.c., God had told Abraham, "'Look up at the heavens and count the stars—if indeed you can count them.' Then he said to him, 'So shall your offspring be'" ([Genesis 15:5](#)).

**Genesis 22:17 (NIV)** I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies,

Within a very short time, Abraham had more than 4,000 descendants, later numbering in the millions. Was the Bible wrong? No.

With the scientific invention of the telescope in 1609, followed by the Hubble telescope in the 1990s, scientists today declare the stars to be as numerous as the sands of the sea.

- Astronomers estimate that there are at least 10 to the 26th power, that is a hundred—million—billion—billion stars.
- If you could count 10 numbers per second, it would take you at least a thousand million billion years to count to that number.

However, this scientific truth (the fact that the stars cannot be counted....and neither can Abraham [or anyone else ] count the number his offspring) had been revealed

in the Bible from God to Abraham some 3,700 years before the telescope was invented....

**Astronomy: The Bible implies that the stars cannot be counted.**

#### **#4. Earth Science:**

For thousands of years, until the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the scientific assumption was that the ocean was bowl-shaped—shallow around the edges and deepest in the middle. Yet today researchers have discovered that some of the highest mountains and deepest valleys exist in the middle of oceans, seen in the Atlantic range. In the Pacific Ocean, the Mariana Trench near the Philippines is over 7 miles deep.

However, this scientific truth had been revealed in the Bible several thousand years earlier.

- In the 10th century b.c., David spoke of "the valleys of the sea" (2 Samuel 22:16).

#### **2 Samuel 22:16 (NIV)**

<sup>16</sup> The valleys of the sea were exposed and the foundations of the earth laid bare at the rebuke of the LORD, at the blast of breath from his nostrils.

- In the 8th century b.c., rebellious Jonah, described sinking to the bottom of a submerged mountain after being thrown overboard...

**Jonah 2:6 (NIV)** <sup>6</sup> To the roots of the mountains I sank down...

**Earth Science: The Bible Teaches that Mountains and canyons exist in the sea.**

#### **#5. Oceanography:**

For thousands of years scientists knew nothing about sea lanes and ocean currents. Therefore, they drew no water charts for sailing lanes.

Then in 1839, when Dr. Matthew Maury, the father of modern oceanography, became ill, his son began reading the Bible to him. Astonished at hearing [Psalm 8:8](#), he asked to hear it again.

- As a result, he spent several years charting the paths of the seas—the currents of the ocean—which became the basis for the first textbook of modern oceanography, *Physical Geography of the Sea*.

However, this scientific truth had been revealed in the Bible much earlier by David in the 10<sup>th</sup> century b.c.....

**Psalms 8:8 (NIV)** the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas.

**Oceanography: The Bible Teaches that there are paths [ocean currents] in the sea.**

That's not all

#### **#6. Oceanography:**

For thousands of years, people were unaware of the "hidden" springs and fountains on the sea floor.

Then, after World War II, research ships discovered underwater volcanoes, and today more than 10,000 have been catalogued.

- Researcher Dr. William Rubey of the U.S. Geological Survey reports that each year 430 tons of water are released from underwater volcanic outlets.
- The heat from the volcanic activity forces the entrapped water out through one of these natural openings.

However, this scientific truth had been revealed much earlier in several books of the Bible.

In the 15<sup>th</sup> century b.c., the 1<sup>st</sup> book of the Bible described Noah as having entered

the ark when

**Genesis 7:11 (NIV)**

<sup>11</sup> In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, on the seventeenth day of the second month--on that day all the springs of the great deep burst forth, and the floodgates of the heavens were opened.

**Genesis 8:2 (NIV)**

<sup>2</sup> Now the springs of the deep and the floodgates of the heavens had been closed, and the rain had stopped falling from the sky.

In the 10<sup>th</sup> century b.c., the Bible describes the Creator God...

**Proverbs 8:28 (NIV)** <sup>28</sup> when he established the clouds above and fixed securely the fountains of the deep,

**Oceanography: The Bible Teaches there are Springs and fountains in the sea.**

**#7. Hydrology:**

For thousands of years, scientists understood the reality of rain clouds that resulted in rain. Yet hydrology—the science of water and the water cycle—was not understood. Unknown was the "hydrologic cycle."

- Then, in the 1st century b.c., Marcus Vitruvius described a philosophical theory—though limited—in which rain falling in the mountains infiltrated the earth's surface, which led to streams and springs in the lowlands.
- Yet it wasn't until the 15th century that Leonardo da Vinci presented an accurate picture of the hydrologic cycle. In essence, water on earth moves in a cycle through different pathways and at different rates. For example, the evaporation of ocean water produces clouds... clouds drifting over land produce rain... rainwater flows into lakes and rivers... water in lakes and rivers evaporates back into the atmosphere or eventually flows back into the ocean. And the cycle continues.

The Book of Job explains the work of God in this way...

**Job 26:8 (NIV)** He wraps up the waters in his clouds, yet the clouds do not burst under their weight.

**Job 36:27-28 (NIV)** "He draws up the drops of water, which distill as rain to the streams; <sup>28</sup> the clouds pour down their moisture and abundant showers fall on mankind.

**Job 38:25-27 (NIV)** Who cuts a channel for the torrents of rain, and a path for the thunderstorm, <sup>26</sup> to water a land where no man lives, a desert with no one in it, <sup>27</sup> to satisfy a desolate wasteland and make it sprout with grass?

The "Who" in the last sentence is the One who invented the cycle in the first place—the One who actually recorded the cycle in His Word.

Many scholars believe the book of Job is the oldest book of the Bible, older than Genesis, written during the patriarchal period of Abraham, 2,000 BC.

**Hydrology: The Bible describes the precipitation and evaporation cycles.**

**#8. Genetics:**

In 350 b.c. Aristotle presented the theory of "spontaneous generation"—life appears out of nonlife—a theory that the scientific world accepted for thousands of years.

Scientists theorized that frogs originated out of slime pools and insects out of rot.

- Then in 1862, with the invention of the microscope, Louis Pasteur totally disproved spontaneous generation.
- Then 3 years later, Johann Mendel developed what is now the universal law of heredity.

However, thousands of years earlier approximately 1,500 b.c., the 1<sup>st</sup> book of the Bible presented the same law of heredity verifying that all living things were created according to their own kind....

**Genesis 1:21 (NIV)** So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living and moving thing with which the water teems, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

**Genetics: All living things reproduce after their own kind.**

This truth, that all things reproduce according to their kinds, is denied by the theory of Evolution. Yet, the theory of Evolution has yet to produce any factual evidence to prove this long accepted scientific truth wrong. With no evidence to prove otherwise Evolution promotes the assumptions of the theory of evolution itself as factual data, where no data exists. The actual data overwhelmingly supports the truth that every species reproduces according to its kinds. The so called evolutionary tree is nothing but a hypothesis, the reality points to the branches are more like grass rather than a tree, all producing according to their kinds, not branches that work their way down to a common trunk.

**Genetics: The Bible Teaches that All living things reproduce after their own kind.**

#### **#9. Hematology:**

For some 3,000 years, "bloodletting" (that is bleeding the patient to remove harmful disease) was a widespread medical procedure practiced among many ancient peoples up until the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

- By removing a sizeable amount of blood from a patient, the medical community believed that any disease could be treated.
- Scientists and surgeons believed that bloodletting would remove stagnate blood building up in the extremities.
- The more severe the problem, the more blood would be "let"—whether by lances or leeches. But the truth is that bloodletting caused many illnesses to escalate in severity, even to the point of death.
- Suffering with a throat infection in 1799, George Washington, the 1st president of the United States, had approximately 4 pints (1.7 liters) of blood removed from his body, a process that contributed to his death.

Hundreds of years after Moses penned Leviticus, Herophilos, the celebrated Alexandrian physician who practiced medicine 300 BC identified blood as the carrier of disease.

However, notice the irony. **Centuries earlier**, the Bible had presented blood as the **carrier of life**. And nowhere in the Bible is one mention of the weakening, sometimes deadly practice of bloodletting....

"The life of every creature is its blood." ([Leviticus 17:14](#))

**Hematology: The Bible Teaches that Life is in the blood.**

#### **#10. Urology:**

God gave circumcision as a sign of His covenant with Israel. He told the Israelites to

circumcise on the 8<sup>th</sup> day.

"For the generations to come every male among you who is eight days old must be circumcised." ([Genesis 17:12](#))

Why was this circumcision to occur on the 8<sup>th</sup> day after birth?

- In 1947 Martin Rosenthal wrote a letter to the editor of *The Journal of the American Medical Association* explaining the best time to perform a circumcision.
- —Babies do not possess adequate clotting factors until 5-7 days after birth and therefore can be susceptible to hemorrhaging.
- —Circumcision should not be performed until the end of the 1st week of life in order to prevent the danger of severe hemorrhage. (Today, a vitamin K injection is routinely administered after birth to alleviate this danger.)
- In other words, the best day to perform a circumcision is on the 8th day after birth. Therefore, medical science has discovered that the 8th day is the perfect day.

However, God had given Abraham, some 4,000 years previously, the exact day this medical procedure should be done....

"For the generations to come every male among you who is eight days old must be circumcised." ([Genesis 17:12](#))

The Bible proves to be true even in this medical matter.

**Urology: The Bible Teaches that Circumcision is to be performed on the 8<sup>th</sup> day.**

**#11. Epidemiology: (field of study to prevent epidemic diseases)**

Today, no civilized society would allow human dung to be dumped into our public streets, yet up until the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, body waste lined filthy, unpaved streets. As a result...

Putrefied stench hovered over towns like dark, ominous clouds ready to rain their terror of death.

- The doctors of their day continually faced deadly epidemics of cholera, typhoid, dysentery, and similar illnesses. The medical doctor who wrote the book *None of These Diseases* states, "It was a hey-day for flies as they bred in the filth and spread intestinal disease that killed millions."
- However, if they had merely applied a short, biblical remedy given some 3,000 years earlier in the Book of Deuteronomy, most of the catastrophic diseases, epidemics, and plagues would have been eradicated....

"Designate a place outside the camp where you can go to relieve yourself. As part of your equipment have something to dig with, and when you relieve yourself dig a hole and cover up your excrement." ([Deuteronomy 23:12-13](#))

**Epidemiology: The Bible Teaches that Public sanitation is essential.**

**#12. Public Health:**

For 40 years, Moses grew up in Pharaoh's court during the writing of ancient Egypt's most significant medical book. In 1536 b.c., *The Papyrus Ebers* became the recognized world standard of medical books—because of Egypt's position as world leader. This medical volume presents hundreds of medical remedies including drugs made of "lizard's blood, swine's teeth, putrid meat, stinking fat, moisture from pig's ears, milk goose grease, donkey's hooves, animal fats from various sources, excrements from animals... human beings, donkeys, antelopes, dogs, cats, and even

flies."

*Moses knew all these accepted medical practices and potions—things we would call "quack cures" today. Yet as the one chosen by God to be the deliverer at the Exodus, the one through whom God gave the Law, the one who established hundreds of directives regarding health and sanitation, never did Moses recommend one of these so-called "remedies," never did he mention even one of them. And today, the public health policies of Moses are totally compatible with public health policies of the modern, civilized world. Where did Moses get such information that was far outside the box of the so called "science" of HIS day? God revealed it to him.*

*Moses, under God's direction, established laws instructing the people...*

- *To never eat animals that died of natural causes.... Leviticus 7:24*
- *To destroy contaminated objects.... Leviticus 11:33; 15:12*
- *To isolate or quarantine those who are sick.... Leviticus 13:4*
- *To burn used dressings, contaminated clothing.... Leviticus 13:47-54*
- *To rid a house of any mold.... Leviticus 14:34-47*
- *To wash clothes and bathe after touching someone with an infection or touching the bed of someone with an infection.... Leviticus 15:11*

**Public Health: Follow God's Public Health Policies—these work.**

*This is just a small sampling of the beginning of evidence that the Bible is no ordinary book. It is not merely the words of men, but the Holy Revelation of God.*

*June Hunt, Biblical Counseling Keys – The Bible: Is It Reliable?: Truth on Trial, (Dallas, TX: Hope for the Heart, 2008), WORDsearch CROSS e-book, 22-51.*

## GETTING PERSONAL

5. Have you ever applied the John 7:17 "test" and found it to work for you? What is it that makes this work?
6. When do you tend to struggle with doubts about the truths in the Bible? What causes the doubts, what helped you overcome these?

## MAKING PROGRESS

7. One of our core statements is: "Love God Wholeheartedly." Jesus told us to love God with all of our heart, soul, **mind**, and strength. Since all truth is God's truth, accurate science will go hand in hand with accurate theology. What are you doing to make progress loving God with all of your mind?



April 26, 2020

## **BARRIERS—3**

Hasn't Science Disproved the Bible?

### **Series Description:**

Some hard questions are like barriers between us and God, but what if these **barriers** that block our way are actually **signposts** that point the way?

### **4 BARRIERS**

1. How could a loving God allow so much suffering?
2. How can you say there is only one true faith?
3. Hasn't science disproved the Bible?
4. How could a loving God send people to Hell?

### **Today's Question: Hasn't Science Disproved the Bible?**

In the opening pages of *The Atheist's Guide to Reality*, ... **Alex Rosenberg** declares: *"There's so much more to atheism than its knockdown arguments that there is no God. There is the whole rest of the worldview that comes along with atheism. It's a demanding, rigorous, breathtaking grip on reality, one that has been vindicated beyond reasonable doubt. It's called science."*

Alex Rosenberg, *The Atheist's Guide to Reality: Enjoying Life without Illusions*

**Steven Pinker** states the negative case: *"The findings of science imply that the belief systems of all the world's traditional religions and cultures . . . are factually mistaken."*

Steven Pinker, *Enlightenment Now: The Case for Reason, Science, Humanism and Progress* .

If you only listened to the New Atheists you would think the case is now closed, but this is far from the truth.



People are often not aware that modern science was first developed by those who believed in God.

The fathers of science were believers like Galileo, Sir Francis Bacon, and Sir Isaac Newton. They would tell you the reason science works is because our world is ordered and designed and therefore predictable and can be studied by laws and principles. The laws of science are discoverable and predictable because our world is not random or accidental.

Many leading scientists believe the “Big Bang Theory” and say everything in the universe came into existence from nothing, and that this was caused by something powerful, non-spatial, non-temporal and non-material.

Did you know that when this scientific theory first came out it was more embarrassing to atheists than to believers?

*Genesis 1:1 (NIV2011) In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*

The evidence in favor of the Big Bang is also in favor of God as its source.

## **I. Everyone has some LIGHT**

God desired to reveal himself two ways: General Revelation and Special Revelation.

### **A. GENERAL Revelation**

General revelation is that which is observable to science. Actually it is called general revelation because we can all make observations.

*Romans 1:19-20 (NIV) {19} since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. {20} For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so*

*that people are without excuse.*

Everything we look at speaks of design. The vastness of the design speaks of a grand and powerful architect and builder who creates not from existing materials, but creates the materials.

Modern science sees more than ever before. Now we see vast amounts of information in DNA. How is this possible? Where did this coded information come from? The information screams who designed this? From everything we have ever encountered, where there is a complex paragraph of information, there is a speaker or writer, this is true in computer programming, it is true in DNA. But can science answer this question?

Science is important. It matters. But science does not answer everything. We already know this even if we do not believe in God.

If someone jump off a cliff, science can describe the physics, the how, and the what, explaining what happened to that persons body, but everything inside of us wants to WHY. Science cannot answer the why questions.

**Meaning-seeking** and **fact-finding** are two different things, and although both are important, I believe meaning-seeking has priority. It answers the question, “What’s the point of these facts?” General Revelation gives us the facts to observe and it begs us to ask the meaning questions that are implied in those facts, but it cannot definitively answer those questions even if it does ask the meaning questions.

## ***B. SPECIAL Revelation***

The Bible, Genesis in particular, was not written primarily to satisfy our hunger for the **facts**. It was written to primarily to fulfill our hunger for **meaning**. Genesis is primarily written to answer: Who are we? What does life mean? How do we relate to

God and each other? Special revelation gives us answers that science alone cannot answer.

[BIBLE] I believe that I hold here an ancient cohesive collection of special revelation. It is a collection from God and it came to us in the timeframe from the time of Moses through the time of Jesus and his Apostles. We call it “God’s Word” or “The Bible”. It forms one remarkably cohesive story of God’s revelation to us. It was written by people but inspired and revealed by God. It took approximately 1500 years, and 40 human writers. Scientific discoveries don’t seem to be as cohesive as this collection that spans 1500 years in the making, and remarkably preserved beyond that another 2000 years since. Today’s scientific facts are often theories that come and go. Just think fad diets, or old medical practices versus new ones and you get my point. Many, many, scientific theories have come and gone.

This special revelation however has been tested over time, through the blows of thousands of years with skeptics hammers that keep pounding on this anvil. The skeptic hammers have all worn out, but this anvil remains.

Try just going around your neighborhood and ask 10 people 10 questions about 10 different subjects and I bet you will get more than 10 divergent opinions. But this Special Revelation is unified on countless questions and complexities with a cohesiveness that is nothing less than supernatural. You may not agree with me, but that is my assessment after over 40 years of intensive study of this remarkable collection. This explains what God is like, what he has done, what he is doing, and what he will do. It explains what we are like, who we are, and why we are the way we are. And it gives hope and answers that give me meaning and joy I can find nowhere else. God’s word relieves my stress. God’s word fuels my faith. God’s word refreshes my Soul. God’s word challenges my thinking. As it turns out, the whole thing, this whole special

revelation is all about Jesus as the center. And the fulness of God's plan through Jesus, the gospel, or "Good News".

*Romans 1:16-17 (NIV) {16} For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. [this works for everyone who believes it] {17} For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."*

## II. LIGHT obeyed increases LIGHT

**General and Special Revelation, describes the "Revelation Factor"**

**Point II LIGHT obeyed increases LIGHT, describes the "Reception factor"**

The reception factor is when you believe that truth God has revealed in two ways. When you do, God gives you more truth.

The more you obey, the more you get it. This is how you move from to faith! This is how you grow in your faith and understanding.

## III. LIGHT refused increases DARKNESS.

**This describes the "Suppression factor"**

*Romans 1:18, 22 (NIV) The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who **suppress the truth** by their wickedness... {22} Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools.*

There are brilliant people of science with high IQs who are atheists.

There are brilliant people of science with high IQs who are devout believers.

There are brilliant people of science who profess to be wise and have become fools.

There are brilliant people of theology who profess to be wise and have become fools.

Neither scientists nor theology scholars have a corner on the market for being arrogant and as a result foolish.

We need humility and openness to see how General Revelation and Special Revelation walk hand in hand in harmony.

The Bible says, some “Suppress the truth” because they want to remain wicked, and totally independent of God, and determine their own lifestyle and choices, and be able to call these good without the fear of a Holy and Judging God.

I believe all truth is God’s truth, and accurate science and accurate theology will go hand in hand.

**Richard Dawkins** sees a universe that *“has precisely the properties we should expect if there is, at bottom, no design, no purpose, no evil, no good, nothing but blind, pitiless indifference.”*

Richard Dawkins, *River out of Eden: A Darwinian View of Life*.

If you refuse to look to light when the evidence points to light, all you have left is darkness.

Dawkins conclusion is not the conclusion of science, but rather the conclusion of someone who refuses to consider how coherent science is with the possibility of God.

Science has identified information, intelligence, and design in our reality. Science has also identified chaos, disorder, and death in that same reality. Neither of these are barriers but signposts that

are consistent with what general revelation and special revelation has revealed about God, creation, the fall, and the hope of redemption God offers.

**Double Lens Binoculars:**

I see incredible evidence of Good News all around me. I put on my **double lens binoculars**: one lens is science, or general revelation and another lens is theology, or special revelation and I see brilliant design, and purpose. We are not a bag of cells with an expiration date and no ultimate meaning. I see good that overcomes evil, and a savior who loves me intimately and will see me through! I'd love to introduce you to him if you have not yet met him. How do you get to know a God you cannot see? Get to know Jesus!

*John 1:18 (NIV) No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.*